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**Economic Commission for Africa
Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa**

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Eighteenth session

First joint meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism
for Africa and the United Nations Development Group

Dakar, 25 and 26 March 2017

Report of the retreat of the coordinators of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa

I. Opening of the retreat

1. The retreat of the coordinators of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa (RCM-Africa) was held on 9 and 10 February 2017 in Addis Ababa. The retreat was co-chaired by Mr. Abdalla Hamdok, Acting Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and Mr. Erastus Mwencha, outgoing Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC).

2. The agenda for the retreat was as follows:

1. Opening remarks
2. Adoption of the programme of work for the eighteenth session of RCM-Africa
3. Presentation on the key priority areas of Agenda 2063
4. Presentation on the matrix and the key priorities of the clusters
5. Progress report on RCM-Africa
6. Other matters
7. Closing remarks

3. The retreat was attended by representatives of AUC, ECA, the joint RCM-Africa secretariat (the African Development Bank (AfDB), AUC and ECA), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Group, the United Nations Development Programme,

the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Office to the African Union, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the World Food Programme. The full list of participants is attached as an annex to the present document.

4. Mr. Hamdok, welcoming the participants, gave a brief overview of the evolution of RCM-Africa, from a consultative meeting to a coordination mechanism for United Nations system-wide support for the African Union in the context of “Delivering as one”. Noting that Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development were about 90 per cent congruent, he said that the two frameworks should be aligned to facilitate implementation and monitoring and evaluation. The joint work programme set out in the matrix prepared by the RCM-Africa secretariat provided a platform for the United Nations to renew its commitment to supporting the African Union in carrying out its first 10-year implementation plan.

5. Mr. Mwencha said that the continuing cooperation and partnership efforts of the African Union and the United Nations were anchored in the newly adopted United Nations-African Union partnership on Africa’s integration and development agenda for 2017-2027. The partnership was the successor framework to the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme covering the period 2006-2016. The partnership would guide and focus attention on Africa’s integration agenda and help the United Nations to deliver as one.

6. The RCM-Africa secretariat had met with the heads of AUC, ECA and AfDB to agree on a set of action plans to complement the efforts of RCM-Africa. In that connection, AfDB had recently adopted five priority areas of work with a view to advancing Africa’s transformative agenda over the following 10 years. The five priority areas were lighting up and powering Africa, feeding Africa, integrating Africa, industrializing Africa, and improving quality of life for the people of Africa. Those areas, which converged with both Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, were intended to serve as a blueprint for African countries to embark on a course of sustainable transformation.

7. The meeting between Heads of State and Government and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the margins of the twenty-eighth annual ordinary session of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held in Addis Ababa in January 2017, had proved extremely fruitful and provided a platform for African leaders to dialogue with the United Nations on Africa’s development agenda and priorities. In the future, such meetings would be held annually. Noting that the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union must maintain its momentum, he said that stakeholders needed to be able to see that there were clear indicators in place to measure development progress within a results-based platform. Stressing the importance of the theme of the eighteenth session of RCM-Africa, “United Nations system support for harnessing the demographic dividend through investments in youth”, for addressing the socioeconomic challenges facing Africa’s young people, he said that there was a need for policymakers to rethink and adopt new paradigms to ensure that more young people were absorbed into the continent’s workforce.

II. Adoption of the programme of work for the eighteenth session of RCM-Africa

8. A representative of the RCM-Africa secretariat presented the proposed programme of work for the eighteenth session of RCM-Africa, which would be held on 25 and 26 March 2017 in Dakar. He explained the structure of the session and presented the proposed panellists for the various sessions. While the participants were in general

agreement on the subthemes for the panel sessions, there was consensus that young people should be invited to serve on the panels.

III. Presentation of the key priority areas of Agenda 2063

9. Mr. Tichawona Shumba (Strategic Planning Directorate, AUC) gave a brief presentation on Agenda 2063, the first 10-year implementation plan, and the plan's monitoring and evaluation framework. In January 2015 the African Union had adopted Agenda 2063 as the blueprint for 50 years of continental socioeconomic and political transformation. Subsequently, in June 2015 the first 10-year implementation plan, covering the period 2013-2023, had been adopted by member States for integration into their national visions and strategies.

10. He said that through the plan member States, regional economic communities and the organs of the African Union were required to integrate the results framework and institutional responsibilities, including monitoring and evaluation, into their own strategies and planning systems. The plan's monitoring and evaluation framework facilitated the operationalization of Africa's collective commitment to translate the continent's vision and goals for development into tangible results and outcomes. With regard to coordination mechanisms, including RCM-Africa, he highlighted that the monitoring and evaluation framework would boost multi-partner collaboration and provide clarity on the roles and responsibilities of all players across all levels.

IV. Presentation on the matrix and the key priorities of the clusters

11. A representative of the RCM-Africa secretariat presented the matrix. The matrix aligned the clusters to the priorities of the African Union, as set out in the first 10-year implementation plan.

12. After extensive deliberations, the following recommendations were made:

(a) The United Nations shall have two days after the retreat to provide inputs into the matrix.

(b) AUC, the owner of the matrix, shall have one week after receiving the inputs of the United Nations to review the matrix, with a view to ensuring that the key priorities of the African Union are captured. Mrs. Treasure Thembisile Maphanga (Director of Trade and Industry, AUC) shall present the matrix at the meeting of the AUC Directors on 13 February 2017.

(c) Upon receiving the revised matrix from AUC, the RCM-Africa secretariat shall inform the heads of the clusters and hold a meeting for each cluster within two weeks to deliberate on the agreed work programme for each cluster. Matters concerning the subclusters shall be discussed at the scheduled cluster meetings.

(d) A ninth cluster on governance, peace and security shall be created.

(e) The coordinators of the clusters shall meet in early March to take stock of the preparations for the eighteenth session of RCM-Africa.

V. Progress report on the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa

13. A representative of the RCM-Africa secretariat presented the highlights of the clusters' activities and progress made. She said that a draft of the progress report had been circulated for comments and the feedback had been incorporated accordingly. The clusters were expected to report on their progress based on the guidelines issued by the RCM-Africa secretariat, which stipulated that reporting should be based on three key aspects: achievements; challenges and lessons learned; and recommendations and ways forward.

VI. Other matters

14. A representative of the RCM-Africa secretariat informed the participants that ECA would be sponsoring a limited number of participants to attend the eighteenth session of RCM-Africa. Specifically, it had agreed to sponsor the following participants:

- (a) One representative of each of the African Union departments;
- (b) One representative of each regional economic community;
- (c) One representative of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and one representative of the secretariat of the African Peer Review Mechanism.

15. It was suggested that a limited number of young people from across the continent should also be sponsored to attend the meeting.

VII. Closing remarks

16. Mr. Stephen Karingi (Director, Capacity Development Division, ECA) thanked the participants for attending the retreat and contributing to the deliberations.

17. Mr. Anthony Mothae Maruping (Commissioner for Economic Affairs, AUC) called on the participants to maintain the momentum of RCM-Africa. He praised Africa's development narrative, noting that it had shifted significantly from general talking shops to action.

Annex

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