

POLICY DIALOGUE ON “DEVELOPMENT PLANNING IN AFRICA”

*Theme: Integrating Urbanization in National Development
Planning in Africa*

Capacity Development Division (CDD)

In collaboration with

Social Development Policy Division (SDPD)

Outcome Document

7 – 9 June 2016

Yaoundé, Cameroon

Approved and Validated by Delegates on 9 June 2016

Introduction

1. The High Level Policy Dialogue under the theme ***Integrating Urbanization in Development Planning*** was held on 7-9 June 2016 in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The meeting was organized by the UN Economic Commission for Africa and was attended by Directors General (or their delegates) responsible for Planning in African countries and other officials from African countries. Present were also staff members from the ECA Sub-Regional Office (SRO) for Central Africa and senior officials of the Government of Cameroon.
2. In addition to the opening and closing ceremonies, the meeting was structured into five sessions: (i) Urbanization and Development Planning in Africa; (ii) The State of Urbanization in Africa; (iii) Strategic Sectoral Perspectives on Urbanization and Development Planning; (iv) Integrating Urbanization into development planning: countries' perspectives; (v) Constraints and Obstacles in Integrating Urbanization into Development Planning: Countries' Perspectives
3. The meeting brought together 30 Senior Planning Officials from across Africa, who, it is hoped, will champion the case for African leaders to systematically mainstream urbanization into development planning.

Opening Session

- 1) Welcoming remarks were made by Mr. Moussa Abari, UN Resident Coordinator who used the occasion to echo the UN's campaign for inclusive growth on the continent by using the opportunities that urban centers offer for structural transformation.
- 2) Also speaking at the opening ceremony, Dr. Aida Opoku-Mensah, OIC, Director, Capacity Development Division of the ECA placed the meeting in its strategic context. She noted that 55% of Africa's GDP is generated by urban areas. Indeed, the spending power of just 18 of such urban areas in Africa is projected to reach \$1.3 trillion by 2030. This data, she said indicates how crucial it is for African countries to capitalize on urbanization and strive to become high-income urbanized nations. Dr. Aida Opoku Mensah also briefed participants on the strategic importance of geographical information system (GIS) as an enabler for integrating urbanization into national development planning. She concluded by saying that decision-makers and policy-makers need to appreciate the use of geospatial information to tease out the opportunities brought by urbanization and also for informed decision-making in planning.
- 3) Official statements were made by Cameroon's Minister of Housing and Urban Development, His Excellency Mr. Jean Claude Mbwentchou, who stated that the continent should fix the imbalance between the modest volume of urban investments and the huge contribution of cities to GDP. The Minister underscored the need for African States to adopt veritable local and national urban policies and strategies in planning their development.

4) The Policy Dialogue was officially opened by His Excellency Mr. Louis Paul Motaze, Minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT), who highlighted the important role that urbanization plays in the transformation of the continent, which has also been underlined in Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Presentations and Discussions

First Panel: Integrating Urbanization in National Development Planning

5) A presentation was made under this theme by Prof. Sylvain Boko, Principal Regional Advisor, Head of Development Planning and Statistics Cluster, Capacity Development Division, ECA.

6) Prof. Boko provided the background to Urbanization using a development planning approach. According to the presenter, urbanization is poised to change the profile of the African continent and is already challenging policy makers to manage urbanization strategically for Africa's structural transformation. Prof. Boko underscored that strategic national responses to urbanization are necessary through national planning processes in order to harness the opportunities and minimize negative externalities of urbanization. However, while there is recognition of the importance of urbanization in new generation development plans, only a few African countries, including Ethiopia, Rwanda, Senegal, and South Africa, have adequately integrated urbanization in their national planning processes and frameworks.

7) The panel was chaired by Dr. Aida Opoku Mensah, the paper was discussed by Mr. Hamilton Kamwana from Malawi and Mr. Hodonou Assogba from Benin.

8) The meeting took note of the presentation and made the following observations:

- (i) Urbanization is one of the important avenues for accelerated growth and shared prosperity. However, very few countries embrace and integrate it in their national planning process.
- (ii) The importance of strong coordination between Ministries of Urbanization and Ministries Economic Development was emphasized.
- (iii) The need to have strong and effective national planning institutions with political legitimacy to plan in order to ensure that urbanization is effectively mainstreamed into development planning was emphasized.
- (iv) Africa's urbanization data needs to be generated by African Institutions.
- (v) Development planners need to develop an index to measure the level of integration of urbanization into development planning.
- (vi) African countries require a radically new approach to integrating urbanization in

development planning at national and continental levels. Once integrated, implementation must be monitored through an effective Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

- (vii) Few experts recognized that urbanization has so far been integrated in national development plans as a sectoral issue, but without establishing the necessary linkages to structural change and transformation. This, has thus limited a strategic and consistent attention to urban areas by national planners, with evident negative impacts on jobs opportunities, human development, the level and quality of economic and social infrastructures, rural incomes, investment attractiveness, trade opportunities, linkages to regional and international value chains, and institutional building.

Second Panel: State of Urbanization in Africa

9) Dr. Edlam Yemeru, Chief, Urbanization Section in the Social Development Policy Division, ECA, made a presentation on the State of Urbanization in Africa. In her presentation, Dr. Edlam Yemeru presented the trends and characteristics of the process of urbanization in Africa, including the demographic, economic, social, environmental, and governance dimensions. She stressed that urbanization is a process, but a growing trend in all African countries calling thus, on member States, to better grasp and respond to the policy implications of this trend.

10) Dr. Edlam stressed the multi-sectoral nature of urbanization, calling therefore for a multi-sectoral approach and intervention from Africa's national planners. Integrating urbanization in national development plan will help better respond to the challenges faced by member States in their current efforts to improve African cities, but will also ensure urbanization is better harnessed to attain Africa's ambitions and visions for sustainable and inclusive growth and development. She concluded her presentation by providing examples of efforts made by few African countries to harness urbanization for their structural transformation.

11) The panel was chaired by Mr. Magloire Augustin Aguessy, Director General for Development Policy in Benin, and the paper was discussed by Mr. Walngar Sadjinan Deba from Chad and Mr. Jonathan Azasoo from Ghana.

12) The following observations were made:

- (i) The linkages between urbanization and high demographic growth observed in many African countries should be well grasped and taken into account by development planners; indeed, all countries have seen a surge in their urban population, while planning has not taken into account such trends and their policy implications for national development planning at macro and sectoral levels. The demographic dimension should also factor in the positive implications of cities on several demographic indicators such as fertility and maternal mortality.

- (ii) The environmental dimension of urbanization is important because it has been observed that in many African countries climate change is also one of the drivers of migration from rural to urban areas, thus further contributing to urbanization.
- (iii) The social dimensions of urbanization needs to be stressed further as the youth bulge in parallel to high unemployment levels affecting youth in urban areas are contributing to increased insecurity, generating real political risks and instability for many nations; Urbanization can be a force for structural transformation, but if not planned, it can be a risk for growth and sustainability.
- (iv) Some efforts have been made by Member States to address urbanization challenges, however so far, most of them adopted a sectoral approach, lacking an integrated policy that could bring about sustained and structural changes. This situation is also compounded by the dispersion of institutions and mandates that will need to be conceived in a more coordinated manner.
- (v) The integration or mainstreaming of urbanization in national development plans can bring to light on one side, the multi-sectoral nature of urbanization with its social, economic, environmental and governance dimensions and, on the other side help harness urbanization for the structural transformation; both policies should be complementary.
- (vi) Governance and institutions need to be designed to support our cities become economic hubs by making them more attractive for investors, able to raise more revenues, more competitive, and job generators.

Third Panel: Strategic Sectoral Perspectives on Urbanization and Development Planning

The principal theme of the session focused on the sectoral perspectives of urbanization and development planning from the industrial, agricultural, infrastructure, trade/investment and social services sectors. Five presentations, in five sessions, laid the ground for the panel discussion.

13) **Mr. Nurudeen A. Lawal, Director (Infrastructure) in the Ministry of Budget and National Planning of Nigeria** highlighted some aspects of his country's experience in Nigeria's Industrial Revolution Plan (NIRP) as a national roadmap for industrialization, to analyse the extent to which urbanization was considered in the conception and implementation. Industrial cities are expected to play a significant role in accelerating industrialization in Nigeria. The resources required by the Government to provide social amenities accompanied by urbanization may however be enormous and therefore put pressure on the budget. Therefore, in order to maximally exploit the benefits of urbanization for industrial development, Mr. Lawal recommends collaboration with the private sector to provide support in the provision of required amenities in the cities.

14) **Mrs. Marie Jeannine Hashazinka, Director General of National Planning and Forecasting, in the Ministry of the Presidency in charge of Good Governance and Planning of Burundi.** In her presentation, Mrs. Marie Jeannine Hashazinka focused on the economic and social situation in Burundi, as well as the main structural features that mark the country's situation, namely the gap that exists between the agricultural production and the population growth. Mrs. Marie Jeannine Hashazinka presented data on the status of urbanization in her country and the impact of rapid urbanization on agriculture, including on land availability, fertility, and food security. She referred to the strategies adopted by the Government to strengthen and diversify the agricultural sector, promote urbanization and reduce the population pressure on the country's resources. She highlighted the target set for Burundi to promote urbanization and address its effects on agriculture land use with adequate territorial and spatial planning of cities.

15) **Mr. Yinka Adeyemi, Head, Regional Integration and Infrastructure Cluster/NEPAD Focal Point, Capacity Development Division, ECA,** made his presentation on "The infrastructure imperative in an Urbanizing Africa: Dakar Financing Summit 16 (DFS 16)". He stated that urbanization and infrastructure should take priority in development planning and African planners need to start to localize it by infusing it into countries' budget in order to prevent slums into being a threat to the global communities. Urbanization also serves as a catalyst to development and economic growth, with better coordination between relevant line ministries. He argued that big /small data is crucial to address political economy, degree of trust, employment potentials, government interest and new challenges such as terrorism.

16) **Mr. Samson Machuka, Director, Monitoring and Evaluation Department in the Ministry of Planning and Devolution of Kenya** made his presentation on Integrating Urbanization in Development Planning in Africa: Trade and Investment, Monitoring and Evaluation. He referred to Kenya Vision 2030 that aims to enable the country become globally competitive and prosperous by offering a high quality of life to its citizens by 2030. Kenya has already embedded urbanization into its development planning by adopting vision 2030 to accelerate the country's competitiveness and prosperity. Mr. Machuka concluded by advocating that increased urbanization would require policy makers to identify innovative ways of service delivery using existing resources. It is demanding on policy makers to: attract foreign investors; judicious use of extractive resources and addressing youth unemployment in informal settlement areas.

17) **Mr. Mohammed Auwal, Assistant Director, Macroeconomic Analysis Department in the Ministry of Budget and National Planning of Nigeria** made his presentation on Urbanization and Planning for Social Services. He stated that Nigeria is confronted with challenges posed by fast growing population and rapid urbanization. The challenges range from structural issues enshrined in the constitution and cultural issues that form the fabric of the society to lack of political will and practices that inhibit development planning and implementation. Mr. Auwal stated that addressing these challenges would undoubtedly catalyse growth and significantly contribute to making this growth inclusive.

18) The three sessions of this panel were chaired respectively, by Mr. Yinka Adeyemi, ECA; Mr. Asalfew Abera Deputy Director General, Population and Vital Statistics, Central statistical Agency (CSA) of Ethiopia; and Mr. Bassékou Condé, National Director of Planning, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation of Guinea.

19) The five papers were discussed by Mr. Marial Bawuor from South Sudan, Mr. Arafat Hassan Ahmed from Djibouti, Mrs Lawodo V. Nimely Thomas from Liberia, Mr. Mirghani Gllood from Sudan and Mr. Hussein Abdi from Somalia.

20) Among the key issues raised were the following:

- (i) Participants did not adequately cover the practical experience of countries that had made strides in that particular sector to go beyond “mere proposals”. It was recommended that strategies to address some of the challenges highlighted by the countries be shared with the participants after the meeting in an email.
- (ii) Similarly, information from Kenya on whether trade/investment has improved after mainstreaming urbanization into development planning needs to be shared with the participants.
- (iii) Greater regional integration and cooperation will be crucial for shared infrastructure, such as energy supply, as well as for overall growth.
- (vii) The opportunities of urbanization are lost due to lack of adequate resources, basic infrastructure, services and well-conceived planning.
- (viii) Managing urbanization for structural transformation involves more than simply investing in hard infrastructures. The policy and institutional dimensions necessary for managing urbanization in the right direction has to be properly analysed, and policies and strategies be sequenced accordingly to achieve the desired results.
- (ix) While recognizing the importance of adopting ambitious plans and strategies, the implementation of these is still a challenge. A specific road map with time line and adequate resources should also be adopted for that purpose.

Fourth Panel: Integrating Urbanization in National Development Planning

21) **Mr. Khulekani Mathe, Head of Planning in the National Planning Commission of the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation of South Africa**, made the presentation on Integration of Urbanisation in National Development Planning: the South African Perspective. Mr. Mathe noted that South Africa’s past has weighed heavily on the country’s ability to formulate clear policy to respond to, better manage, and take advantage of opportunities presented by urbanisation. Mr. Mathe went on to explain that the recent adoption of the Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF), informed by South Africa’s National Development Plan brings to a conclusion a long process of attempting to design urbanisation policies and the focus will now shift

towards development of programmes and instruments to give effect to the policy commitments. He concluded by saying that from what has been a troubled start, urbanisation in South Africa is now receiving the necessary attention

22) Dr. Edlam Abera Yemeru of ECA chaired the panel and the paper was discussed by Mr. Godfrey Mkwakwami from Zimbabwe.

23) The following key issues were raised:

- (i) The need to strengthen urban-rural linkage to support the agglomerations of competitive industries in particular cities around a particular resource base was emphasized.
- (ii) Forward-looking spatial planning can facilitate a city in becoming more enterprising, connected, sustainable and attractive and inclusive.
- (iii) Complementarity of urban and rural trends was emphasized. Rural urban linkages need to be strengthened.
- (iv) Implementation of National Development Plans depends on leadership and continuity. Successive governments need to be involved in a continuous plan.
- (v) It is crucial to develop an African urbanization strategy upon which the key strategic pillars of the continental industrialization plan can be anchored.
- (vi) Urban form and the extent of sprawl impacts the level to which urbanization can be socially inclusive, economically productive and environmentally sustainable. Sprawling urban areas pose challenges for service and infrastructure delivery, access to employment and productivity as well as to land use and mobility
- (vii) Challenges related to skills and capacities must be aligned to development plans.

24) The Fourth Panel benefited from the presence of His Excellency Mr. Jean Claude Mbwentchou, Cameroon's Minister of Housing and Urban Development and he spoke about the collaborative relationship among staff in his Ministry and those in Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT). The Minister informed the meeting that Cameroon is hosting an International Conference on Urbanization next year and that the country would seek the support of ECA in this respect.

Fifth Panel: Constraints and Obstacles in Integrating Urbanization into Development Planning

25) The panel focused on two papers that explored the constraints and obstacles in integrating urbanization in development planning as well as identifying interventions, and processes to address these challenges.

26) **Mr. Oum Eloma Janvier, Director General for Planning and Regional Development at the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development** shared Cameroon's challenges in the integration of urbanization in development planning. Mr. Oum Eloma started his presentation by stressing that urbanization is already integrated in the national development framework of Cameroon, even though, he recognized, there is a need to integrate urbanization in a more cross-sectoral manner. He concluded by stressing that even if urbanization has not been planned for in the past, we have to learn some lessons: we cannot plan without adequate knowledge of the territory; data are necessary, including regular population census to better inform national development strategies; planning needs resources, human and financial; and inter-ministerial collaboration is an imperative to better address the cross-sectoral nature of urbanization.

27) **Dr. Ahmed Soltan Ashour, Economic Lecturer at the Institute of National planning in the Ministry of planning of Egypt** gave insights from Egypt's experience on urbanization. He provided an overview of the economic situation in Egypt that is marked by fluctuating growth rates, low investments and saving rates plus rising inequalities in distribution of income, unemployment rates, unequal distribution of public resources, and slow implementation of public interventions. Among the obstacles and constraints to integrate urbanization in national development planning in Egypt, the presenter identified the weak legal and regulatory framework, limited decentralized planning, low provision of services, limited financial resources, ineffective capacity to implement policies, and huge disparities between rural and urban areas. In the short term, Dr. Soltan Ashour suggested to establish an accurate and comprehensive data base system, change the renting law to expand access to decent housing, increase gradually compliance of urban regulations, develop financial and legal instruments to attract business in poorer cities, provide incentives to building owners, enhance community awareness, and promote decentralization. In the long run, he suggested to adopt balanced territorial development, improve income distribution, increase access to education, reinforce legal systems and create industrial and economic zones to cover all regions.

28) The panel was chaired by Mr. Alagie Fadera, Director of Development Planning, Ministry for Planning and Policy, Office of The President of The Gambia.

29) The papers were discussed by Mr. Maximilien Clevis Singa Kusa from DRC and Mr. Richard Lungu from Zambia.

30) The following observations were made

- (i) There is a need to better identify and analyse the constraints and obstacles faced by member States that have already integrated urbanization in national development plans to learn from these experiences.
- (ii) Some constraints and obstacles were however identified by the experts during the debate, including multiple land regimes, limited data availability and research, gaps in the legal framework, weak administrative rules and procedures, conflicting mandates between public institutions, difficulties in the decentralization process,

limited institutional capacities, and limited financial resources.

- (iii) The issue of land regimes was given high priority as conflicting and multiple regimes can hinder transformation, industrialization, agricultural transformation, and urbanization.
- (iv) Targets for urbanization: These targets can limit adopting adequate responses to the needs that may emerge in cities as countries cannot control population movement and urbanization is a raising and sustained trend in the continent. The cycle of reactive planning can be repeated if the reality overcome the targets.

Key Conclusions and Issues Arising from the HLPD

- Urbanization is to be harnessed for its potential to deliver growth, job opportunities and accelerate structural transformation. Urbanization offers significant opportunities to improve inclusive growth and prosperity. Not to deal with urbanization will retard development prospects and prove costly. It should, thus, be a key development agenda for the continent. The successful implementation of Agenda 2063 will also depend on the way member States will plan and harness their cities.
- Urbanization can be a positive force for structural change, if well planned and deliberately linked to national development vision and development goals. History and experience have shown that urbanization leads to improvements in social and economic development, if guided through strategic policy responses. So far, however, in Africa, member States have mostly focused on urbanization's challenges and externalities with reactive and sectoral policies.
- While urbanization can speed up economic transformation and foster broad-based growth, it can also lead to persistent informality, poverty and unsustainability if not properly planned and managed. In addition, the opportunities of urbanization are lost due to lack of adequate resources, basic infrastructure, services and well-conceived planning.
- The concept of urbanisation has been defined in diverse ways. However, Africa needs its own definition so that governments can build a new model of urban development that promotes equity, welfare and shared prosperity.
- Urbanization is a multifaceted phenomenon spanning demographic, environmental, social, economic, and governance dimensions, presenting opportunities and challenges along those facets.
- Connectivity is one key determining factor whether a country or a city becomes a favourite investment destination and an important 'engine of growth', stimulating economic production and exchange covering a wider geographical location. A national system of urban areas, well connected to rural, regional and global spheres is needed.

- Managing urbanization for structural transformation involves more than simply investing in hard infrastructures. The policy, legal, and institutional dimensions necessary for planning and managing urbanization in the right direction has to be carefully analysed, and policies and strategies sequenced accordingly to achieve the desired results. In this regard, revisiting land tenure regimes would be important.
- Participants underscored the role of involving multiple stakeholders, including the private sector, as being critical to the process of integrating urbanization into national development planning.
- Several structural factors may limit the integration of urbanization in national development plans, including energy scarcity, limited levels of industrialization, land regimes, wars and crisis as well as external factors.
- Poor quality of data continues to hinder the quality of analysis of Africa's urbanization and development. New population censuses have improved the information on Africa's urbanization, but many countries still have not had censuses since 2000 and for those who have had them, public access is limited. In addition, several countries face financial constraints to carry out periodic surveys.
- Urban form and the extent of sprawl impacts the extent to which urbanization can be socially inclusive and economically productive. Sprawling urban areas pose challenges for service and infrastructure delivery, access to employment and productivity.
- Greater regional integration and cooperation will be crucial for shared infrastructure, such as energy supply, as well as for overall growth. Regional urban corridors play an important role in facilitating growth and transformation in Africa, and could further be strengthened by factoring in urbanization regional infrastructure, investment and trade strategies.
- It was stressed that sectoral National Urban Policies already available in some countries being formulated currently represent a key instrument for responding to urbanization in Africa. However, a strategic and cross sectoral perspective is needed by mainstreaming urbanization in national development planning. This will facilitate the required multi-sectoral responses to urbanization, linked to industrialization, agricultural modernization, infrastructure, investments, trade and social development.

Key Recommendations

DELEGATES URGED AFRICAN PLANNING INSTITUTIONS TO:

- Integrate urbanization in development planning, and adopt strategies that will contribute to improving linkages with agriculture as well as rural productivity. Such strategies should also help develop Africa's secondary and tertiary cities, where most

of the urbanization growth is occurring, and promote balanced territorial.

- Work with other decision-makers and policy-makers to appreciate the use of geospatial information to tease out the challenges and opportunities brought by urbanization and also for informed decision-making process in planning.
- Adopt forward-looking spatial planning to transform urban areas to become more enterprising, connected, sustainable, attractive to investors and inclusive in support of national development visions and goals. There is an urgent need to integrate spatial analysis in national development planning to optimize comparative territorial opportunities.
- Adopt a historical analysis and perspective of urbanization to better understand and respond to current trends and implications of urbanization in Africa. Specific historical trajectories of urbanization have resulted in specific opportunities and challenges in African countries that require tailored responses

DELEGATES URGED MEMBER STATES TO:

- Put in place governance structures and institutions that support our cities to become economic hubs by making them more attractive for investors, able to raise more revenues, more competitive, and job generators.
- Grant planning institutions political legitimacy in order to ensure that urbanization is effectively mainstreamed into development planning. For that purpose, African countries need to adopt a radically new approach to integrating urbanization in development planning at national and continental levels as a cross cutting phenomenon. Once integrated, implementation must be monitored through an effective Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.
- Consider Urbanization as a crosscutting issue and hence national planning has to ensure effective inter-sectoral coordination of sectoral policies among various sector ministries, regional and local government levels, and with the private sector and other stakeholders.
- Adopt strategies and policies that strengthen urban-rural linkages to harness the purchasing power of cities for agricultural products, and promote the agglomeration of competitive agro-industries around specific resource endowments to spur rural productivity and prosperity.

DELEGATES URGED UNECA TO:

- Develop tool and methodologies as well as indicators to strengthen the capacity of development planners to better integrate urbanization in national development planning.

- Undertake further analysis of urbanization and national development planning in Africa, including assessing the drivers of urbanization, reviewing regional dimensions, developing in-depth understanding through country case studies and draw a list of indicators related to urbanization, including growth, industrialization, agricultural development, investments, trade, social development, competitiveness, productivity and others as required. Such knowledge should be shared in the future among development planners through an exchange platform as well as in similar dialogues.
- Develop an index to measure the degree of integration of urbanization in national development planning frameworks and processes to help identify member States' capacity gaps and provide support accordingly to mainstream urbanization in their national development plans from a multi-sectoral perspective and in relation to their structural transformation visions and goals.
- Establish, in the framework of South-South cooperation, a compendium of good practices on how urbanization was mainstreamed in several countries, including Africa, and contexts to better inform decision-making and planning. This publication will enlarge the planning tools being used by planners at national and sectoral levels and should be shared adequately national planners through trainings and capacity building platforms.

Way Forward and Vote of Thanks

Participants unanimously suggested that the next High Level Policy Dialogue be held in Nigeria. Other proposed locations include Egypt and Equatorial Guinea. The delegate from DRC suggested that his country should be considered for the Dialogue in 2018.

As requested by ECA, participants proposed the following themes, one of which will be selected for the next HLPD:

- Harnessing Regional Communication for Development in Africa.
- Mainstreaming SDGs in NDPs.
- The Role of Minorities and the Vulnerable in Development or Integrating the Minorities and the Vulnerable in Development.
- Regional Integrated Transport Infrastructure: Addressing Challenges for Seamless Implementation.

At the end of the meeting, participants expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the Government and People of the Republic of Cameroon, for their hospitality, engagement in issues of planning and urbanization on the continent, and the quality of the facilities put at their disposal.

The Yaoundé High Level Policy Dialogue was officially closed by **Mr. Oum Eloma Janvier**, Director General for Planning and Regional Development at the Cameroon Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development.