

Remarks by Mr. Abdoulie Janneh at the Official Presentation of Work Programme of RCM-Africa Clusters to AUC

UN System Support to the African Union Capacity Building Programme

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Remarks by Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ECA

28 June 2012, African Union Commission

Your Excellency, Mr. Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission,

Your Excellency, Mr. Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission,

Colleagues of the United Nations System,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to be with you this afternoon on this very important occasion as the UN system presents the joint Work Programme for the implementation of the Ten Year Capacity Building Programme of the AU to the AU Commission.

As you are all aware, the UN Secretary General and the AUC Chairperson signed the Declaration on "Enhancing UN-AU Cooperation: Framework for the Ten Year Capacity Building Programme for the AU" in 2006. Their vision for this partnership centered on the effective collaboration between the UN, AUC, and African sub-regional organizations in addressing the challenges facing Africa's development. The evolving framework was therefore conceived to guide the UN's overall strategic cooperation framework with the AU, with particular emphasis on capacity building.

The original Declaration makes provision for regular reviews of implementation of the TYCBP at three-year intervals. As such, at the request of the 10th session of the RCM, the ECA undertook the first triennial review in collaboration with UNLO/DPA, AfDB and the AUC. The findings of this exercise were subsequently presented at the 11th Session of RCM held in November 2010.

The review revealed that implementation of the Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme had been hampered by the absence of a clearly defined Work Programme. Accordingly, the 11th Session of the RCM recommended the development of a comprehensive Work Programme to facilitate coordination and ensure greater coherence in the implementation of AU capacity building activities.

The Secretariat therefore engaged with the AUC, also holding the AU-UN Retreat that many of us attended in Kuriftu in September last year. It is noteworthy to highlight the participatory process undertaken and I would like to commend the AUC, cluster coordinators, and the various participants throughout the UN system for their efforts in ensuring the success of these consultations.

I am also pleased to note the endorsement of what is effectively a practical action plan by the 12th Session of RCM.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to seize this opportunity to especially thank Mr. Erastus Mwencha for his personal involvement in the preparation of this Work Programme and for his inspiring leadership of the RCM in general - in his capacity as Co-Chair of the Mechanism. Permit me to also thank the dedicated staff of the joint AUC-UN Secretariat of the RCM and the Consultants. Your hard work and harmonious collaboration has certainly helped to enhance partnership between the AUC and the UN.

Dear Colleagues,

Developing a Work Programme is an important milestone in achieving the objectives set out in the Ten Year Capacity Building Programme. However, having a Work Programme is not an end in itself. The critical next step is for us to work together to ensure the successful implementation of the agreed program activities.

As recommended by the 12th Session of RCM, the various clusters are hereby invited to incorporate the relevant activities of the Work Programme into their respective Business Plans, and particularly their annual Work Plans. I am pleased to note that

some clusters are already doing this and I urge the others to follow suit.

Beyond the UN System, the document we are presenting today contains a wealth of information that could be harnessed by other development partners in support of the AU.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to officially hand over the document titled "UN System Support to the African Union Capacity Building Programme: Diagnosis and Work Programme of RCM-Africa Clusters" to the AUC, on behalf of the UN System.

Thank you for your kind attention.

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