10th Session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) of UN Agencies and Organizations Working in Africa in Support of the African Union and its NEPAD Programme
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Report

January 2010
RCM-Africa is the mechanism for enhancing UN system-wide coherence, coordination and cooperation at the regional and subregional levels to ‘deliver as one’ in support of AU and its NEPAD programme.

This is a publication of the RCM-Africa Secretariat. For more information, please visit www.uneca.org/nepad, write rcmafrica@uneca.org or info@uneca.org

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1. The 10th Session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) of United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the African Union (AU) and its NEPAD Programme was held on 5 and 6 November 2009 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

2. Her Excellency Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General, opened the meeting. Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ECA, H.E. Mr. Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson, African Union Commission and Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD Secretariat, all addressed the meeting.

3. The RCM deliberated on the following agenda items:
   a) Achievements and Outcomes of the RCM and its Clusters
   b) United Nations support to Climate-related Actions at the regional Level
   c) Linkages between RCM and the Regional Directors Team (RDT)
   d) Emerging institutional and structural changes in the AU and NEPAD
   e) Review of the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union

I. Opening

4. In his address, Mr. Abdoulie Janneh extended a special warm welcome to Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro and expressed his profound appreciation for her continued support to the RCM. He thanked Mr. Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chair of the African Union Commission and Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of NEPAD secretariat for their personal interest and faith in the RCM, and expressed his appreciation for their continued collaboration and support which had enabled the RCM to achieve significant progress in the shared vision and mission to promote an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa.

5. In his view, the 10th session of the RCM was a milestone signifying a decade of collective engagement of United Nations agencies and
organizations with key African institutions in strengthening the coherence and coordination of their support to Africa’s development agenda and programmes. The current meeting also provided an ideal opportunity to take stock of performance and achievements and discuss how to consolidate the vision and commitment of “delivering as one”. It was also a time to reflect on the challenges encountered, the lessons learned and to chart a way forward with renewed vigour and energy to better support Africa’s development.

6. He informed the meeting that the RCM had been strengthened to become a veritable tool for coordinating work, rather than serving as a mere consultative forum. Furthermore, the RCM had been better aligned to the priorities of the African Union and NEPAD, and was giving strategic support to clusters and offering sound advice on inter-cluster relations. In fulfilling their tasks under General Assembly resolution A/Res.57/7 which had mandated the United Nations system to support NEPAD, all clusters were now planning together and implementing as one. While that improved functioning was commendable, the clusters still had some way to go in utilizing their strengths to the optimum. Since they needed to be backed up by an RCM secretariat which was supported not only by ECA, he urged all agencies to strengthen the RCM secretariat through financial support and provide additional capacity through the deployment of staff as had been recommended by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU).

7. The 10th RCM session would review United Nations support to Africa in key thematic areas, especially that of climate change and the Millennium Development Goals. It would be important to use the occasion to gain a proper understanding of where Africa stood with regard to the climate change negotiations scheduled to take place in Copenhagen and how the United Nations system could provide support to member States in implementing its outcomes. Come 2010, there would be only five years left to the target date for achieving the MDGs and a high-level review meeting was scheduled to take place in New York in September of that year. He hoped that participants would use this opportunity to explore the potential contribution of the RCM to the MDG review process.
8. It was needful to further strengthen the RCM and achieve greater interagency coherence as well as enhance synergies between the RCM and the RDT. In order to avoid duplication of efforts and wastage of resources, bold steps would need to be taken to establish linkages between the two mechanisms and to achieve maximum benefits, based on comparative advantage, without adding unnecessary layers and structures. Interestingly, the 10th RCM session coincided with a time when significant changes were taking place in the African Union Commission following the AU Summit decisions of July 2009, taken in Sirte, to sharpen institutional focus, orientation, arrangements and relationships. He charged the meeting to consider how those significant developments and institutional transformations would impact the way the RCM worked in support of the AU and NEPAD, particularly in the context of the review the 10th session would be conducting on the United Nations Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme.

9. All agencies should come up with clear guidance on how the RCM could jointly implement the Programme, considering that the RCM was an extremely useful mechanism. All it needed to do was to accomplish four simple objectives: agree on the modalities for joint support to the RCM secretariat; bring the RDTs closer to RCM; develop strategies for enhanced implementation of the Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme for the AU and NEPAD; and deepen reflection on the establishment of sub-regional coordination mechanisms where they did not exist.

10. Mr. Erastus J. O. Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, also warmly welcomed Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, to Addis Ababa. His appreciation went to Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, the new Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD secretariat, for attending this important meeting which ECA had graciously organized and hosted. He commended all United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa for their support and commitment to the realization of the vision of the African Union and its NEPAD programme.

11. In his view, the 10th RCM was taking place at a momentous time when considerable change was taking place in relations between the
AU and the United Nations system within the context of the review of its Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme for the AU. Other major developments were the AU’s institutional and operational changes driven by its new Strategic Plan (2009-2012) whose adoption had been embodied in a Results-Based Management (RBM) approach to organizational delivery. He felt that significant progress had been made in the context of NEPAD integration into the structures and processes of the AU arising from the decisions taken by the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC), at its 21st meeting held in Sirte, in June 2009. That meeting had provided an opportunity for the AUC and the NEPAD secretariat to present an update on progress made in those areas in order to give RCM members a better understanding of the implications of the new realities and to address the needs of the AU and its NEPAD programme.

12. He further informed the meeting that the African Union had made significant strides in recent years to strengthen its capacities and its ability to deliver on its mandate. The support rendered by United Nations agencies and organizations to that end had been commendable. Highly notable was the progress in working together on various programmes and financing studies. Cases in point were the UN-AU joint Peace and Security mission in Darfur and Somalia, Assessing Regional Integration in African (the ARIA series), the Economic Reports on Africa, the African Statistical Report, the 2007 Rationalisation of the RECs, the Review of the Abuja Treaty and the Elaboration of a Minimum Integration Programme (MIP).

13. Despite the progress made, more work needed to be done to develop effective mechanisms to institutionalise a well coordinated and harmonized implementation of the NEPAD vision and AU Strategic Plan. The current session of the RCM provided an opportunity for all United Nations agencies to come together through the cluster system to build on achievements and address the challenges of institutional development so as to be able to do more to serve the needs of the African continent and its people. He called on all participants to strive for a deeper understanding of the various institutional changes taking place, their implications on United Nations support to the AU and its NEPAD programme and agree on joint activities that could be implemented to address Africa’s many pressing development
challenges and opportunities including the attainment of subregional and continental integration; the MDGs; climate change; the food, fuel and economic and global financial crises; sustainable poverty reduction and economic and social development. They should also make concrete proposals on a new Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme based on the new AU Strategic Plan and the priorities contained therein. Equally important would be the insights gained on how the RCM could become an effective vehicle for mobilizing and coordinating United Nations support to the AU and its NEPAD programme in light of the new realities.

14. In addressing the meeting, Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, new Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD secretariat, thanked ECA for organizing and hosting the meeting. He informed the meeting that the RCM secretariat had been very supportive and understanding of NEPAD needs and interests within the Mechanism. He re-affirmed the NEPAD secretariat’s readiness and firm commitment to working with all clusters in the RCM for mutual benefit. He saw the RCM as an essential instrument to promote policy dialogue and monitor system-wide support to advance the vision and mission of the African Union and its NEPAD Programme. He further noted that collective effort within the work of RCM would be critical to strengthening coherence and coordinating such support.

15. Dr Mayaki also informed the meeting that the integration of NEPAD into the structures and processes of the African Union was fully on course. A number of major measures had been taken towards the realization of the goals of the 2003 Maputo Decision of the African Union Summit on Integration. Following the recommendations made at the 21st NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC) meeting in Sirte, Libya in June 2009, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) had been established as a technical body of the African Union and its mandate was to facilitate and coordinate programme development and implementation, with partnership and resource mobilization as central enablers to achieve Africa’s development aspirations.

16. Dr. Mayaki further informed the meeting that, considering its emerging mandate, NEPAD had designed a New Strategic Business
Approach based on the four Pillars of the AU Commission’s Strategic Plan for the period 2009-2012. He expressed his conviction that with the support of all stakeholders and partners, including system agencies and RECs, the vision and mission of the AU and its NEPAD programme would succeed. He called on all stakeholders to join hands and concentrate on addressing the development challenges facing the continent, including the MDGs and the impact of the global financial and economic crisis.

17. In her opening remarks, Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General expressed her gratitude for the strong and constructive partnership of the United Nations with the African Union Commission and thanked Dr. Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission and Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer of NEPAD secretariat, for their good work to deliver on a common endeavour. She commended the increasing integration of NEPAD’s work into the mainstream activities of the African Union. She congratulated Mr. Abdoulié Janneh, ECA Executive Secretary, for his skilful stewardship of ECA and for taking the RCM to a higher profile as an ever-more effective forum for articulating Africa’s priorities.

18. Dr. Migiro informed the meeting that the broad effects of climate change and the global financial crisis had overshadowed some of Africa’s hard-won development gains. Africa had achieved impressive economic growth rates during the early years of the new millennium by pursuing prudent macroeconomic policies, improved governance and reformed environments for private sector investment. All played that good news had been imperilled by an economic crisis for which Africa bore no responsibility. Africa’s growth was projected to fall from an average of over five percent in recent years to a paltry 1.7 percent increase in 2009. Obviously, Africa was also already suffering from dwindling export revenues and reduced remittances and many people were losing their jobs and falling back into poverty, so progress towards the MDGs was likely to be adversely affected. In her view, the food and energy crises as well as climate change would further complicate Africa’s efforts.

19. For that reason, the current meeting provided an opportunity for the RCM to give concrete support to Africa’s national and regional
preparations for a successful outcome in the upcoming climate change negotiations in Copenhagen. She further acknowledged that with only five years left before the MDG target year of 2015, progress was off track across the continent. She urged participants to work more effectively together – to implement the recommendations issued in July 2008 by the MDG Africa Steering Group. She also invited participants to take part in the forthcoming meeting planned for 23 November in New York of the MDG Africa Working Group to identify areas where action should be intensified.

20. She commended the RCM secretariat for playing a more proactive and strategic role in supporting the clusters, and the financial and human resources provided to it by sister agencies. She urged the meeting to take advantage of the RCM to advance the work of the African Union and NEPAD. While embracing the challenges for the future, the meeting should focus on the immediate challenge of sustaining what had been achieved to date. She called on all agencies to continue taking concrete steps to align their work programmes with the priorities of the African Union and its NEPAD programme. She further urged the meeting to contribute to a successful CoP15 in Copenhagen, as well as prepare the way for the 2010 high-level plenary meeting in New York to advance the MDGs and Africa’s overall development.

II. Achievements and Outcomes of the RCM and its Clusters

21. The meeting took note of the progress, achievements and outcomes of the RCM and its clusters from the presentations made by the RCM secretariat and all the clusters. From the introduction and highlights of the activities of the secretariat, it emerged that the RCM was alive and making remarkable progress. The secretariat was actively engaged in four major areas, namely: (i) strategic coordination of all United Nations activities in support of AU/NEPAD, (ii) Enhancing the cooperation of United Nations funds and programmes with regional and subregional organizations, (iii) providing institutional support for regional and subregional institutions and (iv) advocating for NEPAD.
22. The cluster representatives noted that all United Nations institutions had made tremendous efforts to align their work programmes with AU/NEPAD priorities and that such cooperation had grown in strength over the past year.

23. The RCM secretariat noted the following progress and achievements:

a) The operational focus of RCM-Africa had been sharpened through better alignment with the AU vision and priorities of NEPAD.

b) Though thin, the RCM secretariat had striven to engage and build confidence among all stakeholders and had become more responsive, more strategic and effective in supporting the system and the AU and its NEPAD Programme.

c) The agencies had intensified their efforts in RCM-Africa through deeper involvement in cluster activities, as evidenced in recent actions by ILO, UNESCO, FAO and UNDP.

d) Cluster and subcluster coordination had greatly improved, as exemplified by the action of UNFPA for the Social and Human Development Cluster and the DPA (UNLO) for the Peace and Security Cluster.

e) Both the AUC and NEPAD secretariat had intensified their involvement in and engagement with the RCM, the NEPAD secretariat having designated an RCM Focal Point as had AfDB.

f) The meeting also took note with appreciation of a presentation by Mr. Papa Louis Fall on the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) Report entitled “Towards More Coherent United Nations System Support to Africa”.

24. The foregoing had resulted in:

a) Enhanced leadership and improved image of the RCM;

b) Enhanced coordination of agency support to Africa’s development at the regional and subregional levels;

c) Strengthened cooperation between the United Nations and African regional organizations;

d) Increased institutional support to AU, NEPAD and the RECs; and

e) Increased advocacy for NEPAD.
25. However, challenges and constraints remained in terms of:

a) Inadequate interaction with AUC, which had contributed to insufficient complementarity of efforts and resources between the AUC and United Nations system organizations.
b) The focus of cluster activities which had yet to fully reflect current AU strategic plans and priorities and be more result and impact oriented.
c) The low participation of concerned agencies in cluster meetings to help foster joint planning and implementation of activities.
d) The fact that cluster members tended to operate on the basis of their own respective mandates, programming cycles, and funding and reporting systems, which made joint programming and planning a complicated and challenging exercise.
e) Less than optimal coordination and information exchange across the different clusters.
f) Overly fragmented cluster arrangements which warrant some form of rationalization.
g) The need to scale up RCM and NEPAD programme advocacy and sensitization efforts beyond current levels.
h) The need to establish/improve mechanisms for joint mobilization of resources.

26. The emerging recommendations are as follows:

a) United Nations system organizations need to work more closely with the different Departments within the AUC. This would enable the AUC/NEPAD to tap more effectively into the expertise and resources available from the RCM and its clusters. To this end, it was recommended that:

- A meeting should be organized involving all cluster Coordinators and Co-coordinators (AUC and UN) at the level of the AUC senior management before the end of the year to discuss issues including information sharing and flow, the functioning of the RCM as a whole, and the clusters, as well as the review of the Ten-Year Capacity Building programme.
The RCM secretariat should be transformed into a joint secretariat with ownership between the AUC/NEPAD and the United Nations in order to promote greater synergy and coherence between the parties.

In this regard, there is a need for the meetings of the RCM to be jointly organised by the United Nations and AUC/NEPAD. Similarly, there should be joint reporting of the activities of the Clusters, with cluster reports reflecting the collective interventions and actions of all partner agencies involved.

b) RCM and cluster activities should, as much as possible, be results-oriented and lead to tangible impacts, at least in the long term. They should also be more closely aligned to AU/NEPAD strategic plans and priorities.

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

d) Reporting on cluster activities should be standardized and reflect the collective interventions and actions of all United Nations partners involved in the operations and functioning of the clusters, rather than highlighting individual agency activities. The reports need to reflect the joint nature of cluster activities and be shared with the AUC to obtain its views and inputs before submission to the RCM.

e) United Nations agencies and organizations need to improve inter-cluster coordination and information sharing within and across clusters.

f) The RCM should consider mainstreaming the following issues into cluster activities:

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

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

h) The AfDB should provide financial support to the RCM secretariat and clusters to enhance coordination and foster cooperation between United Nations system organizations and African regional and subregional organizations. The AfDB should also provide support to the AUC/NEPAD to build the capacity of the Cluster focal points.

i) United Nations agencies should also provide human and financial support to the work of the RCM and its clusters and promote joint mobilization of resources for cluster activities.

j) The Chief Executives Board (CEB) should be informed of the work of the RCM so that its work becomes a part of the agenda and dialogue within the CEB.

III. Discussion on United Nations Support to Climate-related Actions at the Regional Level


28. The report was being submitted in accordance with the RCM request to the Cluster in reaction to the CEB directive that climate change responses should be coordinated by the regional economic commissions. The vehicle for such coordination in Africa was the RCM working under the auspices of ECA and had been prepared
in response to the recommendation from the 9th RCM that the environment, population and urbanisation cluster should support the RCM in developing a work plan for climate-related activities.

29. The presentation upheld the NEPAD Environment Action plan, AU Summit decisions and declarations and AMCEN decisions on Climate Change as the framework providing policy guidance for the engagement of United Nations agencies operating in Africa to tackle climate change.

30. Already working together on climate change were: the AU-ECA-AfDB Climate for Development in Africa Programme (ClimDev-Africa Programme) and its African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC); UN-Habitat Cities in Climate Change Initiative; UNEP and ECA promotion of interagency support to African negotiators; WMO support to Quality Management Framework for meteorological, hydrological, marine and related environmental data products and services; IOM and UNEP collaboration to address climate change induced migration and the impact of population movement on environment; WHO/UNEP work on health and environment/climate change; UNEP/UNDP work on mainstreaming climate change into national development frameworks; and the UN-Habitat/UNFPA led inter-agency collaboration in the production of the state of African Cities Report.

The main achievements from interagency collaboration include the following:

(i) Elaboration and adoption of an African Common Position on Climate Change;

(ii) Development of sub-regional climate projects and plans which were brought together at the continental level in the process of preparing the African common position on climate change; and

(iii) The joint secretariat of AUC, ECA and AfDB developing and implementing a major programme on climate change and development for Africa (ClimDev-Africa) whose African Climate Policy Centre has been established in ECA.

From the lessons learned, the following recommendations were made on the way forward:
(i) Funding for policy and capacity-building activities should be upscaled;

(ii) Mechanisms should be established and operationalized to facilitate joint resource mobilization or joint budgetary contributions and planning. In this regard there is a need for vigilance to build in and maintain synergies, avoid unnecessary overlap and duplication of efforts, foster collaboration and take a team approach to resource mobilization across the system.

(iii) United Nations and other development partners should provide support to the following:

- Development and implementation of the Comprehensive Framework of African Climate Change Programmes;
- NEPAD initiative in Mapping of regional actors/institutions working on Climate Change and in the establishment and maintenance of a database of programmes;
- Implementation of AU/NEPAD climate change initiatives including ClimDev-Africa and its ACPC, African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD), and Great Green Wall among others; and
- Strengthening the capacity of the AUC and the NEPAD secretariat to facilitate the coordination of regional climate change initiatives.

(iv) Demands from member States and regional organizations for the implementation of the outcomes from the Copenhagen meeting should be anticipated and proactively programmed.

(v) Climate change dimensions should be urgently mainstreamed into the work of the other clusters along with the climate proofing of all United Nations programmes and coordination of climate change initiatives as a component of this strategy.
IV. Discussion on the linkages between RCM and the RDTs

31. Following the presentation by the RCM secretariat of a study undertaken to improve coordination and coherence between the two mechanisms, the meeting recognized and agreed on the complementary roles of the RCM and RDTs to strengthen agency support and coherence in support of the AU agenda for development in Africa. The meeting also took note of a presentation by UNDP on the objectives, role and responsibilities of the RDTs.

32. The meeting underscored the need for improved synergy and coordination to avoid overlapping of activities and wastage of resources by developing effective and workable mechanisms between the RDTs and RCM. The need for strong and effective communication and consultation between the two mechanisms was also emphasized by the meeting.

33. The meeting urged the RCM and RDT mechanisms to:

   a) Ensure active RDT participation in RCM meetings and RCM participation in RDT meetings.

   b) mutually include/consider each other’s recommendations or follow-ups in their annual work-planning and reviews.

   c) Strengthen communication with Subregional Coordination Mechanisms and UNCTs on the work of the RCM and its clusters, thus providing opportunities for improved communication, cross-pollination and multi-disciplinary teams to work together on specific thematic areas.

34. The meeting proposed to set up a task force to look at the opportunities of both mechanisms and see areas of complementarity in which they could deliver as one.
V. Review of progress on the Sub-regional Coordination Mechanism

35. The meeting recognized the lack of a system-wide coordination mechanism akin to RCM at sub-regional level. However, it took note of the existence of UNDAF as a very effective mechanism for system coordination at the national level. The meeting stressed the need for a sub-regional coordination mechanism as recognized in the Secretary-General’s report to the 61st General Assembly on SROs mainly for alignment of the work of the Organization to priority areas of the RECs and for monitoring the impact of its work at the sub-regional level.

36. The meeting recalled several recommendations made from previous RCM meetings (7th, 8th and 9th) on the need for a better coordination mechanism at the sub-regional level and reiterated its commitment to look for better modalities in setting up a sub-regional coordination mechanism in fulfilling the Secretary-General’s request. The meeting also emphasized the need for exploring an optimal model of coordination at the sub-regional level.

37. The challenges identified included:

- The overarching constraints of time and overlapping activities among different agencies at country and REC levels which called for a specific definition and understanding of the role and nature of sub-regional coordination mechanisms.
- The difficulty for many RECs to participate and contribute effectively to RCM meetings particularly at the cluster level and the need for the RCM and its clusters to promote the active involvement of the RECs in their activities.
- The fact that some United Nations agencies and organizations do not have regional bureaux and would require special consideration to be involved in a sub-regional coordination mechanism.
- The reality that AU’s configuration of sub-regions was quite different from that of the United Nations.
- The possibility that creating a third level of coordination might result in duplication and lack of timely response to events due to
capacity problems and the plethora of on-going activities at the country, sub-regional and regional levels.

- The major challenge in fostering coordination and harmonization of regional integration through the domestication of sub-regional protocols and agreements at the national level. Therefore, RCM, RDTs and RECs should assist member States in the harmonization and domestication of regional and sub-regional policies.
- How United Nations agencies and organizations should respond to the evolving reconfiguration in terms of RECs and IGOs.

38. The meeting recognized that a sub-regional coordination mechanism would be essential to provide a link between regional-level activities and country-level national priorities, actions and implementation, as well as respond to the needs of the RECs.

39. The meeting recommended that a task force composed of the RCM secretariat, RDTs, RECs and the AUC should be set up for the next six months to look into existing coordination mechanisms at the subregional levels and recommend options for establishing the sub-regional coordination mechanism, including building on existing mechanisms. The exercise should take into account the realities, specificities and priorities within each subregion, in particular those of the RECs and the expected roles and responsibilities of the various players to be involved in the subregional framework.

VI. Emerging institutional and structural changes in the AU and NEPAD

40. The meeting took note of presentations from representatives of the AUC and the NEPAD secretariat. Both representatives indicated that much had been done in terms of institutional changes in integrating NEPAD into the structures and processes of the African Union, with the following highlights:

  a) In strengthening the leadership and management of the NEPAD secretariat, a new Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Ibrahim Assane
Mayaki, had been named following approval by the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government in February 2009. The NEPAD CEO had formally taken charge of the affairs of the secretariat in April 2009;

b) One major development under the AU/NEPAD integration agenda was the agreement that the NEPAD secretariat should be transformed into the “NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA)” as a technical body of the AU with the mandate to facilitate and coordinate continental and regional programmes and projects; mobilise resources and partners in support of the implementation of Africa’s priority programmes and projects; conduct and coordinate research and knowledge management; monitor and evaluate the implementation of programmes and projects; and advocate on AU/NEPAD vision, mission and core principles/values.

c) The incoming NPCA would facilitate and coordinate the development and implementation of Africa’s priority programmes/projects having an impact on regional and continental integration, through renewed partnership and resource mobilization, as per decision of the 21st NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC) taken in Sirte, Libya during June/July 2009.

d) The headquarters of the NEPAD Agency will remain in South Africa with the status of an AU Office outside of Headquarters, in accordance with the Host Agreement on NEPAD signed in October 2008, between the Government of South Africa and the African Union. In this regard, the NEPAD secretariat has been accorded diplomatic status as an international organization functioning in Midrand by the South African Authorities;

e) The NEPAD Agency will be under the supervisory authority of the Chairperson of the AU Commission and would be funded from statutory and other sources of the African Union Commission.

f) The AUC representative informed the meeting that the budget of the new NEPAD entity is to be integrated into the AUC budget for consideration and approval by the relevant AU authorities, in accordance with NEPAD/HSGIC recommendations.

41. The meeting commended the AUC and the NEPAD secretariat for the significant progress made towards integrating NEPAD into the AU
structures and processes. The RCM expressed support for the new institutional arrangements and reaffirmed its commitment to generate global mobilization and support for AU and its NEPAD Programme.

42. The meeting further recommended that partners should realign their support to the AU and the NEPAD Programme, taking into account the strategic plans of both the AUC and the NEPAD secretariat, supporting both bodies jointly, through the leadership of the AUC, in order to promote coherence and coordination.

VII. Review of the Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme for AU

43. The meeting took note of the presentation made by the RCM secretariat on the need to review the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme (TYCBP) for the African Union, in accordance with the Declaration (A/61/630) signed on 16 November 2006 by the United Nations and AU. Following further discussions and interventions by participants, the RCM reiterated its commitment to the effective implementation of the TYCBP which is conceived as an evolving document subject to periodic review. It recognized the need to address all priority needs of the AU Commission within the AU-UN cooperation framework; to enhance AU internal capacity to coordinate support being provided under the programme; and to associate AfDB with the programme.

44. The meeting noted that:

- Since the TYCBP had been conceived as an overall strategic framework for United Nations system engagement with AU and aimed at avoiding multiple and overlapping initiatives, the review should confirm that aim.
- The review should take into account past and ongoing capacity-building efforts by United Nations system organizations and other partners.
- Though the list indicated in the programme was not exhaustive, its focus on peace and security was agreed and successes,
gaps and shortcomings in implementing the TYCBP should be examined.
• The programme should remain, as conceived, the overall strategic reference document for agency cooperation/engagement with AU.
• In terms of methodology/structure of the review, the meeting underscored the importance of AU involvement and decision as to which of its structures should be involved in the review process in order to make the exercise as comprehensive as possible.
• The AUC needed to exercise more leadership, ownership and partnership in the review and implementation of the TYCBP.

45. The RCM recommended that:
• Since the review was an important occasion to further popularize the TYCBP at agency, AU and REC levels, the RECs should be fully represented in the review team.
• ECA, UNLO and the AUC should undertake the review and mobilize the necessary resources from other United Nations agencies. The AfDB should provide financial support and consultancy for the review process.
• Since the involvement of all stakeholders and ownership would be key to the success of the review, it was crucial to ensure AU/REC leadership, partnership and ownership in the process with a view to enhancing its effectiveness and further strengthening the implementation process.

VIII. Closing Remarks

46. In her closing remarks, Her Excellency, Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, underscored the importance of partnership in the context of the RCM, which was providing a useful service in terms of enhancing coherence and effectiveness of United Nations support to the AU and its NEPAD programme. She encouraged more dialogue with the AUC and requested that the RDTs and RCM mechanisms support each other in the most effective way, considering that clients or beneficiaries
make little distinction between RDTs and RCM since both represented the United Nations family.

47. The RCM clusters held huge potential and provided a good opportunity for cross fertilization of ideas in terms of MDGs and other priority areas for Africa’s development. She urged all stakeholders to use the clusters more effectively, focusing on goals, responsibilities and time frames and promoting effective communication.

48. She underlined the importance of the review of the TYCBP. She urged the RCM secretariat to take into account the issues raised and recommendations made at the meeting and proceed with the review, ensuring that different skills and knowledge were represented in the exercise.

49. She added that the agenda of the 10th Session of the RCM was ambitious and could not be adequately covered in two days. The several progress reports presented had clear recommendations. There was now a sharpened focus on the part of the RCM for building on its successes. While the achievements so far were commendable, all participants should continue the consultations and exchange of ideas so as to translate the recommendations of the RCM into actions. The Organization needed to take stock of what it had been doing so far in support of the AU and use the opportunities of upcoming meetings (in the context of the MDGs and high-level policy meetings) to advance its agenda of serving Africa and humanity at large.

50. Certainly, she would report back to the Secretary-General on the development of the RCM and her appreciation went to the ECA Executive Secretary and his staff for successfully organizing the meeting. She also thanked the AUC Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Commissioners and all the delegates for their attendance and active participation.
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