



**Eighth Annual Regional
Consultation Meeting
of UN Agencies and
Organizations Working
in Africa in Support of the
African Union and its
NEPAD Programme**

RCM-Africa

Final Outcome Document

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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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1. The Eighth Regional Consultation Meeting (RCM) of United Nations (UN) agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the African Union (AU) and its NEPAD Programme was held on 5 and 6 November 2007, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
2. Her Excellency, Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General of the UN (DSG), opened the RCM. Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ECA, Dr. Maxwell Mkwenzalamba, Commissioner for Economic Affairs, African Union Commission, Professor Firmino Mucavele, Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD Secretariat, and Dr. Luis Sambo, WHO Regional Director for Africa, also addressed the meeting.
3. The RCM deliberated on the following agenda items:
 - a) Progress report on the implementation of recommendations of the Seventh RCM
 - b) Review of the Cluster System
 - c) Review of the Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme for the African Union
 - d) Discussion on the selected theme: "Post-Conflict Reconstruction"

I. Progress and achievements

4. The RCM noted the following progress and achievements:
 - a) The RCM has launched two new clusters and made ECA a strategic coordinator, which has enabled it participate more in, and provide secretarial support to cluster meetings;
 - b) RCMs are now convened regularly -once a year in Addis Ababa to facilitate attendance and participation;
 - c) There is increased participation by the AU Commission and RECs in the RCM and clusters are increasingly involving the AU Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat in their meetings and activities.

5. The above has resulted in:
 - a) Enhanced leadership of the RCM;
 - b) Improved coordination of the clusters, increased interaction within and among clusters and sharpened focus of cluster activities for greater relevance and effectiveness;
 - c) Continued commitment of substantial amounts of material and financial resources to the cluster support system, and to the support for AU and NEPAD, as well as implementation of a growing number of projects;
 - d) Enhanced communication between ECA, the NEPAD Secretariat, the AU Commission, as well as some cluster conveners;
 - e) Continuous communication and advocacy for NEPAD and increased support for NEPAD at the national, regional and global level.

II. Cluster system

6. The RCM emphasized that the effective functioning of the cluster system is central to enhancing efficiency and coherence in the delivery of support to AU and its NEPAD programme. It reiterated the need for: stronger commitment and leadership; addressing structural and systemic issues; increased accountability; enhanced coordination and collaboration; increased resource mobilization and capacity building; more systematic monitoring and evaluation; and increased communication, outreach and advocacy. To the end, the RCM recommended that:
 - a) High-profile leadership should be provided, and institutional commitment sustained, to ensure the effective functioning of the cluster system;
 - b) A Steering Committee based in Addis Ababa should be established to follow up on the decisions and recommendations of the RCM. The Committee would include ECA, the AU Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat, but its composition and terms of reference would be finalized after appropriate consultations;
 - c) The cluster system be maintained, but it needs to be refined and further aligned with AU programmes and to adequately reflect

- gender, health and culture issues. In this regard, matters pertaining to the creation of a sub-cluster on health would be decided upon following consultations with the AU Commission;
- d) Gender and culture issues should be effectively mainstreamed in the activities of all clusters;
 - e) There should be increased focus on, and alignment of activities with the UN Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme for the AU, and the clusters should be the vehicles for addressing AU's capacity needs. In this regard, the AU Commission should develop a mechanism for internal coordination corresponding to the UN coordination function played by ECA;
 - f) In planning activities, the clusters should take into consideration the strategic plans of the AU Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat, relevant decisions of the AU and RECs;
 - g) The regional integration agenda of the AU should be factored into all programmes and activities of the cluster system;
 - h) Arrangements at the subregional level should be promoted, with ECA and the RECs taking the lead. In this regard, existing arrangements at the subregional level should be evaluated, with a view to putting in place an institutional framework for collaboration in support of AU and its NEPAD Programme at this level;
 - i) The RCM should focus more on outcomes and impacts. In this regard, clusters should develop three-year business plans, to be considered and finalized at a strategic planning meeting of all cluster conveners, the AU Commission, the NEPAD Secretariat, RECs, ECA and AfDB;
 - j) RCMs should be held once a year, and Addis Ababa-based agencies should meet more frequently to keep the process alive. In addition, the RCM secretariat should prepare quarterly reports on cluster activities;
 - k) The RCM should continue regular consultations, supported by the proposed Steering Committee. In this context, a constant flow of information among RCM members and inter-cluster communication are paramount and should be encouraged. Furthermore, the participation of the AU Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat in the RCM should be optimised and the AU Commission should clearly show leadership in this regard;
 - l) Inter-agency coordination and collaboration should be

- improved, to ensure coherence and enhance effectiveness in the delivery of support;
- m) The AU Commission, the NEPAD Secretariat, RECs, and AfDB should participate more effectively in all aspects of the regional consultative mechanism;
 - n) UN agencies should increase support to the AU Commission to enhance implementation of the Decisions of the AU Assembly;
 - o) UN agencies, particularly UNDP, UNFPA and UNIDO, should increase support to ECA to enable it effectively carry out its coordinating role through the RCM Secretariat at ECA. This is in line with the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) recommendation of 2005, which called upon United Nations system organizations to strengthen ECA's capacity in coordinating the work of UN agencies in Africa;
 - p) Clusters should define indicators, benchmarks and timelines for all activities, to ensure proper reporting and accountability;
 - q) An information sharing and knowledge-networking forum should be established to enhance awareness, and to facilitate the implementation of NEPAD;
 - r) The AU Commission, the NEPAD Secretariat, RECs and other bodies involved in the implementation of the NEPAD programme should facilitate a free flow of relevant and timely information. This is particularly relevant to ensure wider dissemination and outreach.

III. Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme for the African Union

7. The RCM reiterated its commitment to the effective implementation of the Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme for the AU. 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. To this end, the RCM recommended that:
 - a) The “Framework for the Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme for the African Union” is an evolving document, which should be further developed to serve as the overall coordination frame-

work for existing cooperation and bilateral agreements between UN agencies and the AU, and should form the basis for UN assistance to AU capacity building;

- b) The AU Commission should provide leadership on the further development and implementation of the Programme, in order to ensure that the priority needs of all its Departments are adequately addressed;
- c) The internal coordination mechanism of the AU Commission should be strengthened to enhance linkages between its departments, as well as to ensure that the support being provided under the programme is utilized optimally;
- d) The AfDB should be invited to provide support for the implementation of the Programme.

IV. Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development

8. The RCM acknowledged that Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) is a complex, multidimensional issue, involving many actors and interventions at the global, regional, subregional and national levels. It emphasized the need: to increase coordination of efforts; to adequately reflect gender, women's empowerment, youth unemployment, socio-cultural, environmental and other sectoral issues in PCRD interventions; to better reflect in PCRD initiatives, the role of the private sector in generating employment; to provide adequate resources to support reconstruction and development efforts of post-conflict countries; and to increase awareness of the AU PCRD at the global level. To this end, the RCM recommended that:
- a) UN agencies should coordinate efforts at various levels to ensure coherence and effectiveness in the delivery of support for post-conflict reconstruction and development;
 - b) Implementation of the AU PCRD Policy should be expedited in order to positively impact the situation on the ground in countries emerging from conflict and those in post-conflict situations;

- c) The AU PCRD Policy Framework should be operationalized in a manner that accommodates the multi-sectoral and multi-level issues involved;
- d) Coordination on PCRD between the African Union and the UN Peace Building Commission, the AU Commission and the UN Peace Building Support Office (PBSO) should be strengthened;
- e) Coordination and collaboration mechanisms should be established/strengthened between the African Union, the UN and regional and international financial institutions such as the AfDB and the World Bank, for the implementation of PCRD programmes;
- f) A Steering Committee comprising the Chief Executives of relevant UN departments, agencies, funds and programmes and the AU Commission should be established, to set priorities for implementing the AU PCRD Policy;
- g) The AU PCRD policy should also be addressed within the context of the cluster on peace and security, and its sub-cluster on post-conflict reconstruction. PBSO should be approached for possible participation in, and contribution to meetings and outputs of the sub-cluster on post-conflict reconstruction;
- h) All partners involved in the implementation of the AU PCRD policy framework should organize, at the AU office in New York, regular briefings on the policy for UN member states;
- i) Early warning systems should be integrated with early actions, for prevention of conflicts;
- j) PCRD programmes should, among other things, incorporate gender and women's special needs, as well as socio-cultural and environmental issues;
- k) The private sector should be supported in its efforts to generate youth employment. Additionally, sports is an important agent of peace that should be promoted in post-conflict countries;
- l) Trust funds should be created to ensure that post-conflict reconstruction goes beyond the usual emergency stages and addresses development issues in a long-term, holistic and integrated manner.

9. The RCM thanked Her Excellency, Dr. Asha-Rose Migiros, DSG of the UN, for her participation in the meeting and decided that she assumes the role of permanent chair of the RCM.

10. In closing, the DSG reiterated that in establishing the MDGs Africa Steering Group, the Secretary-General sought to further enhance the centrality of Africa in the UN development agenda. From the deliberations, it was clear that UN agencies were determined to contribute to this through an improved alignment of priorities to the AU/NEPAD objectives. The outcomes of the meeting, including the development of a business plan, strengthening of the cluster system and mainstreaming gender in the work of the RCM, would further contribute to this objective. She thanked the Executive Secretary of the ECA for his leadership, and the AU Commission, the NEPAD Secretariat, the African Development Bank, Regional Economic Communities, as well as the UN family for their active participation. Furthermore, she thanked all those who contributed to the successful convening of the meeting.