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Committee of Experts**  
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## **Report on United Nations support to the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development programme**

### **Introduction**

1. This report provides an overview of the results achieved from activities undertaken by the United Nations system in support of the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) programme since April 2014. It considers that support from three perspectives: support pertaining to the decisions of African Heads of State and Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development; direct technical assistance to the African Union and its NEPAD programme; and support coordinated through the nine clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism of United Nations agencies working in Africa (RCM-Africa), convened by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). It ends with the main recommendations of the fifteenth session of RCM-Africa, which took place in Abuja, in March 2014. The report meets the need expressed by member States for regular and systematic reporting on United Nations activities in support of the sectoral priorities of NEPAD at the regional and subregional levels.

### **I. Implementing the decisions and recommendations of African Heads of State and Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development**

2. African Heads of State and Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development routinely call upon the United Nations system to provide direct technical support for the implementation of their decisions and declarations. This section deals with the implementation of seven such decisions and declarations.

\* The Specialized Technical Committee replaces the Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance (CAMEF) and the Conference of African Ministers of Integration (COMAI). The Specialized Technical Committee brings together ministers of finance, monetary affairs, economic planning and integration.

**A. Implement the outcomes of the Dakar Financing Summit for Africa's Infrastructure**

3. Determined that African countries should own and fund their own development projects, especially the priority infrastructure projects called for in the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, Mr. Macky Sall, President of Senegal and Chair of the NEPAD Heads of State and Implementation Committee, hosted the Dakar Financing Summit for Africa's Infrastructure, in June 2014, where 16 regional infrastructure projects were showcased with a view to attracting private sector financing. Entities of the United Nations system, in particular, ECA and the United Nations Development Programme, worked with the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency to organize the Summit and committed themselves to implementing its outcomes, otherwise known as the "Dakar Agenda for Action".

4. ECA designed Project 16-16-16 to support the implementation of that Agenda in 16 countries, relative to the 16 projects identified at the Dakar Financing Summit, by the year 2016. In this regard, the Assembly of the African Union, in January 2015, endorsed the Implementation Acceleration Strategy and Service Delivery Mechanism of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, developed by the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and the African Union Commission, in conjunction with the African Development Bank, ECA and the regional economic communities to implement the Dakar Agenda for Action. The focus will be on early preparation of infrastructure projects and increased bankability of projects carried out under the Priority Action Plan 2020 of the Programme.

**B. Support implementation of the regional economic communities capacity development plan**

5. In response to a specific request by African Heads of State, ECA and the United Nations Development Programme worked with the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Agency and the African Capacity Building Foundation to conduct a comprehensive scoping exercise aimed at identifying the capacity challenges of all eight regional economic communities of the African Union. Capacity development experts were engaged to assist in the exercise and a report is expected to be submitted to the Assembly of the African Union in June 2015. In this regard, in January 2015, the Assembly endorsed the African Union Regional Economic Communities Capacity Development Implementation Plan 2015-2025, which is based on the NEPAD Capacity Development Strategic Framework resulting from the scoping and capacity needs assessment exercise. The Heads of State also called for the alignment of that Implementation Plan with the medium-term strategic plans of the regional economic communities, with Agenda 2063 and with the African Common Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. They mandated the NEPAD Agency, the African Union Commission and the regional economic communities, in conjunction with the United Nations Development Programme, ECA, the African Capacity Building Foundation and potential partners of the Multi-agency Capacity Development Programme to roll out the plan for enhancing the institutional effectiveness of the regional economic communities and the prompt, coherent delivery of regional programmes and projects. The United Nations system will be fully engaged in the implementation of that plan.

**C. Harmonize policy, legal and regulatory frameworks to enhance private sector financing of transboundary infrastructure**

6. One of the barriers to private sector interest in the financing of Africa's transboundary infrastructure is the multiplicity and sometimes divergent policy, legal and regulatory frameworks

across countries. A study on domestic resource mobilization by ECA and the NEPAD Agency recommends steps to address this issue. At its session held in January 2015, the Assembly of the African Union requested the Agency, ECA, the regional economic communities and relevant organizations to develop a common regional framework for the harmonization of policies, laws and regulations to enhance private sector financing for the 16 projects identified under the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa. Accordingly, ECA, in collaboration with the Agency and the regional economic communities, has begun the process of comprehensively mapping relevant policies, laws and regulations across all subregions and regional economic communities, which would be followed by harmonization measures at the subregional level with a view to developing a common framework.

**D. Organize a high-level policy dialogue on domestic resource mobilization in Africa**

7. At the Seventh Joint Annual Meetings of the ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance, held in Abuja, in March 2014, and following a report by ECA on United Nations support to the African Union and NEPAD, a request was made for the organization of a capacity forum, at which member States could draw lessons on how to enhance their domestic resource mobilization. In response to that request, ECA collaborated with the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning to convene a meeting of budget directors and executives in charge of domestic resource mobilization from African countries, held in Senegal, on 26 and 27 February 2015. The participants discussed, among other issues, strategies for enhancing domestic resource mobilization in Africa; expansion of the tax base; channelling of resources from the diaspora, and curtailing of illicit financial flows from Africa.

**E. Implement the recommendations of the report of the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa entitled, “Track it. Stop it. Get it”**

8. The High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa, chaired by Mr. Thabo Mbeki, former President of South Africa, and supported by ECA, submitted its long-awaited report to the Assembly of the African Union, in January 2015. The report estimated that about \$50 billion leave Africa annually in illicit flows, and documented various ways in which the flows take place and ways of curbing them. The report took its title from an advocacy slogan created by ECA in support of the work of the High-level Panel: “Track it. Stop it. Get it”. The Assembly of the African Union, at its twenty-fourth session, held in January 2015, took a decision urging ECA to work with member States and stakeholders to ensure that the recommendations of the report are implemented, and that its findings are transmitted appropriately to advocacy forums and platforms at national, subregional, regional and global levels.

**F. Provide continuous support to the African Union’s Agenda 2063 and post-2015 processes**

9. In January 2015, African Heads of State endorsed Agenda 2063, Africa’s forward-looking framework for development and social and economic transformation. Agenda 2063 is anchored on the commonality of challenges faced by a majority of African countries: huge dependence on natural resources for livelihoods and exports; pervasive poverty and food insecurity; soil and land degradation and biodiversity loss; prevalence of armed conflict; low literacy rates; high incidence of HIV/AIDS and malaria; high vulnerability to drought and climatic variability; low technological input; and fragility of the democratic process.

10. As part of its mandate based on General Assembly resolution 57/7 and in an effort to strengthen the capacity of the African Union Commission and to promote synergies in policies and activities on major regional development issues and concerns for Africa, through the Regional Coordination Mechanism, ECA, in its capacity as regional coordinator, contributed to the effort to finalize Agenda 2063, in cooperation with United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa and African Union stakeholders.

11. With a view to implementing Agenda 2063 and in the context of the African Common Position on the Post-2015 Developed Agenda, the United Nations system has developed the United Nations-African Union Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agendas. The Partnership takes account of the region's past achievements and challenges and the continental and global contexts in which its transformation is being pursued. It is therefore aimed at supporting the African Union as it forges ahead with the implementation of Agenda 2063, which is essentially a continuation of the pan-African journey towards full self-determination, freedom, progress and collective prosperity. Agenda 2063 derives from and restates the objectives and goals of earlier continental frameworks such as the Lagos Plan of Action, the Abuja Treaty, NEPAD, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, the Plan of Action for Accelerated Industrial Development in Africa, the Minimum Integration Programme, the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, the African Union-NEPAD Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action, and Africa's Agro-industry and Agribusiness Development Initiative. It is to these and other related programmes and plans of the African Union that the United Nations system in Africa, through the Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agendas, will provide coordinated, committed and unconditional support.

#### **G. Engage in global advocacy to enhance domestic resource mobilization and private sector financing of infrastructure in Africa**

12. A study on domestic resource mobilization which African Heads of State and Government mandated ECA and the NEPAD Agency to undertake was submitted to and endorsed by the Assembly of the African Union at its session held in January 2014. The study concluded that there is huge potential for investments in Africa's development from domestic resources in Africa, and identified mechanisms and instruments for effectively mobilizing those resources. It noted that Africa generates over \$520 billion annually from domestic taxes; \$168 billion annually from minerals and mineral fuels; more than \$400 billion in international reserves held by its central and reserve banks; over \$40 billion in diaspora remittances; and another \$10 billion which can be raised by securitizing these remittances. It estimated banking revenue at \$60 billion and stock market capitalization at over \$1 trillion. Simple but coordinated tax and incentive schemes could help trigger inflows to large-scale projects that have suffered from lack of resources to date.

13. The study served as the background document for the Dakar Financing Summit for Africa's Infrastructure, held in June 2014. To further disseminate the study's findings, ECA and the NEPAD Agency are repackaging the study for presentation to the private sector, to trigger more interest and generate investment in Africa's development. ECA plans to collaborate with the United Nations Global Compact and private sector organizations such as Global Infrastructure Partners and the Dangote Group in this regard.

#### **II. Direct technical support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development**

14. To strengthen the capacity of the NEPAD Agency in key priority areas and to enhance the NEPAD process, ECA once again seconded two senior advisers to the African Peer Review Mechanism secretariat and the NEPAD Agency to provide direct technical support and advisory

services. In its continuous effort to support the elaboration of the African Union's Agenda 2063, ECA held two high-level dialogues (in South Africa and Rwanda) to raise the awareness of African planners at the highest level of issues pertaining to the Agenda. The dialogues were facilitated by the Institute for Economic Development and Planning and involved capacity development sessions for national planning directors from all 54 African countries on how to incorporate elements of Agenda 2063 into their respective national strategies, in order to ensure coherence and better coordination in the implementation of NEPAD priorities. Also through the Institute and in response to a specific request from the directors who attended the first dialogue, a follow-up session was held, which afforded the planners the opportunity to contribute to the debate surrounding Agenda 2063 prior to its completion.

15. The United Nations system, represented by ECA and the United Nations Development Programme, has continued to provide direct support to the African Peer Review Mechanism secretariat, particularly with respect to the restructuring exercise taking place at the secretariat. The United Nations system has continued to support crucial milestones and activities under the Mechanism, including country reviews and awareness workshops, and provided substantive support to the Africa Power Initiative. In this regard, the Assembly of the African Union, at its session held in January 2015, welcomed the completion of the Africa Power Vision and its implementation plan.

16. The United Nations system will therefore continue to support the African Union and its NEPAD programme with respect to this Vision, which aims to advance Africa's position on increased access to clean, reliable and affordable energy sources and promote national and regional priority action projects in the energy sector.

### **III. Delivering as one for the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development programme**

17. The United Nations system supports the African Union's NEPAD programme through RCM-Africa, which is organized around nine thematic clusters based on the priorities of the African Union and its NEPAD programme. The business plans and respective work programmes of the clusters are prepared in consultation with the African Union Commission and are fully aligned with the priorities of the African Union and its NEPAD programme. Activities showcasing the collaboration between the African Union and the United Nations system and that have an impact on the region as a whole are set out below, under their respective clusters. The focus of this section is to present key achievements of the clusters in 2014 and to report on developments since the fifteenth session of RCM-Africa.

#### **A. Agriculture, food security and rural development cluster**

18. The agriculture, food security and rural development cluster has achieved substantial results, particularly in the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme. It has also provided overall support to the agricultural sector in Africa, including by strengthening country ownership and leadership, mobilizing political, financial and technical support, and ensuring greater inclusion of diverse regional and national actors and the private sector in development efforts. This has been achieved in close collaboration with other development partners, African institutions and the countries themselves.

19 The cost borne by Africa's economies as a consequence of food and nutritional insecurity has hindered the continent's full economic and social development. The cluster is, therefore, continuing to work on the "Cost of Hunger in Africa" study, a project led by the African Union Commission and supported by the Economic Commission for Africa and the World Food Programme. The study, which is being conducted in support of the African Regional Nutrition Strategy 2005-2015 and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, is breaking new ground by analysing the social and economic consequences of malnutrition. It is being carried out in 12 countries in Africa by national implementation teams composed of staff from various ministries of health, education, social development, planning and finance, and national statistics institutions. The study has already been completed in four countries: Egypt, Ethiopia, Swaziland and Uganda.

20. The cluster is working in collaboration with the World Bank and national and regional partners to set up a sustainable system for monitoring the impact of food and agricultural policies, through the development of common indicators for monitoring key commodities and public expenditure. The system would help policymakers and donors to understand whether policies are having a positive impact, and facilitate the comparison of results across participating countries and over time.

#### **B. Environment, population and urbanization cluster**

21. The members of the environment, population and urbanization cluster, in particular the United Nations Population Fund, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, organized a capacity-building workshop on mainstreaming sustainable development and green economic policies into the programmes of the African Union Commission, as identified in the African Union Commission Strategic Plan 2014-2017. Participants at the training came from the departments of rural economic affairs and agriculture, communication and social affairs of the Commission, the regional economic communities and the cluster itself. The purpose of the training was to empower staff members of the African Union Commission and the regional economic communities in the areas of sustainable development and the green economy, to enhance their capacity to incorporate strategic issues into the annual work programmes of their respective departments, and to enable them to assist member States in mainstreaming sustainable development and green economy policies into their development processes, with a significant focus on monitoring and evaluation.

22. Cluster members worked with the regional economic communities to carry out extensive capacity-building training for climate information producers and users, and organized the Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum. The African Union Commission, NEPAD, the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel, the Southern African Development Community, the African Forest Forum and the United Nations Environment Programme all helped to organize the African regional preparatory meeting for the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

23. In line with the theme "Integrating population dynamics and inter-linkages in the context of Africa's post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals", cluster members convened African ministers in charge of planning and development, health, gender and population, and representatives of civil society organizations, youth groups and the regional economic communities to the African Regional Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014, held in Addis Ababa, which led to the adoption of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and

Development in Africa Beyond 2014. The Declaration calls for the full implementation throughout Africa of the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action.

### **C. Science and technology cluster**

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

25. With regard to the United Nations Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union, the cluster has emphasized areas such as results-based management, knowledge management and experts meetings to promote policy dialogue on science, education and young people; training of staff from the Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology of the African Union Commission on research policy and strategic analysis; and assessment of the relevance of existing intergovernmental mechanisms relating to science, education and young people. Increased support is also sought for the organization of awareness and training sessions on science, education and youth programmes, and for the revamping of the portal of the Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology of the African Union Commission.

### **D. Advocacy and communication cluster**

26. The advocacy and communication cluster plays a strategic role in branding and building a positive image for the African Union and its organs. It has, therefore, focused its activities on three priorities: strengthening advocacy in support of the African Union and the NEPAD Agency through the Regional Coordination Mechanism process; enhancing dialogue between the African Union and the United Nations family, on one hand, and the community of media reporting on Africa, on the other; and improving the capacity of the African Union and NEPAD Agency communication teams. In pursuit of these objectives, the cluster organizes a series of activities for the African Union and the NEPAD Agency in New York each year on the margins of the sessions of the General Assembly, including briefing sessions for the African Group and other Member States.

27. During the period under review, arrangements were made for the chief executive officer of the NEPAD Agency to address the General Assembly. The cluster held a press conference, moderated by its co-Chair, the African Union Commission, to fully brief the international press on progress made in the implementation of NEPAD. It provided advisory services, technical assistance, training and financial support, and contributed to the organization of workshops and expert group and policy organ meetings; assisted with the formulation and development of important frameworks, programmes and plans of action; provided staff support; facilitated the forging of common positions on global issues and supported Africa's negotiations on those issues.

### **E. Infrastructure and development cluster**

28. The energy subcluster has elaborated the development and mainstreaming of gender-sensitive bioenergy framework and policy guidelines for Africa in order to promote local, decent employment in the bioenergy sector, on the premise that the transition to sustainable energy cannot succeed without modern bioenergy. Bioenergy development should be based on a holistic approach that goes beyond the transport sector; facilitates access to energy both at the household level (rural and urban) for cooking and lighting and at the commercial or industrial levels; focuses on non-food

feedstock; and calls for the evaluation of each bioenergy feedstock for its economic, social and environmental benefits and costs prior to the issuance of investment contracts.

29. The objective of the transport subcluster is to consolidate the transport sector with a view to stimulating Africa's economic integration and addressing the lack of harmonized norms and standards, focusing on the development of the Trans-African Highway network, road safety, transport facilitation and operationalization of the executing agency of the Yamoussoukro Decision concerning the liberalization of access to air transport in Africa.

30. With regards to trade and transport facilitation, cluster members continued to work closely with the African Union Commission and the regional economic communities to increase regional cooperation and integration in Africa, focusing in particular on reducing transport costs with a view to enhancing trade between African countries and trade between the continent and the rest of the world.

31. African countries are said to be reluctant to sign, ratify or implement international conventions and agreements on trade facilitation, in part because they are unsure about the benefits of such conventions and agreements. This uncertainty can be ascribed, at least in part, to the fact that no study has been conducted to assess the potential impacts of these instruments. Accordingly, cluster members worked in collaboration with the African Union Commission to conduct a study on the impact of trade facilitation measures (such as reducing customs procedures and clearance time) on intra-African trade in the context of an African free trade area. The findings of this study have been presented at various meetings organized by the African Union Commission and has attracted the attention of the regional economic communities and several Governments.

32. In terms of strengthening transport corridors, cluster members are working on the establishment of the Africa Corridor Management Alliance, bringing together major corridor management organizations in Africa, including those managing the Northern Corridor, the Walvis Bay Corridor, the Maputo Corridor, the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor and the ports of Eastern and Southern Africa.

#### **F. Social and human development cluster**

33. The social and human development cluster supported the delivery of a number of results by providing technical advisory services and facilitating the required engagement with key stakeholders.

34. The health subcluster established, staffed fully and provided technical and financial support for the AIDS Watch Africa secretariat within the Department of Social Affairs of the African Union Commission. The secretariat has held a consultative meeting, the main outcome of which has been ratified by Heads of State. Entitled the "African Union Roadmap for Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity", this document contains a streamlined and prioritized set of directions and guidelines for the partners of the African Union working on the AIDS response in Africa. The AIDS Watch Africa secretariat has also established regional offices to work with the regional economic communities, with the Southern African Development Community having already started the process.

35. Coordinated support to the Department of Social Affairs of the African Union Commission for the organization of the African Union Special Summit on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, held in Abuja, in July 2013 and dubbed Abuja +12, was initiated with the hiring of a consultant to prepare a monitoring and evaluation report that was presented to the Heads of State at the Summit.



Agencies also sponsored representatives of the regional economic communities and the Pan-African Parliament to enrich the dialogue and to ensure follow-up and implementation of the outcomes of the Summit. Members of the health subcluster supported and influenced the Summit outcomes, including a declaration on AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, by participating in various activities during the Summit: consultations with civil society organizations, expert meetings, the committee of permanent representatives, the Executive Council, and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

36. The gender and development subcluster acts as an inter-agency technical working group that aims to provide technical and financial support to the Africa UNiTE Campaign to End Violence against Women and Girls. The Campaign secretariat also provides capacity-building training to members of the security sector from 36 African countries with a view to enhancing the response to violence against women.

37. Following the decision of the Executive Council of the African Union urging States parties to the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child to submit their initial reports on the implementation of the Charter, cluster members assisted some States members of the African Union, especially Algeria, the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Liberia and South Africa, in preparing their reports. The cluster continues to support all States parties that are yet to submit their reports, especially because article 43 of the Charter stipulates that States members of the African Union must submit their initial reports within two years after ratifying the Charter.

#### **G. Governance cluster**

38. The governance cluster supported the African Union in various areas, including the effective implementation of the Human Rights Strategy for Africa; technical assistance to the African Governance Architecture and the African Governance Platform; technical assistance to election management bodies and observation processes; and effective implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism. These efforts resulted in many milestones, including:

- A draft African Union policy framework on transitional justice
- Enhanced human rights awareness
- Refinement of the African Governance Architecture and the African Governance Platform base documents and planning for subsequent consultations
- Substantive contribution to the African Union-Economic Community of West African States strategy for the restoration of constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau
- Launching of the process of establishing national governance institutions and drafting of the self-assessment report for the Sudan
- Establishment of national governance institutions for Senegal
- Assisting Mozambique in harmonizing its national plan of action with existing development strategies.

39. The governance cluster also contributed to discussions on the African Union's Agenda 2063. It has prepared a continent-wide report and policy briefs based on five subregional

reports and policy briefs (from the central, east, north, south and west subregions). The cluster held three dialogue forums, involving about 300 participants, and will be submitting an outcome document from those forums to the Agenda 2063 secretariat.

## **H. Peace and security cluster**

40. The United Nations and the African Union have had a long-standing engagement in the area of peace and security. The peace and security cluster engages with the African Union Commission, organs of the African Union, the regional economic communities and other regional mechanisms through four subclusters: African peace and security architecture; post-conflict reconstruction and development; emergency preparedness and response; and transitional justice.

41. The members of the peace and security cluster continued to be active throughout 2014 and have contributed significantly to the effectiveness of the African Union's programming in the area of peace and security, in both the development of capacities to strengthen its strategic partnerships, and the enhancement and coordination of its short-term operations. The African peace and security architecture subcluster continued working on the implementation of the joint United Nations-African Union work plan on the development and operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture, particularly the operationalization of the African Standby Force.

42. The subcluster provided coordinated United Nations support to the AMANI AFRICA training programme for the African Standby Force, and to the development and refinement of African Union policies and guidelines on conflict prevention and peace support operations. These include disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform guidelines; standard operating procedures for basic operating security; the African Union Mine Action Strategic Framework; medical evacuation guidelines for African Union missions; assessment of the African Standby Force doctrine; guidelines for the protection of civilians, for use in the Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army; development of the civilian roster and administrative directive for the civilian component of African Union peace support operations; and standard operating procedures for the African Union's field assets management system.

43. The emergency preparedness and response subcluster focused its work on mapping early warning systems on the African continent, raising awareness of humanitarian issues and coordinating United Nations participation in high-level events. As part of its communications strategy, the subcluster developed visibility materials, monthly infographic bulletins, Facebook and Twitter accounts, and an emergency preparedness and response newsletter. To help raise awareness of the African Union's humanitarian role and the activities of its partners on the African continent, the subcluster supported the convening of African disaster managers to a meeting of the Economic and Social Council and the launching of the Helping Hands Initiative, and coordinated contributions to the open session of the African Union Peace and Security Council on the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

44. The transitional justice subcluster coordinated the work on the African Union Transitional Justice Policy Framework. United Nations agencies, led by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, provided coordinated substantive input to the draft that will be endorsed at the next session of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights.

## **I. Industry, trade and market access cluster**

45. The members of the industry, trade and market access cluster continued to work with the African Union, the regional economic communities and member States on the implementation of the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa Action Plan 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 the African common positions on the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda.

46. Cluster members also provided technical assistance to the African Union in the preparation of a framework for the implementation of the Lisbon Summit (2007) resolution approved by Heads of State of the African Union and the European Union, calling for the establishment of a food safety authority within the African Union and a rapid alert system for food and feed in Africa. An Africa-wide African Union Food Safety Management Coordination Mechanism has been set up to:

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

## **IV. Implementation of the United Nations Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union**

47. A report on United Nations system-wide support to the African Union under the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union and the work programme of RCM-Africa clusters has been completed and presented, although implementation of the Capacity-Building Programme has been slow due to a lack of dedicated resources within the clusters and weak coordination of capacity-building activities because of staffing constraints within the African Union Commission. As recommended at the thirteenth session of RCM-Africa, work is being undertaken to extend the capacity-building work programmes of the Commission to cover the NEPAD Agency and other organs of the African Union, along with the regional economic communities. The RCM-Africa joint secretariat has, in consultation with the NEPAD Agency, developed a capacity-building work programme for the Agency. ECA has provided the necessary resources to recruit consultants to that end. A similar exercise will be carried out for the regional economic communities and other organs of the African Union in the coming years.

48. The United Nations system, in the context of the Regional Coordination Mechanism, has produced a successor framework known as the Partnership on Africa's Integration and

Development Agendas, which is fully in line with Africa's development agendas, in particular Agenda 2063 and the post-2015 development agenda.

**V. Working group on a framework for United Nations support to the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development programme**

49. Pursuant to paragraph 25 of the outcome document of the fourteenth session of RCM-Africa, a preliminary report of the second triennial review of the Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union was presented. It showed that implementation of the Programme suffered from serious resource inadequacies, having never been directly allocated resources from the regular programme budget of the United Nations. To address this challenge, it was recommended that the mandates of the Programme should be merged with those relating to NEPAD and that the requisite provisions should be made for their implementation. In addition, resources should be mobilized from within the United Nations programme budget and beyond to support implementation of the Programme.

50. Pursuant to paragraph 37 of the same outcome document, cluster coordinators were requested to establish a working group on a framework for United Nations support to the African Union and its NEPAD programme, including the African Union's Agenda 2063 and a successor programme to the Capacity-Building Programme after 2016.

51. The specific objectives of the working group include:

- (a) To review the concept and philosophy of RCM-Africa;
- (b) To examine the current United Nations programmes of support to the African Union and its NEPAD Agency in order to ensure their alignment with the new development objectives of the continent set forth by the African Union and the successor programme to the Capacity-Building Programme after 2016;
- (c) To harmonize the different capacity development programmes of the African Union;
- (d) To examine whether the current structure of RCM-Africa (including the subregional coordination mechanisms) is appropriate to ensure effective delivery of United Nations support to the African Union and its NEPAD programme;
- (e) To draw from the lessons and experiences of other regional coordination mechanisms around the world;

52. The working group has prepared a full report outlining key recommendations under each specific objective for consideration by the co-Chairs of RCM-Africa and the cluster and subcluster coordinators.

**VI. Developments concerning the subregional coordination mechanisms**

**A. North Africa**

53. As part of the Maghreb partnership, the subregional coordination mechanism for North Africa has identified the following four priority areas in a bid to re-launch the regional integration agenda:

- (i) A programme to fast-track workers' mobility
- (ii) A regional strategy for youth employment

- (iii) Implementation of a Maghreb agricultural strategy
- (iv) Establishment of a regional electric power agreement

#### **B. Eastern and Southern Africa**

54. The 2013-2017 business plan of the subregional coordination mechanism for Eastern and Southern Africa was endorsed at the thirteenth session of RCM-Africa, held in 2012. Twelve thematic areas were identified and are being actively monitored for implementation. A resource mobilization and implementation strategy is being discussed among the regional economic communities, the ECA subregional office for Eastern Africa and the ECA subregional office for Southern Africa.

55. The following has been achieved:

- A tourism master plan has been launched; cooperating countries include Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda.
- A programme on the creation of a regional mechanism for natural resource management has been initiated under the leadership of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region; a five-year business plan is to be formulated.
- A food security programme is under discussion.
- A sustainable energy programme for East Africa has been initiated.

56. The next steps for the subregional coordination mechanism include:

- The set-up of a subregional coordination mechanism steering committee
- The development of a monitoring and evaluation framework to monitor progress
- The establishment of resource mobilization committees by thematic focus areas

#### **C. Central Africa**

57. The subregional coordination mechanism for Central Africa has adopted a new common indicative programme covering the period 2013-2016 and containing 112 selected activities from the more than 167 proposed by partners. Taking into account the constraints and limitations faced in the implementation of the first programme, the partners recommended improving the institutional framework of the mechanism by updating the network of focal points and strengthening the monitoring and evaluation system. In order to improve the financing framework, they also recommended operationalizing the self-financing mechanisms of subregional institutions, to increase the absorption capacity of resources already allocated by donors, and to strengthen the capacity to plan and formulate funding requests.

#### **D. West Africa**

58. The subregional coordination mechanism for West Africa, which has established a joint working programme of West African intergovernmental organizations, continued to work within the following thematic groups:

- Governance, peace and security and humanitarian preparedness, including the sub-themes of governance, democracy, human rights, peace and security, humanitarian action and capacity-building in statistics
- Economic integration, with sub-themes focusing on free trade and mobility, economic convergence and harmonization of monetary policy and the introduction of a single currency
- Infrastructure development, with a particular focus on the sub-themes of transport, information and communications technology, and energy
- Social development and gender, focusing on education, research and innovation, population and health, gender, youth and employment, culture and sport
- Agriculture, food security and nutrition, water and the environment, with sub-themes including resilience, water and hygiene, environment and climate change
- Private sector development, with sub-themes focusing on development in the industrial, mining and oil sectors

## **VII. Main observations from the fifteenth session of RCM-Africa**

59. The United Nations system in Africa has made significant contributions to the capacity-building needs of Africa. However, a number of challenges remain, owing notably to the slow implementation of the work programme for capacity-building support to the African Union Commission.

60. Resource mobilization to support the implementation of the programmes of the clusters remains a constraint, as there is no dedicated budget allocation to support implementation of the capacity-building work programme and cluster business plans. Financial constraints are also limiting many agencies from contributing to the work of the clusters, a challenge that should be addressed as a matter of urgency.

61. The joint RCM secretariat needs further strengthening to be able to effectively coordinate the clusters and ensure that they carry out their respective activities, including monitoring the implementation of the United Nations Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union. Although the functions of the secretariat have been strengthened with the establishment of the Capacity Development Division at ECA, the limited number of staff in the Office of the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the NEPAD coordination and strategic planning units still constrains the secretariat.

62. Many clusters are faced with the challenge of elaborating joint programmes for maximum impact despite constraints in programming cycles, lack of a common funding pool and differences in individual governing bodies. Inter-cluster collaboration and cooperation support of the joint secretariat is therefore vital, to ensure coherence, synergy and effectiveness in programme delivery. More frequent meetings among coordinators, adherence to the cluster work plan in support of the African Union and its NEPAD programme, and enhanced collaboration and partnership with the regional economic communities are needed to ensure maximum impact of the programmes in the subregions. In this regard, and to allow for improved coordination and implementation of joint events among members, it is recommended that calendars of events for all cluster members be drawn up at the beginning of the year. All participating cluster members on the United Nations side

should ensure that their work under the Regional Coordination Mechanism and the clusters is adequately reflected in their regular work programmes and in programme budgets.

63. Notwithstanding the progress made in several areas, communication between the advocacy and communication cluster and the rest of the clusters remains a challenge. The mechanism for the sharing of experiences is not yet in place and the clusters still work independently, despite the fact that communication should be cross-cutting. The main obstacle remains the appointment of a focal point or dedicated staff for communication within each cluster. Information tends to be confined within the boundaries of each cluster. With minimum funding, the advocacy and communication cluster could create a newsletter or web platform where ideas could be exchanged in real time using contributions from the other clusters, thereby achieving the goal of mainstreaming communication in RCM-Africa.

64. Ownership and leadership by the main stakeholders in cluster work is essential. The active participation of the African Union Commission as co-Chair of the clusters has continued to make a significant difference in the operations of the cluster. While waiting for more tangible results, solid foundations have been laid for fruitful cooperation. However, the lack of dedicated human and financial resources for the co-Chairs to effectively coordinate and drive members needs to be addressed. The uneven roles and levels of participation of the various departments within the Commission also affect cluster performance. Increased ownership and guidance by the Commission in the coordination of cluster activities would improve the performance of the clusters.

65. The role of the regional economic communities should be defined more clearly. In order to maintain effectiveness, coherence and synergy in the work of RCM-Africa, cooperation and coordination between United Nations agencies, the African Union, NEPAD and the regional economic communities should be improved. The lack of tangible progress in the level of representation of the regional economic communities in the clusters remains a major hindrance in ensuring effective mainstreaming of subregional issues in RCM-Africa and its cluster system.

## **VIII. Recommendations and the way forward**

66. There is general agreement between the United Nations system and the African regional and subregional institutions that more needs to be done to enhance RCM-Africa in support of the agenda of the African Union and its organs. An enhanced RCM-Africa would lead to better coordination of United Nations actions, greater coherence and increased cost-effectiveness and impact of cluster activities. Going forward and with a view to improving the mechanism, the following measures are recommended:

(a) Joint programming between the United Nations system and the African Union Commission based on the priorities of the African Union and its NEPAD programme and those of the regional economic communities should be strengthened. The clusters, in collaboration with Commission, NEPAD and the regional economic communities, are urged to formulate medium-term business plans to support their programmes and activities in this regard.

(b) In order to increase involvement at all levels, the RCM-Africa secretariat should have routine briefings with the commissioners and department directors of the African Union Commission, the leadership of the NEPAD Agency and the regional economic communities on the Regional Coordination Mechanism and the United Nations Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union.

(c) All clusters should prioritize inter-cluster collaboration and partnerships in line with previous decisions of RCM-Africa. In this regard, they should continue to meet, at the minimum, on a quarterly basis, with subclusters meeting in-between the regular meetings of the clusters. A calendar of regular meetings of each cluster should be drawn up and maintained at the RCM-Africa secretariat for ease of planning for all concerned.

(d) All participating cluster members on the United Nations side should ensure that their work under the Regional Coordination Mechanism and the clusters is adequately reflected in their regular work programmes and in programme budgets. Their work within the mechanism should be taken into account in their performance reviews.

(e) The RCM-Africa secretariat needs to be well-resourced to provide more effective substantive support to the clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism, foster subregional coordination, improve United Nations cooperation and coordination with the African Union, NEPAD, the African Development Bank and the regional economic communities, monitor and evaluate the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme and activities and actions related to the Coordination Mechanism, and effectively play its role in support of the African Union and its NEPAD programme at the regional and subregional levels.

(f) The RCM-Africa secretariat, in consultation with United Nations agencies and ECA subregional offices, should provide overall guidance for the operation of subregional coordination mechanisms in all subregions. It should help the regional economic communities, individually or collectively, in determining their participation in subregional coordination mechanisms. In this regard, the secretariat should approach the regional economic communities that are not yet part of a subregional coordination mechanism to encourage them to engage in the process.

(g) RCM-Africa should implement strategies to strengthen coordination of fundraising activities by partnering with agencies, foundations and the private sector. In this regard, cluster members can also prepare fundraising proposals for joint programming.

(h) Resource mobilization and leveraging with the African Union Commission and the regional economic communities should be encouraged.

(i) The development of a communication strategy to advocate and mobilize resources for the activities of clusters is an imperative.