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Recommendations on the re-configuration of the RCM- Africa clusters

I. Introduction

A. Background

1. At its sixteenth session, held in Addis Ababa on 28 and 29 March 2015, the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa (RCM-Africa), decided that RCM-Africa should maintain the then configuration of its clusters until the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union, scheduled to be held in June 2015, and thereafter align the clusters with the Ten-year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063. The decision to wait until June 2015 was prompted by the expectation that the Assembly would discuss and endorse the Ten-Year Implementation. Subsequently and as expected, the Assembly endorsed the Agenda and its Ten Year Implementation Plan, by Decision Assembly/AU/Dec. 565(XXIV) at that session.

2. Subsequent to these developments, a draft framework for the re-configuration and alignment of the RCM-Africa clusters with Agenda 2063 was presented for discussion by the RCM-Africa Secretariat to a Retreat of RCM cluster and subcluster coordinators, held from 11 to 12 February 2016, at Kuriftu, Debre Zeit, Ethiopia.

3. Following the exhaustive discussions that ensued, the Retreat established a Committee to examine the matter in further detail and to make firm recommendations to be tabled at the RCM in April 2016. The Retreat further decided that the membership of the Committee should be drawn from the African Union, represented by the African Union Commission, NPCA and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

4. The Committee was accordingly composed of the following members from the AU Commission: Ambassador Fébé Potgieter-Gqubule (Deputy Chief of Staff and committee chairperson); Ambassador Olawale Maiyegun (Director of Social Affairs); Ms. Treasure Maphanga, (Director of Trade and Industry); and Mr. Chris Kachiza, (Ag. Director of Strategic Planning); as well as Mr. Salvatore Matata (Head of COMESA Liaison Office to the AU Commission, representing the RECs); Mr. Talla Kebe, representative of the NPCA; and Mr. Joseph Atta-Mensah, representing the ECA component of the Joint Secretariat.

5. The Committee was assisted by Ms. Adwoa Coleman, Office of the AUC Deputy Chairperson, representing the AU component of the RCM Joint Secretariat.

6. The Retreat further requested the Committee to present their report to the Coordinators, and following consultations with the latter, to submit a report with its recommendations to the forthcoming Seventeenth Session of RCM in April.

B. Preparatory Work by the Committee

7. Following the Retreat, a series of internal consultations were conducted from 15 to 17 February 2016 with the 10 technical departments/directorates of the Commission, facilitated by the AU component of the Joint Secretariat. The technical departments/directorates of the Commission were selected on the basis that their involvement in the RCM as coordinators of the clusters or subclusters, had enabled them to reflect on their first-hand experience of the functioning of the system. The AUC departments were as follows: Department of Political Affairs; Department of Economic Affairs; Department of Social Affairs; Department of Trade and Industry; Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture; Department of Infrastructure and Energy; Department of Peace and Security; Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology; Directorate of Women, Gender and Development; and the Directorate of Information and Communication.

8. The Committee also reported on its work to the meeting of the AU Commission of 23 February 2016, with a view to seek strategic guidance from the political management of the Commission. The Commissioners supported the process of engaging the various departments, and emphasized the importance of strengthened coordination between the AU and the UN Agencies on the continent, to ensure the effective implementation of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

9. The Committee took into account, the input of the NPCA, but received no input from the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) AUC undertook to introduce this matter during the Joint Coordination meeting with the Chief Executives of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) planned for 11 March 2016, to solicit their views.

10. The Committee, as mandated by the Retreat, also made a presentation to the UN Liaison Team on 22 March 2016 and reflected the inputs from the meeting in this document.

II. Situational analysis

A. Current Configuration of RCM Clusters

11. There are over 40 United Nations agencies, organizations, offices, funds and programmes participating in RCM-Africa. In addition, the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and the regional economic communities actively participate in its activities, as well as the African Development Bank and the World Bank. The Sessions of RCM-Africa are held annually to review its work and to give guidance and direction, so as to ensure greater coherence and coordination of United Nations activities in Africa in support of the development priorities of the African Union.

12. In preparing its report, the Committee recalled that currently, RCM-Africa functions through a system of nine clusters, comprising the following:

(a) *Infrastructure Development culture*, comprising four subclusters on energy; information and communications technology; transport; water, sanitation and hygiene;

(b) *Governance cluster*, comprising four subclusters on economic and corporate governance; human rights; public service and administration; and democracy and elections;

(c) *Social and Human Development cluster*, comprising six subclusters on health, HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases; education and human resources; gender, youth and development; social welfare, protection and human trafficking; labour and employment; and sports and culture;

(d) *Environment, Population and Urbanization cluster*, which has the objective of tackling the challenges of growing populations and movement of people; rapid growth of towns; environmental degradation and pollution; and the lack of demographic statistics;

- (e) *Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development cluster*, which works under the overarching framework of the Commercial Agriculture Development Plan;
- (f) *Science and Technology cluster*, which has three interlinked pillars: capacity-building; knowledge production; and technological innovation;
- (g) *Advocacy and Communications cluster*, originally intended to promote greater understanding of NEPAD globally, build support for NEPAD among Africans and the international community, and promote the work of the United Nations in support of NEPAD;
- (h) *Peace and Security cluster*, comprising four subclusters on the peace and security architecture of the African Union; post-conflict reconstruction and development; emergency preparedness and response; and transitional justice;
- (i) *Industry, Trade and Market Access cluster*, which promotes the development of industries and agri-business in Africa.

B. Lessons of Best Practice and Challenges Facing Current Cluster System

13. There are a host of examples of joint action by the UN system and the African Union and Regional Economic Communities that show that much more is achieved through coordinated activities than acting in parallel. These include the final push during the last five years of the MDGs to ensure that better results are achieved at continental level, work between Regional Economic Communities and the subregional mechanisms, and issue-based cooperation on such matters as the fight against HIV, AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis, as well as against Ebola; and on gender equality.

14. This joint work should and must be consolidated, as the United Nations, the African Union and Regional Economic Communities seek to ensure that the implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 starts off on a proper footing. We must therefore address the challenges facing the current RCM clusters, that inhibit their efficient functioning, and which the new reconfigured cluster system should address. These include:-

- (a) The need for greater participation by the various departments within the African Union Commission, the NPCA and Regional Economic Communities, as the main stakeholders in the work of RCM-Africa, for greater ownership and guidance by the organs of the African Union;
- (b) The need for greater coordination among participating UN Agencies, which have in fact been competing for turf and which have shown a preference to engage with the AU Commission outside the clusters.
- (c) A perception on the side of AU departments that there is a reluctance by the UN system to place a premium on AU programmes and priorities, seen as the single most important factor contributing to the decline of AU participation in cluster meetings;
- (d) The infrequency of cluster and subcluster meetings and the inadequate level of attendance and institutional representation at those meetings and, in particular, the lack of continuity in respect of the level of attendance and representation of agencies and organizations at cluster and subcluster meetings;
- (e) The lack of resources to support implementation of the programmes of RCM-Africa and its clusters, as there is no dedicated budget allocation from the General Assembly for the implementation of RCM-Africa-related programmes and activities; difficulties faced by many clusters in elaborating joint programmes and creating a common funding pool for their activities, because of different programme and budget cycles set by their governing bodies; and continued inability of the clusters to mobilize resources and commit dedicated resources for the planning and implementation of joint programmes and projects;
- (f) The need for better communication: despite progress in several areas, due to inadequate levels of cooperation between the advocacy and communications cluster and the rest of the clusters;

(g) The lack of clarity regarding the allocation of roles and responsibilities for specific activities among the UN agencies themselves, on the one hand, as well as between the latter and the AU Commission, on the other;

(h) A weak monitoring and evaluation system for the mechanism and the work of its clusters and of key indicators of success and targets to be achieved against each area of activity. A monitoring and evaluation system will help to ensure a common understanding of impact, results, outcome and activities in the context of RCM-Africa and the proper articulation of indicators of achievement;

(i) The fact that the current RCM cluster system, does not factor in other coordination mechanisms between the UN System, the AU and the RECs on the continent.

C. A Joint Programming Approach

15. The RCM-Africa retreat considered presentations with examples of effective coordination, based on joint programming, focussing on the SRCM Eastern and Southern Africa as a structure and the implementation of flagship projects such as the tripartite free trade area, the upcoming CFTA negotiations and development corridors in the affected regions. UNPFA, ECA, AUC, IPPF exercise in joint planning around a specific programme was highlighted as another example for consideration, as was the AU ASEOWA Coordination Mechanism in Addis Ababa during the Ebola epidemic in 2014-2015.

16. The broad principle of a coordination system based on joint planning and implementation around specific programmes was counter-posed with the current cluster system, based on very broad development areas. Even if clusters were to be based on broad areas, each should have one or two flagship projects which defines the cooperation, and which can be measured and monitored for impact.

D. Multi-lateral and Bilateral Arrangements Between the AU Commission and the UN and other International Organizations

17. A cursory overview of current arrangements between the AU Commission and UN and other agencies pointed towards the following trends:

(a) In many areas of work, cooperation between specific AU departments and UN agencies took place outside of the RCM clusters, because these programmes are bilateral in nature. Resources are therefore available for bilateral programmes, such as those programmes between the Department of Infrastructure and Energy and ICAO, IMO, WTO, UNEP, ITU or between the Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology and UNESCO, or between the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture and FAO, as examples.

(b) Cluster systems work best where there are a multiplicity of stakeholders involved on an issue, where there are more than one UN and other international agencies involved and where there are more than two AU departments involved. An example in this regard is the AUC/ILO/IOM/ECA Joint Programme on Labour Migration Management (JLMP) that would be 'impossible' to conduct bilaterally, which involves at least three AU departments, and also involves the UNDP. Functioning clusters under the current systems therefore include the Environment, Population and Urbanization cluster, as well as the subcluster on Labour and Employment of the parent Social and Human Development cluster.

(c) Circumstances where other coordination systems exist, are functioning or are being created, include the working mechanisms on Peace and Security, the emerging mechanisms in the area of Governance such as the multi-stakeholder African Governance Architecture convened by the AU Department of Political Affairs, or the Coalition for Education in which the department of Human Resources and Science and Technology draw in multiple stakeholders around the AU Strategy for Education; or the ad hoc forums convened by the AU Women, Gender and Development Directorate with relevant stakeholders.

E. Convergence between the AU Agenda 2063 and UN Sustainable Development Goals

18. The adoption of Agenda 2063 and its first Ten-Year Implementation Plan by the AU organs in 2015 and the Sustainable Development Goals at the 70th UNGA, and the convergence across the goals in these two visions, provide an opportunity to improve coordination, joint planning, programming and therefore improving the structures of coordination.

19. The critical need for joint implementation and coordination, in order not to divide and/or duplicate efforts and resources, place an onerous burden on member States, and the realization of the SDGs and the transformative impact of Agenda 2063.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

20. Arising from the RCM retreat and work of the Committee, the following principles are suggested for reconfigured clusters:

(a) The work of the RCM-Africa should be framed by the AU Agenda 2063 and an Africa-specific approach to the implementation of the SDGs.

(b) The focus of clusters should be cooperation on specific programmes, within the context of the Agenda 2063 first Ten-Year Implementation Plan (FTYIP) goals and the SDGs.

(c) Joint programme planning and implementation should be accompanied by resource planning and resource mobilization by all parties.

(d) The coordination processes should effectively involve the Regional Economic Communities and Subregional Coordination Mechanisms.

(e) The development of common indicators and monitoring and evaluation framework for the Agenda 2063 first Ten-Year Implementation Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals, which will be presented to the meeting of the Ministers of Finance, Economy, Planning and Integration in April 2016.

21. The current clusters are counter-posed with the two options that arose in the discussions at the RCM cluster retreat: (a) having clusters following the seven aspirations of Agenda 2063, with subclusters (as per the ECA proposal); (b) reconfiguring clusters along goals (FTYIP and SDGs), which allows for greater programmatic cooperation.

A. Options Considered

CURRENT CLUSTERS	OPTION 1: BASED ON 7 ASPIRATIONS	OPTION 2: BASED ON GOALS
1. Infrastructure Development Cluster	1. Inclusive growth and sustainable development	1. Sustainable and inclusive economic growth;
2. Governance cluster	2. Regional Integration	2. Human capital development;
3. Social and Human Development	Trade and Infrastructure	3. Employment creation;
4. Environment, Population and Urbanization	3. Governance and Human rights	4. Social protection;
	4. Peace and Security	5. Gender equality, women's development and youth empowerment;
		6. Good governance, Human rights and capable institutions ¹ ;

¹ No need to create a **Governance, Capable Institutions and Human Rights Cluster**, given the African Governance Architecture (AGA) Platform and the Interdepartmental Task Force on Post Conflict Reconstruction (with AUC DPA and PSD) already include all institutions that are already part of a working institutional arrangement.

5. Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development	5. Culture, heritage and shared values	7. Infrastructure development;
6. Science and Technology	6. Women and Youth	8. Peace and security ² ;
7. Advocacy and Communications	7. Advocacy and Global Partnership	9. Culture, art and sport ³ .
8. Peace and security		
9. Industry, Trade and Market Access		

B. Recommendations for New Clusters to Ensure Joint Implementation of Agenda 2063 first Ten Year Plan and the SDGs

22. In the light of the experience of the current cluster system and the inputs from AUC departments, the options are merged into the Committee's recommendation of reconfigured clusters based on Goals, with elements of previous clusters and aspects of option 2 [the footnotes indicate which aspects of option 2 are modified]:

- (a) Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth, Industry, Trade, Agriculture and;
- (b) Agro-processing and Regional Integration;
- (c) Infrastructure Development;
- (d) Human Capital Development, Health, Science, Technology and Innovation;
- (e) Labour, Employment Creation, Social Protection, Migration and Mobility;
- (f) Women and Gender Equality and Youth Empowerment;
- (g) Humanitarian Issues and Disaster Risk Management⁵;
- (h) Environment, Urbanization and Population;
- (i) h. Advocacy, Information, Communications.

23. It was noted that resource-mobilization is a cross-cutting issue and that it should be part of the work programmes of all clusters.

24. The new cluster configuration also recognizes and takes into consideration, other coordination mechanisms, in areas of common concern, in particular:

(a) **UN-AU Peace and Security Mechanisms:** (i) Mechanism for collaboration between UN Security Council and AU Peace and Security Council, including joint annual consultation; (ii) Consultations between UN Secretary-General and AUC Chairperson; (iii) Joint AU/UN Task Force on Peace and Security; (iv) Annual AU/UN Desk-to-Desk meeting; and (v) the Oran Process.

(b) **Governance, Human Rights Mechanisms:** the African Governance Platform and the Task Team on Post-Conflict Reconstruction.

(c) **Existing Joint UN-AU Spatial Mechanisms** such as on the Sahara/Sahel, the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes Initiative.

² It is recommended that the **Peace and Security Cluster** cease to exist and the existing mechanisms between the AUC and the UN for Peace and Security be utilized.

³ There is no real need for a **Sports and Culture Cluster**: UN Agencies are not involved in Sports, whilst the AUC Sports Division has other bilateral and multilateral arrangements. Only UNESCO deals with Culture and Heritage, thus there is no need for a cluster of only one UN Agency. The AUC Culture Division has other bilateral and multilateral arrangements with organizations outside of UNESCO.

⁵ It is recommended that a **Humanitarian Cluster** be created to bring together members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee for Humanitarian Affairs comprising the AUC, relevant UN Agencies and international NGOs, including Oxfam, IFRC and ICRC.

25. Last but not least, the reconfiguration recognizes that there are areas where the AU-RECs and UN agencies cooperate on bilateral level, in such areas as **Arts, Heritage and Culture**.

26. To ensure coherence in programming and to remove overlaps and duplications, the Secretariat recommended that once the structure of the clusters has been approved by RCM-Africa, the clusters and the African Union should jointly draw up a work programme based on the Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063.

C. Proposed Operational Principles for Reconfigured Clusters

27. The Committee proposed the following operational principles:

(a) Existing AU-UN mechanisms that work, such as in Peace and Security or that are convened by the AU such as in Governance (AGA Platform, Task force on Post-Conflict reconstruction) or the HRST Coalition for Education, or the CFTA under Trade and Industry, should be continued in their current forms, but a mechanism be found to ensure that their reports are included in the RCM-Africa reports;

(b) The other reconfigured clusters to meet and agree on priority/flagship programmes based on the Indicators adopted by Ministers of Finance, Economy, Planning and Integration, the SDGs and the Agenda 2063 flagship projects;

(c) Reconfigured clusters to discuss resourcing of their priority/flagship programmes and to report to the Coordinators on such;

(d) Reconfigured clusters to make recommendations on subclusters, based on priorities and resources and recommend that the RCM Secretariat provides guidelines;

(e) Alignment between the RCM Programme and PAIDA, towards its adoption by the UN General Assembly;

(f) Work with other arrangements such as the AU Partners Group to further cooperation and joint implementation and monitoring.

28. The Committee recommends the development of a multi-year programme for the RCM clusters, within the broad framework captured in Annex A.

D. Other Recommendations

29. The Committee also wishes to make the following other recommendations, not directly related to its mandate, but which should reinforce the reconfigured cluster system:

(a) That a monitoring and evaluation framework for the RCM cluster system be put in place, to assist with the process of joint evaluation of UN delivery on the continent, in the context of the implementation of RCM business plans and programmes.

(b) That UN agencies be encouraged to allocate 30 per cent of their budget towards the implementation of RCM programmes, as a first step for improving funding and resource mobilization.

(c) That, in accordance with the suggestion of a good number of AU departments, the decision taken by the 10th RCM, and endorsed in the two triennial reviews of the TYCBP, to the effect that a Joint AUC/UN Secretariat for RCM be properly composed and operationalized (to represent both the AU and UN sides). This would replace the present set-up which is merely consultative in function; and also address the need for strengthening both components of the Joint Secretariat, as well as the need for funding from regular and predictable sources.

(d) Based on the concern expressed by AU Commissioners and departments, the UN agencies should make greater efforts to deliver as one, to better coordinate and support the AU and other continental institutions.

(e) In the same vein, AU should assume its responsibility to exercise ownership and leadership of continental development and RCM processes.

ANNEX A

**PROPOSED RCM AFRICA – AU JOINT CLUSTER PROGRAMME
FRAMEWORK: 2016-2017**

Given the convergence between the Agenda 2063 and the SDGs, the African position is for a concerted and deliberate drive for joint implementation and monitoring, between the UN system, AU, RECs and other institutions working on the continent.

Agenda 2063, and the goals and indicators of the first Ten-Year Implementation plan, builds on past frameworks such as the Lagos Plan of Action, the Abuja Treaty and the NEPAD programme, as well as other sectoral frameworks such as CAADP, PIDA, AIDA, STITSA, to name but a few.

Based on the SDGs and Agenda 2063, the table below maps the proposed clusters aligned to goals and priorities of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 targets of the SDGs:

Mapping the Clusters to the Goals of Agenda 2063 and the AU Priorities for 2016-2017

CLUSTER 1: 1 Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth, Industry, Trade, Agriculture and Agro-processing and Regional Integration	
Goals	Priorities 2016-2017
Transformed economies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable and inclusive economic growth • STI-driven manufacturing, industrialization and value addition as identified in PAIDA, African Mining Vision and the envisaged African Commodities strategy • Economic diversification and resilience • Improve private sector engagement and business climate in Africa • Implement the African Charter on Statistics and the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA) • Formulation of a Commodities Strategy • Start the Continental Free Trade Area negotiations • Provide technical advisory services to member States in the areas of mining contract negotiations, domestication of the Africa Mining Vision, and develop policies for sustainable utilization of the continent's minerals • Work with RECs to Implement projects identified in AIDA • Support efforts by member States to implement Trade Facilitation Measures within the Framework of the BIAT and WTO
Modern agriculture for increased productivity and production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to member States' implementation of CAADP priority programmes • Support and monitor enhancement of agribusiness • Promote Policies, processes and infrastructure for market access and trade in agricultural products • Support the implementation of Gender Climate Agriculture Support Programmes
Blue economy for accelerated economic growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote Value addition of intra-regional fish trade in food security in Africa • Implementation of the Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIM 2050)
A United and Integrated Africa (federal or confederate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The African Passport and free movement of people • Harmonization of policies and standards to promote regional and continental integration and competitiveness
Continental financial and monetary institutions are	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial and monetary institutions

established and functional and resource mobilization Resource mobilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative Sources of Funding in order to strengthen AU funding Mechanism • Mechanisms for Domestic Resource Mobilization, including Alternative Sources of funding in order to provide predictable and sustainable implementation of AU development priorities as defined in Agenda 2063 and the Post 2015 Development Agenda
CLUSTER 2: Infrastructure Development	
Goals	Priorities 2016-2017
World-class infrastructure criss-crossing Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated High Speed Train Network • Unification of African Air transport, single African Aviation market • Implementation of the Grand Inga Dam Project • Support implementation of PIDA • Support connectivity, reliability and cost-effectiveness of transport and tourism networks and services in the continent • Increase access to modern energy for Africa's socioeconomic development
CLUSTER 3: Human Capital Development, Health, Science, Technology and Innovation	
Goals	Priorities 2016-2017
Well-educated citizens and skills revolution underpinned by science, technology and innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An African Virtual and e-University • The Pan-African e-Network • Outer Space • Promote key policies and programmes on utilization of outer-space for socio economic development • The Pan-African University (PAU) supported • Implementation of the 10- Year Science Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA-2024) facilitated
Healthy and well-nourished citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The African Union Commission will also prioritize the establishment of the Centre for Disease Control • Key Policies and Programmes on Primary Health Care and Prevention, as well as African Regional Nutrition Strategy promoted and supported • Capacity for surveillance, detection and response to disease outbreaks and threats to public health strengthened, including the establishment of the Centre for Disease Control • Scale up the implementation of the African Medicine Regulation and Harmonization Programme in two RECs and developing database on health indicators
CLUSTER 4: Labour, Employment Creation, Social Protection, Migration, & Mobility	
Goals	Priorities 2016-2017
High standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incomes, jobs and decent work • Poverty, inequality and hunger • Social security and protection including persons with disabilities • Modern and liveable habitats and basic quality services
Migration as a driver for development and growth,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstreaming migration in Development planning and strategies through regional and national migration policy frameworks

and protection of vulnerable groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventive and protective measures to tackle irregular migration, including human trafficking and smuggling of migrants in line with existing AU frameworks • Creation of alternative channels of regular migration, including enhanced intra-African mobility • Diaspora engagement and remittances • Platforms for increased inter-state and regional cooperation on migration
CLUSTER 5: Women and Gender Equality and Youth Empowerment	
Goals	Priorities 2016-2017
Full gender equality in all spheres of life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstreaming gender in area of peace and security • Violence and discrimination against women and girls • Programmes and policies on Women employment promoted and implemented
Engaged and empowered youth and children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth empowerment and children • Programmes and policies on Youth employment promoted and implemented
CLUSTER 6: Humanitarian issues and Disaster risk management	
Goals	Priorities 2016-2017
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responding to African humanitarian crisis situations and striving for durable solutions to forced displacement on the continent • Build resilience, early warning and capacity to respond to disasters
CLUSTER 7: Environment, Urbanization and Population	
Goals	Priorities 2016-2017
Environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient economies and communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support priority programmes on environment and natural resources, including climate change, desertification, bio-diversity, disaster risk reduction, water and sanitation and environmental monitoring
CLUSTER 8: Advocacy, Information, Communications	
Goals	Priorities 2016-2017
Africa as a major partner in global affairs and peaceful coexistence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda 2063 positioned in the minds of AU internal and external audiences • A People Centred African Union created through an active communication and advocacy strategy around “human rights” • Operations of ECOSOCC supported and enabled for the implementation of Agenda 2063 • Support Implementation of Legacy Projects (African Diaspora Volunteer Programme; Africa Diaspora Skills Data Base; Africa Diaspora Investment Funds and Marketplace for African Development)