



Recommendations of the
7th Regional Consultation
Meeting of UN Agencies
and Organizations
Working in Africa in
Support of AU and NEPAD

RCM-Africa

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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.

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List of Acronyms

AfDB	African Development Bank
AUC	African Union Commission
FAO	Food and Agriculture organization
IAED	International Atomic Energy Agency
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IGOs	Intergovernmental Organizations
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ITU	International Telecommunications Union
NEPAD	New Partnership For Africa's Development
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OSSA	Office of the Special Adviser on Africa
RCM	Regional Consultation Meeting
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
SROs	Sub regional Offices of ECA
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDPI	United Nations Department of Public Information
UNDPA	United Nations Department of Political Affairs
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission For Africa
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-	HABITAT United Nations Human Settlements programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNLO	United Nations Liaison Office
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

Introduction

The Seventh Regional Consultation Meeting (RCM) of UN agencies and organizations met on 14 and 15 November in Addis Ababa and considered an issues note presented by ECA, titled: “Strengthening the Coordination of UN Support to NEPAD: From Review to Action”. The Issues Note highlighted the findings of various reports and studies on improving regional support to the implementation of NEPAD, including the “Second Report of the Secretary-General’s Advisory Panel on International Support to the New Partnership for Africa’s Development” (2006); The report of the Joint Inspection Unit “Further Measures to Strengthen United Nations System support to the New Partnership for Africa’s Development” (2005) and ECA’s report “Assessment of UN System Support to NEPAD: Rethinking the Collective Approach” (2004). Agencies and organization in attendance provided enlightened contributions during the plenary and breakout sessions which were also informed by the recommendations of the IGO group on reinforcing a better-structured coordination mechanism as well as the UN ten-year capacity building programme for the African Union (AU). The RCM was also mindful of the report of the Secretary-General’s High-level Panel on UN System-wide Coherence titled Delivering as One, which was released shortly before the meeting.

The RCM’s recommendations presented in this outcome document are organized around 5 key themes and policy issues crucial to strengthening the UN system-wide support to the implementation of AU/NEPAD. These are: strengthening regional coordination and the cluster system; fostering coordination and integration of UN activities at the sub regional level; improving UN relationships with continental and sub regional organizations; monitoring the effectiveness of UN interventions in coordinating support to AU/NEPAD, and enhancing capacity and mobilising resources to implement recommendations and improve interagency collaboration to support AU/NEPAD.

The UN joint action through regional consultations is meant to enhance interagency coherence, coordination and cooperation, through increased joint activities and programmes.

The aim is also to generate improved cooperation and coordination between UN agencies and African continental organizations such as the AU, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). Against this backdrop, the meeting agreed that the existing regional consultation mechanism should continue; that the cluster arrangement should be maintained with some modifications as reflected in the paragraphs that follow; and that the scope of the RCM should be widened to include the African Union Commission in the spirit of the ongoing UN reforms aimed at more effective partnerships, coherence, harmonization and stronger coordination. The meeting also recommended that gender and youth mainstreaming and capacity building should be considered cross-cutting issues and systematically built into the support of AU and NEPAD and monitored accordingly.

1. Strengthening coordination and revitalizing the cluster system

The RCM stressed the importance of strengthening coordination at the regional level by revitalizing the cluster system and recommended the following:

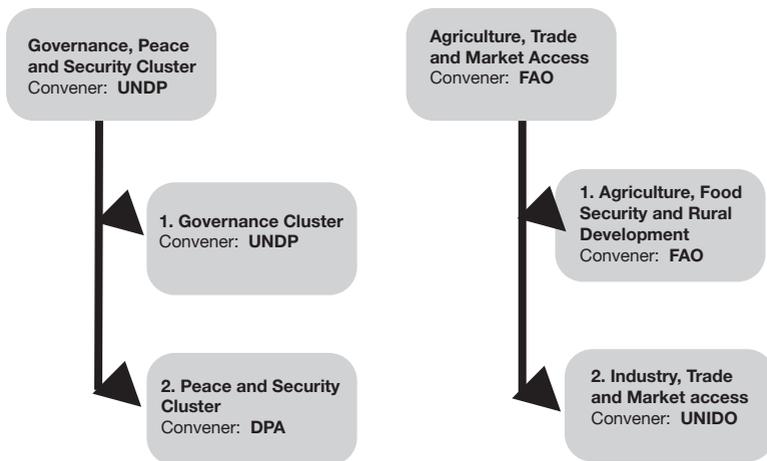
- a. ECA should move from a mere convener of the Regional Consultation Meetings (RCM) to a Strategic Coordinator of UN support to AU and NEPAD. In this regard, ECA will provide secretariat function to coordinate the activities of all clusters, with human and financial assistance from other UN agencies and organizations.
- b. It was agreed that meetings should be more predictable and should be held more frequently if necessary. In this regard, the RCM recommended the following:
 - All RCMs should henceforth be held in Addis Ababa at the ECA as it provides the best location for the meeting.
 - The RCM should be held at least once a year but not back to back with the AU Summits, while each cluster should meet at least twice a year with AU participation not limited just to the RCM but also to the cluster meetings. The participation of the African

Union Commission at RCMs should not be limited to presenting opening statements, but also to include participation at the technical level.

- The cluster meetings may take advantage of other meetings attended by members to hold their meetings.
 - Cluster meetings should be co-chaired by a representative of the AU Commission.
 - The reports of the RCMs should be submitted to the AU Summit.
- c. The meeting also recommended that efforts should be made by all to improve inter-agency collaboration through the revitalization of the cluster system for greater efficiency and effectiveness. This might require a review of the cluster mechanism which could be done by ECA in collaboration with UNDP and any other UN agency or organization. It was, therefore, agreed that:
- The existing clusters should be refined to have sub-clusters.
 - Each Cluster should have a Convener and Vice Convener
 - There should be rules and procedures for the functioning of the clusters.
- d. It was also agreed that clusters should undertake a clear and traceable alignment of programmes and resources with AU and NEPAD priorities. In so doing, they should implement specific jointly planned programmes/projects based on the NEPAD action plan as well as supporting priorities emerging from governments that may not be related to NEPAD.
- e. To rationalise the reporting, it was agreed that the conveners of the cluster will submit reports on their cluster activities to ECA, which would pass them to Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA); but the agencies would continue to submit directly to OSAA their reports on their individual activities in support of AU Commission, NEPAD and African countries and on Causes of Conflict and promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa.
- f. To improve on participation, the efficiency and effectiveness of the clusters, the RCM agreed on the reconfiguration of two existing clus-

ters, which increases the number of clusters from seven to nine. The Governance, Peace and Security cluster was divided into two clusters while the Agriculture, Trade and Market Access cluster was also divided into two clusters as shown in Figure 1 and Table 1.

Figure 1. The Reconfiguration of the two Clusters



- g. It was also agreed that ECA should contact and inform relevant UN agencies and organizations about the new cluster configurations as well as invite agencies and organizations to indicate their interest in the clusters and, the case of the new **Industry, Trade and Market Access Cluster**, lead discussions on the designation of the cluster convener.

2. Fostering sub-regional coordination and integration

On the issue of fostering coordination at the sub-regional level in support of AU and NEPAD the RCM recognized the critical challenge posed by the multiplicity of sub-regional organizations and the non-existence of a coordinating mechanism akin to the RCM.

The meeting agreed on the following:

- a. It must be recognized that the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) are important in the implementation of NEPAD programmes at the sub-region and that ECA's sub-regional offices (SROs) should play a role in bringing other UN agencies together in support of AU/NEPAD at the sub-regional level
- b. The UN activities at the sub-regional level should mainly be targeted at capacity building—human resource development, organizational development and institutional and legal framework development—for RECs and Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) in order to enhance their ability to own and manage the implementation of AU/NEPAD priorities.
- c. The importance of developing a mechanism for sub-regional coordination of UN support to AU/NEAD was also acknowledged by the RCM and it recommended that ECA should, in consultation with other UN agencies, the AU and the NEPAD Secretariat, coordinate discussions on the needs of RECs to facilitate a better alignment and better targeting of UN support to the AU/NEPAD priorities and vision at the sub-regional level.
- d. The UN coordination system in each sub-region needs to develop knowledge and information management systems within its network, on the presence of UN agencies and organizations within the sub-region and within their areas of competence and concentration. The mechanism should also contain data and information on the activities of other key development partners. The knowledge mechanism should be accessible to all development players to help minimize duplication and create synergy among development actors in meeting development priorities of the sub-region.
- e. The UN coordination systems should develop action plans in coordination with the SROs as well as commit to implement two to three activities jointly in support of AU/NEPAD in the sub-region.
- f. The RECs should be invited to participate in the Regional Consultation Meetings

3. Improving cooperation and coordination between the UN and AU, NEPAD, AfDB and the RECs

In a strong demonstration of a renewed spirit of partnership and willingness to harmonize efforts in support of Africa's development the RCM called for improving cooperation and coordination between the UN and the AU Commission, the NEPAD Secretariat, the AfDB and the RECs. In this regard, the meeting arrived at the following agreements:

- a. Support for NEPAD would yield the desired results only if there is effective implementation of NEPAD programmes, strong regional consensus for such programmes and a clear definition of responsibility between the African Union (AU) Commission and the NEPAD secretariat in the formulation and implementation of programmes. These programmes must be backed by effectively coordinated support of development partners which should consider regional approach in programming.
- b. The UN system should maintain regular consultations with the AU Commission through the Secretary General of the UN or the Executive Secretary of ECA, in consultation with the UN agencies and organizations with a view to deepening coordination and collaboration between the United Nations system and the African Union, including appropriate participation in each other's meetings so that they can contribute to policy formulation.
- c. The UN system should support the efforts of the AU Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat in providing comprehensive communication and advocacy for NEPAD.
- d. ECA should, when appropriate, and in the spirit of enhanced partnership, advice the AU Commission and NEPAD Secretariat.
- e. It was also agreed that as a key player in Africa's development landscape, the AfDB should be more involved in the RCM. To this end it was agreed that efforts should continue and that more should be done in this regard to ensure the participation of the AfDB in the regional consultation mechanisms.

4. Mobilizing resources and enhancing capacity

It was agreed that the issue of mobilizing resources and enhancing capacity for implementing recommendations and scaling up support to the implementation of NEPAD should be dealt with at three levels: central coordination or the RCM, cluster and sub cluster.

Hence efforts at mobilizing resources and enhancing capacity at the three levels must identify the needs, modalities and timelines for addressing the relevant issues as well as the role of the different organizations.

4.1 Overarching Issues

- a. Capacity and resource constraints cut across all levels of interagency support to AU/NEPAD. Resources relate to human, organizational and financial means and they inform capacity for leadership implementation analysis, monitoring and reporting. In addressing these challenges and therefore recommendations, we need to look at the central coordination arrangement (RCM), the cluster and sub-cluster levels. It is against this background that the meeting considered the question of capacity for leadership and coordination.
- b. Capacity Development: Internal Level
 - Because not all UN agencies and organizations have dedicated NEPAD support structures, each agency and organization should develop minimum level of institutional capacity at all levels from RCM to cluster level. At least one dedicated staff member should be designated for this purpose;
 - Look at alternative means of funding activities at cluster and sub-cluster levels;
 - Open budget lines to support functions;
 - Elaborate joint programmes and funding framework for Trust Funds and financing facility; and
 - Develop resource mobilization strategy based on needs-assessment of internal and operations needs

c. Modalities and timeline

- Conveners should undertake efforts to reinforce staff capacity;
- Reinforce the RCM by seconding staff to the ECA coordinating Unit. Secondment of staff in support of the RCM should occur within the next six months
- Clusters should establish trust Funds and build partnerships at all levels where appropriate by the next RCM
- RCM should anchor resource strategies which should be ready before next RCM
- Funding facility and elaboration of its governance

d. Role of African organizations

- Within the context of the AU/ECA/AfDB joint secretariat the three institutions should assist in programme alignment, coordination, advocacy and outreach. AU should set the African vision, policies, priorities and programmes. ECA should convene UN system around technical and advisory support to AU/NEPAD while AfDB should anchor resource mobilization.

e. Monitoring

- Heads of Agencies should take the direct responsibility in monitoring efforts to mobilize resources and enhance capacity to strengthen the RCM as well as provide support for AU/NEPAD programmes;
- The AU Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat should monitor value added—better determine/articulate priorities, better benchmarking; and
- There should be periodic independent assessment on criteria agreed upon.

5. Monitoring and evaluation of actions and outcomes

- a. The meeting agreed that monitoring should be based on the value addition of the UN support system to the NEPAD priorities and to the vision and mission of the AU. It was also agreed that there should be a common understanding of monitoring at both the cluster and regional consultation levels. As such, monitoring should be guided by the following principles:
 - Clear identification of the value added activities separate from the regular programmed activities of the agencies.
 - Identification of common and/or complementary activities, and joint activities involving more than one agency
 - Alignment of activities with NEPAD priorities and AU vision and strategic framework.
 - Setting of clear targets to be achieved on specific dates.
 - Mainstreaming of gender and other cross cutting issues in all activities.
- b. The operations of the regional consultation and clusters at the regional and sub-regional levels should be guided by a general framework for monitoring the following:
 - i. Processes and activities
 - ii. Outputs –what is actually being produced
 - iii. Resources –financial and human
 - iv. Impact of interventions
- c. Through its NEPAD Support Unit, ECA should monitor processes, outputs and resources. This Unit should establish a data base for both quantitative and qualitative information on processes and activities, outputs and resources relating to the UN agencies support to the NEPAD priorities and the AU vision and strategic framework. Establishment of such a data base requires a standard format and the use of methods, such as questionnaires, to generate data.

- d. Monitoring the impact of UN system wide support to AU/NEPAD requires identification of the criteria and benchmarks for measuring impact and the lessons learned. Ideally, the ECA, the AU and NEPAD Secretariat should undertake monitoring of the impact of interventions. They may wish to develop terms of references and commission monitoring of the impact and effectiveness of interventions to a consultancy firm.
- e. The cluster is the unit for monitoring the activities and measuring the effectiveness of interventions. Therefore, each cluster should develop a monitoring framework by the end of February 2007 based on the following:-
 - i. Clear work program activities to be achieved during a specific time frame, for example six months.
 - ii. Identification of the priorities, and of their linkages to the NEPAD priorities and to the AU vision and strategic framework.
 - iii. Resources—human and financial
 - iv. Relevant monitoring indicators
- f. Reporting is an important indicator for monitoring the effectiveness of cluster system and the regional consultation mechanism. At the cluster level, reports on activities should be shared, as much as possible, with other agencies, and with the NEPAD Secretariat and the AU Commission. The ECA NEPAD Support Unit should be the focal point to facilitate the sharing of reports and other information.
- g. Reporting should also be managed and shared at the Heads of States level. In this regard, it is proposed that reports on the UN support to the NEPAD priorities and to the vision and mission of the AU be delivered by Executive Secretary of the ECA to the Heads of States and Governments at their annual summits and conferences as well as shared with relevant meetings held at the ministerial level. In addition, the reports should be shared at the relevant ministerial meetings.
- h. The next RCM should have a consolidated report (derived from individual cluster reports) on achievements using appropriate indicators of tangible deliverables.

List of Agencies and Organizations in Attendance

African Development Bank
African Union Commission
Food and Agriculture organization
International Atomic Energy Agency
International Fund for Agricultural Development
International Monetary Fund
International Labour Organization
International Maritime Organization
International Organization for Migration
International Telecommunications Union
NEPAD Secretariat
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Office of the Special Adviser on Africa
United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Department of Public Information
United Nations Department of Political Affairs
United Nations Economic Commission For Africa
United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
United Nations Population Fund
United Nations Human Settlements programme
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
United Nations Industrial Development Organization
United Nations Liaison Office
World Food Programme
World Health Organization
World Intellectual Property Organization
World Meteorological Organization

Table 1: The Clusters of the Regional Consultation Mechanism

Cluster	Convener	Sub Clusters	Members
Infrastructure Development	ECA	Water Energy ICT Transport	AfDB, FAO, IAEA, IMO, ITU, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UN-HABITAT, UPU, WHO/WAC (WHO OFFICE AT THE AU AND ECA), WIPO AND WMO
Governance	UNDP		AFDB, AU, DPA, DPKO, IMF, NEPAD, OCHA, OSAA, UNDESA, UNDP, ECA, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOHCHR, WORLD BANK, AND WFP
Environment, Population And Urbanization	UN-HABITAT		IMO, NEPAD, ECA, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, AND WMO
Human Resources Development, Employment And HIV/Aids	UNICEF		FAO, IAEA, ILO, IOM, UNDP, ECA, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, WFP, WHO/WAC AND WIPO, UNFPA
	UNESCO ILO UNAIDS	Human resources Employment HIV/AIDS	
Agriculture, Food Security & Rural Development	FAO		FAO, IAEA, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNHCR, WFP, WIPO, WORLD BANK AND WTO
Science And Technology	UNESCO ECA (Vice Convener)		UNESCO, ECA, WIPO, UNIDO, FAO, OSAA, UNEP, WORLD BANK, CGIAR, UNDP, UNCTAD, UNU/INTECH, WHO
Advocacy And Communications	OSAA		UNEP, UNON, UN-HABITAT, WORLD BANK, NEPAD, UNAIDS, UNHCR, UNESCO, ITU, UNDP, UNICEF, OSAA, DPI, UNFPA

Peace And Security	DPA		DPA, UNHCR, ILO, DPKO, UNDP, ECA, FAO, IOM, WFP, OHCHR, UNAIDS, AND WHO
	DPKO	Peace and Security Architecture of the AU	
	UNHCR	Post conflict Reconstruction and Development	
	OHCHR	Human Rights, Justice, and reconcilation	
Industry, Trade And Market Access	UNIDO		ECA, UNIDO, UNCTAD, ITC, ICF, WTO, WIP, UNDP, UNESCO, IAEA, UNEP, FAO, ILO, UN-HABITAT, AfDB, and World Bank

