



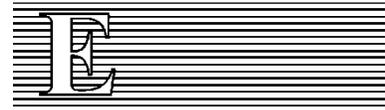
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**United Nations support to the African Union and its NEPAD programme,
March 2010 – March 2011**

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Abbreviations and acronyms

APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NPCA	NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency
RCM	Regional Coordination Mechanism
SRCMs	Subregional Coordination Mechanisms

I. Introduction

1. United Nations support to the programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) has continued to move towards the programme implementation phase. The period under review witnessed increased alignment of the programmes of various United Nations entities with those of the African Union Commission (AUC), the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) and the regional economic communities. There was deeper involvement of these institutions in the Regional Coordination Mechanism of United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the African Union (AU) and its NEPAD programme (RCM-Africa) and its clusters, and greater support for capacity-building in the AUC, the NEPAD Agency (NPCA) and the regional economic communities. Moreover, the "Delivering as One" concept gained increased acceptance, with agencies recognizing the need to adopt a collective approach to support capacity-building in the African Union (AU).

2. The ten-year capacity-building programme for the AU was reviewed, giving new impetus to the implementation of the programme. The AU Assembly took the bold step of approving the integration of NEPAD into the structures and processes of the AU, particularly through the establishment of NPCA in February 2010. Since then the Agency has successfully completed the formulation of its strategic direction for 2010-2013 and its business plan for 2010-2014, which can now be part of the capacity-building programme alignment process.

3. RCM-Africa recorded significant achievements during the period under review. The eleventh annual session of RCM-Africa was successfully held in November 2010, with very significant outcomes, especially relating to the implementation of the capacity-building programme. The structural transformation that resulted in the expansion of the existing secretariat into a joint United Nations AU/RCM-Africa secretariat was consolidated. The joint secretariat now has dedicated staff from the AUC and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) who continue to provide strategic coordination and support to the mechanism. Indeed, coordination processes were strengthened, especially with the establishment of the NEPAD Coordination Unit within the Office of the Chairperson of AUC. There was also improvement in coordination within and between clusters.

4. This report presents an update on key achievements of the United Nations system in delivering as one to implement the NEPAD programme. It also highlights outcomes of the triennial review of the ten-year capacity-building programme and the achievements of RCM-Africa during the period under review. It is organized in three sections.

II. Main achievements of United Nations system-wide support for the implementation of the NEPAD programme

A. Support at the regional level: The work of the clusters

5. The United Nations adopted the NEPAD programme as the overarching development framework for Africa nearly a decade ago. The initial years focused on transforming visions, philosophies, principles and ethos into implementable programmes. A new stage in the implementation of the NEPAD programme has arrived, where programmes have to be translated into concrete projects and results in terms of promoting the overall objectives of the programme.

6. The United Nations system has been intensely involved in all these processes of institution-building and programme design and implementation at the regional, subregional, national and community levels on the continent. This report is only a summary of those joint activities leading to the development of concrete programmes and projects at the regional level.

7. The clusters contributed to various AUC initiatives including the following: (a) an Inter-agency Task Force on Technical and Vocational Education and Training for East and Southern Africa; (b) preparation and implementation of the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Public Service and administration; (c) the Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev) programme and its African Climate Policy Centre at ECA; (d) the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel; (e) support for the AU Maritime Charter and Action Plan; (f) an Extended Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Management; (g) promotion of the objectives of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme at the global, regional, subregional and national levels; (h) a South Sudan Water Information Clearing House; and (i) organization of the Africa Energy Week and the Pan-African Investment Forum.

8. There was increased alignment of the activities of the RCM-Africa clusters with AU priorities and the NEPAD programmes. At least five of the nine clusters developed guidelines for joint action plans. Moreover, the “Delivering as One” concept gained increased acceptance, with agencies recognizing the need for a collective approach to support for AU capacity-building. The possibility of a more effective alignment of the programmes of various United Nations entities with those of the AUC, NPCA and the regional economic communities was enhanced through closer involvement by these institutions in the work of the RCM-Africa and its clusters. Participation by the secretariat in cluster meetings enabled the clusters to focus on joint programmes and resulted in cluster report of improved quality presented at the eleventh session of RCM-Africa. General awareness of NEPAD programmes has improved through capacity-building programmes on communications and advocacy as well as weekly newsletters. The secretariat has been receiving various comments from readers of the weekly bulletin *NEPAD Today*.

9. Through its subprogrammes ECA continued to provide technical support for the implementation of the NEPAD programme. This support was vital for developing and supporting the implementation of the various AUC/NEPAD programmes. In addition, ECA supported the transition of the NEPAD secretariat into a fully-fledged technical unit of the AUC. Specifically, ECA supported the development of NEPAD Agency’s Strategic Direction and its subsequent alignment with the AUC’s Strategic Plan, and also helped the Agency to develop its knowledge management platforms. ECA also continued to house and provide human resources for the operations of the RCM-Africa secretariat.

Support for subregional coordination

10. In his report to the sixty-first session of the General Assembly on “Enhancing the role of the subregional offices of the Economic Commission for Africa”, (A/61/471) the Secretary-General requested the Assembly to strengthen the subregional offices of ECA to enable them to promote Africa’s regional integration agenda at the subregional level and, together with other United Nations entities, develop a framework for coordinating programmes and activities of the United Nations agencies at this level. The main purpose of the SRCM is to enhance coherence, coordination and cooperation among United Nations system agencies in the delivery of development programmes in the subregions.

11. Against this background and in response to recommendations emerging from various RCM-Africa sessions, a Subregional Coordination Mechanism (SRCM) has been established in the Central African subregion under the leadership of ECA's Subregional Office for Central Africa based in Yaoundé. A meeting of partner agencies and organizations was held in Douala, Cameroon in November 2010. The objectives of the meeting were: (a) to review the functioning of the SRCM a year after its establishment, and reflect on measures to improve its performance; (b) to provide a platform for the exchange of views on progress and challenges in the implementation of AU/NEPAD projects and programmes in the subregion; (c) to provide updates on ongoing and planned support by partners for the implementation of subregional priority projects; (d) to explore possible partnerships in the harmonization of regional integration policies, programmes and instruments in the framework of the rationalization of regional economic communities in Central Africa; and (e) to provide updates and fill gaps in information on the network of focal points of the SRCM.

12. Efforts to establish an SRCM for Eastern and Southern Africa also intensified in the period under review. A Task Force on the Operationalization of the SRCM was created and held its inaugural meeting in October 2010 in Kigali, Rwanda, at the ECA Subregional Office for Eastern Africa. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss: (a) concrete modalities for operationalizing the SRCM with a view to promoting efficiency and synergy in the way the United Nations system delivers development assistance in Eastern and Southern Africa; (b) links between United Nations programmes at the country, subregional and regional levels, including SRCM relationships with RCM-Africa, RDT and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework; and (c) the multi-year, multipartner programming approach as the entry point for the operationalization of the SRCM. The eleventh session of RCM-Africa recommended support from the secretariat to the ECA Subregional Office for West Africa and the Economic Community of West African States to initiate establishment of an SRCM for West Africa.

13. In support of the implementation of the ten-year capacity-building programme for the AU, the RCM-Africa secretariat, in collaboration with the AUC and NPCA, organized a training workshop in June 2010 to enhance the implementing capacities of African countries and regional and subregional institutions, with particular focus on the implementation and appraisal of NEPAD programmes and projects. The workshop, held in Addis Ababa, was attended by senior government officials from Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi and Nigeria. Officials from the Economic Community of West African States, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development also attended the workshop.

14. The workshop created an opportunity to enhance participants' knowledge and understanding of NEPAD's objectives and priority areas and the evolving structure of the newly created NPCA, as well as the strategic objectives of the AU/NEPAD African Action Plan for 2010-2015 as the flagship approach towards advancing regional integration in Africa. It also introduced participants to appropriate project appraisal, management, monitoring and evaluation tools and processes.

Support for the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)

15. Support for APRM activities included technical support for the APRM Panel and preparation and analysis of assessment questionnaires. During the period under review, United Nations agencies continued to provide support to APRM missions. They collaborated in a study leading to the development of guidelines on the design, implementation and monitoring of the National Plan of

Action that will ensure consistency and harmonization between National Plans of Action and existing national development strategies, to be used by technical research institutes, national governing councils or commissions and government departments and agencies that are involved in the APRM process. A synthesis report has been finalized on the basis of the Noah reports of four APRM countries which pulls together the main findings, good practices and key lessons learnt from the above countries. An Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Harmonizing the National Plans of Action and the Millennium Development Goals for countries which have completed the APRM process was organized in Kampala, Uganda in September 2010. The meeting brought together key national APRM practitioners engaged in the design, costing, implementation and monitoring of the National Plan of Action from the 14 countries that have completed the peer review process, who discussed and validated the synthesis report on the basis of their experience, with a view to developing guidelines. A training workshop on enhancing the role and effective participation of parliamentarians in the APRM process, for French-speaking and Portuguese-speaking APRM countries, was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in May 2010. It brought together 60 participants from 16 African countries, representatives of regional economic communities and members of the APRM Continental Secretariat. The workshop was the second of its kind in Africa to be organized in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme and the Pan-African Parliament. The training enhanced the capacity of parliamentarians to participate effectively in the implementation of the APRM in their countries.

B. The ten-year capacity-building programme for the AU

16. A Declaration on the ten-year capacity-building programme, signed by the United Nations Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the AUC, builds on previous agreements between the United Nations and the AU and provides a holistic framework for the United Nations system to support the capacity development efforts of the AU and the regional economic communities, on the basis of the latter's needs and strategic priorities. The Programme is aimed at enhancing cooperation between the United Nations and the AU in their areas of competence, in conformity with their mandates.

17. In the Declaration the two organizations agreed to take stock of efforts to implement the Programme at three-year intervals. At its tenth session, RCM-Africa mandated ECA to undertake such a review in collaboration with the United Nations Liaison Office with the Department of Public Information, the African Development Bank and the AUC. ECA and its partners developed terms of reference for the review in consultation with a wide cross-section of key stakeholders in the Programme. In addition, a senior consultant was recruited to undertake an independent, comprehensive, objective and systematic review of the Programme. One of the main elements of the review was consultations with major stakeholders (United Nations agencies, the NEPAD Agency, regional economic communities and others) to critically discuss with them the main achievements of the Programme in terms of its intended objectives and the challenges encountered during its implementation. The consultations also provided an opportunity to propose solutions to overcome the challenges and difficulties, with the ultimate objective of contributing to a successful outcome of the review process. Furthermore, involvement and ownership by all stakeholders was considered key to the success of the review process and to improving the effectiveness of the implementation of the Programme in general.

18. Following the completion of the draft report of the review, the RCM-Africa secretariat organized an internal review to ensure that the quality of the report met the requirements specified in the terms of reference. The report was further discussed, scrutinized and validated by experts in a two-

day expert group meeting organized by the secretariat which took place in November 2010. The meeting attracted experts from various United Nations and AU organizations. The final report of the review and a summary of the key recommendations that came out of the expert group meeting were endorsed at the eleventh session of RCM-Africa. As a result of this review, stakeholders now have a better understanding of their respective roles and responsibilities under the Programme, and are more committed to its fulfilment. A new impetus has been given to the process of implementation, including the determination of action plans and resource mobilization for its implementation.

19. The review has given new impetus to the implementation of the Programme. At its eleventh session RCM-Africa adopted the report of the review and made recommendations for the preparation of a comprehensive work plan including resource mobilization plans for the implementation of the Programme. Since November the secretariat has been engaging various stakeholders in preparations towards the implementation of these recommendations. The review report has also been taken up by the United Nations Secretary-General as the main input for his report to the General Assembly in March on cooperation between the United Nations and the AU.

20. The RCM-Africa secretariat has initiated steps to develop the comprehensive capacity-building programme and to mobilize resources for its implementation.

C. The regional coordination mechanism for Africa

Strengthening coordination between and within clusters through more robust consultation

21. The RCM-Africa secretariat plays a critical role in providing strategic coordination and support to the mechanism. For instance, in collaboration with its partners it convened a one-day consultation meeting in June 2010 in Addis Ababa to deliberate on the functioning of the cluster system. The meeting was attended by Coordinators, co-Coordicators and members of the following clusters: Governance; Social and human development; Science and technology; Advocacy and communications; Peace and security; and Industry, trade and market access. Coordinators and co-Coordicators of the following sub-clusters also attended: Water; Education and human resources; Gender and development; Labour and employment; Peace and security architecture of the AU; Post-conflict reconstruction and development; and Human rights, justice and reconciliation.

22. As follow-up to the meeting, the RCM-Africa secretariat provided all clusters and sub-clusters with templates and guidelines for reporting on their activities and preparing business plans and monitoring and evaluation plans. It also requested the clusters to assist in developing guidelines for mainstreaming cross-cutting issues into their activities. So far, guidelines have been prepared on mainstreaming gender, environment, peace and security, governance and social and human development in cluster activities.

23. The RCM-Africa secretariat intensified its coordination effort by providing more strategic support to the structures and processes of RCM. It was more proactive in its support to the clusters, which contributed to significant improvements and achievements in a variety of areas. Specifically, the secretariat increased its engagement and participation in cluster and sub-cluster events. For example, it participated in meetings of the Social and Human Development Cluster, the Peace and Security Cluster, the Education and Human Resources sub-cluster and the Advocacy and Communications Cluster. At the sub-cluster level, the secretariat made contributions at the meetings of the Gender, Labour and

Employment sub-clusters. A number of video conferences were also held on key issues relating to United Nations support for NEPAD with offices at United Nations Headquarters in New York, notably the office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the Department of Public Information.

24. The secretariat provided substantive support for the organization and implementation of cluster activities. For example, it contributed significantly in terms of human and financial resources to the Advocacy and Communications Cluster. In addition, it stimulated action within certain clusters through proactive intervention, including moral suasion and encouragement.

25. Effective communication and advocacy are central to promoting the AU agenda and furthering the effective implementation of its NEPAD programme. Accordingly, communication and advocacy via electronic and other media were increased. As part of its outreach efforts, the secretariat continued to prepare its annual report on United Nations system-wide support to the AU and its NEPAD programme for presentation to various bodies, including the Committee of Experts of the Joint Annual Meetings of the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the Intergovernmental Committees of Experts of ECA's five subregional offices. It also contributed to reports submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly and those prepared by other entities such as the Joint Inspection Unit, and the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa.

26. The secretariat also continued to prepare and distribute promotional materials on various aspects of RCM-Africa and its clusters with a view to enhancing communication and sharing information among clusters and with various stakeholders. Among the latest of these is *NEPAD Today* (with over 3,000 subscribers) and a *Directory of RCM-Africa* to assist RCM-Africa and its clusters with updated and readily available contact details of all its members as well as other stakeholders.

27. The secretariat provided facilitators and resource persons in a number of workshops to improve awareness of the Ten-Year Programme and further its implementation. These included a workshop on capacity-building in Africa organized by UNDP in Johannesburg in December 2010 and an information session organized by the AUC in Addis Ababa in October for AUC directors and capacity-building focal points to take stock of capacity-building programmes within the AUC and the NEPAD Agency. The secretariat also participated in the meetings of the Africa Partnership Forum held in Burundi and Lilongwe.

D. Outcomes of the eleventh session of RCM-Africa

28. The secretariat organized the eleventh session of RCM-Africa in November 2010. The theme of the session was "Rio+20". As part of the preparations for the session it also organized an expert group meeting in November 2010 to validate a draft consultant's report on the review of the Ten-Year Programme.

29. The main outcomes of the eleventh session included the following recommendations:

- (a) A work programme for building the capacity of the AUC, NPCA and the regional economic communities should be developed from the framework of the ten-year programme, with clearly defined activities, expected outcomes, timelines, monitoring and evaluation frameworks and resources for implementation;

- (b) The RCM-Africa secretariat should lead the process of developing the capacity-building work programme with the collaboration of its clusters and align the ten-year programme with the AU/NEPAD capacity development strategic framework;
- (c) The United Nations system should strengthen the RCM-Africa secretariat with financial and human resources to enable it to function effectively. Efforts by the United Nations system to mobilize resources for the secretariat and for the implementation of the ten-year programme should focus on seeking additional resources rather than the reallocation of existing United Nations regular resources earmarked for NEPAD. United Nations funds and programmes should provide more resources to support the AU and its NEPAD programme in the context of the ten-year programme, and should also work closely with partners in mobilizing resources to support AUC and the regional economic communities in delivering their joint programmes. Through the RCM-Africa secretariat, the United Nations system should assist the regional economic communities to mobilize financial resources to participate effectively in the RCM process; and
- (d) Capacity-building should be the theme of the next session of RCM-Africa.

III. Challenges and the way forward

30. RCM-Africa is now firmly established in its role of enhancing coherence, cooperation and coordination of United Nations support to the AU and its NEPAD programme, and is at the stage of aligning the ten-year capacity-building programme for the AU with the AU's capacity development strategic framework. There is general acceptance of the idea that cluster activities should revolve around the outcome of these efforts to ensure the coherence of the two capacity development initiatives.

31. The secretariat needs to be reinforced in terms of human and material resources. Significant achievements proved possible in clusters where increased commitment and ownership were displayed by the main beneficiaries of United Nations support, namely the AUC, the regional economic communities and NPCA. Future programmes of support should contain strategies to strengthen leadership by the AUC at the regional level and the regional economic communities at the subregional level. This would also enable ECA to fulfil the objectives of section 11 of the United Nations programme budget.

32. After 10 years of process-oriented action on the NEPAD programme, there is consensus that United Nations agencies should help the AUC and the NEPAD Agency to shift the focus to the implementation of the various programmes that have been designed and adopted by member States such the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa. A strengthened RCM-Africa secretariat would be vital for achieving this goal.

33. In conclusion, during the period under review, some key lessons were learned in supporting the AU and its NEPAD programme at the regional and subregional levels. In particular, it is now clear that more robust consultations are needed to strengthen coordination between and within clusters with a view to making RCM-Africa more effective. AU leadership and ownership of RCM-Africa processes are also essential in enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations system's support to the AU and its NEPAD programme. The establishment of the joint United Nations/AU RCM-Africa secretariat is a positive development in that regard. Similarly, effective communication is required to boost United

Nations system support for the AU agenda and the NEPAD programme. In addition, proactive interventions by the secretariat are required to stimulate action within certain clusters and sub-clusters.

34. Overall, RCM-Africa has strongly positioned itself to coordinate the process and provide substantive and more concrete capacity-building support to the AUC, NPCA and the regional economic communities in the context of the ten-year programme.