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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
COMMISSION ECONOMIQUE POUR L'AFRIQUE**

Knowledge Networking for Africa's Development

**The Africa Knowledge Networks Forum (AKNF) 2001/African Development Forum (ADF)
2001 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting**

Three- Day Programme, 17 – 19 October, 2001

Addis Ababa
Ethiopia
October 17- 19, 2001

Background:

1. **Introduction:** The Africa Knowledge Networks Forum (AKNF) was conceived as a programme and process of knowledge networking for Africa's development, focussing on "knowledge-sharing for enriched research, training, and policy decision-making". The AKNF's objectives, expected impact and process were conceived following recommendations of studies and consultations with a broad spectrum of Africa's development stakeholders, including a specially targeted constituency of African experts in the Diaspora. The consultations culminated into the Preparatory and Launch Workshop for the network which took place August 17- 18, 2000. The Workshop focussed on refining the concept and giving guidelines for the preparation of business plan for AKNF, among other things. The report of the Workshop was distributed to participants and is posted on the AKNF web-site: <http://www.uneca.org/aknf>. It captures as accurately as possible the messages from the discussion in terms of the role of AKNF, the value-added services the network could provide and how the network can be managed. It points to some grey areas that remain, as well as the possible pitfalls to watch out for, which, as was advised, should be flagged for further discussions as we move forward. The recommendations of the Workshop guided the activities that were started last year and constitute the framework for the agenda presented below.
2. **The Forum Format:** The objective of the Forum format is to have a fully participatory process in which the discussions take place. The Forum is designed to provide as much room for interactive dialogue as possible. There will be plenary sessions and break-out sessions where participants will have more in-depth discussion of the issues. The key task for each stakeholder group will be to evaluate and critique the main options in specific areas, to energize regional integration in Africa. Groups might also wish to pose options of their own, and will be asked to add their views on issues under discussion. These stakeholder groupings will include officials charged with promoting sub-regional and regional cooperation, academics and experts in physical integration.
3. **Post-Forum actions:** These actions will focus on implementing the AKNF Work Program to be presented at the meeting. But this year's AKNF is special. As the technical Advisory Committee of ADF 2001, the conclusions and recommendations of AKNF 2001 will form an integral input in the finalisation of the papers and agenda for the ADF 2001, whose recommendations will be conveyed, through the OAU, to the Summit of Heads of State and Government. The Summit is due to be held in Pretoria, South Africa, in July 2002. Africa's leaders will be asked to consider the outcomes of ADF 2001 as a contribution towards concretizing the African Union implementation agenda.
4. The outcome of AKNF 2001 will also be a vital building block towards the launching in the year 2002, ECA new Annual Report on Regional Integration in Africa to systematically monitor the continent's progress towards integration. This annual publication will also help maintain the momentum on the policy dialogue and political commitment required for integration in Africa to be achieved.

Three-day Programme

Day One: Wednesday 17 October 2001

09:00 – 10:30: **Opening Plenary**

Moderator: Martin West

Opening Remarks by: Samba Jack, OIC, ECA

Highlights and conclusions of the Report of the AKNF Preparatory Workshop:

Revisit key issues identified--value- added services,

Programmatic approaches, focus and phasing of activities

Advice on governance structure of AKNF--- AKNF secretariat, Steering Committee and Advisory Committee;

Ownership of the AKNF (governance and priorities setting);

Funding strategy;

Services and products: Phase I (database, web-based resources and electronic dialogue, status of ICT and Internet connectivity across Africa)—Phase II

Presenter: George Alibaruho, ECA

Status reports on activities undertaken in 2000/2001

Presenter: Makane Faye

- Knowledge management at ECA: Laying the groundwork to serve knowledge networking and management needs of the region
- Information Communication Technologies application in laying foundation for assistance to AKNF- affiliated networked institutions (ITCA and knowledge management)
- Connecting non-connected AKNF members and need assessment

Discussants: Dominic Tarpeh and Allemayehu Molla

Discussions: Discussions on the issues presented will be held to gather comments, suggestions, and feedback from the participants. We particularly like to get feedback on the state of connectivity at AKNF-affiliated organisations as we begin a phase of needs assessment and connection of the ITCA portal to institutions and organisations in a sequenced manner.

Discussions: Discussions on the issues presented will be held to gather comments, suggestions. Feedback will be particularly sought from participants at the August 17-18 2000 launch workshop to ensure that the key elements of the recommendations highlighted in the presentation are accurate, as they constitute the framework the work programme that has been designed..

10:30 –10:50; Coffee break

10.50 – 1.15: **Plenary Session contd.**

Paper: Supporting Africa's regional integration: The African Diaspora – prototype pan-Africanists or parochial village-aiders?

Presenter: Chukwu-Emeka Chikezie

Paper: A proposal for the formation of the US-Africa Science Foundation for the Advancement of African Economics
 Presenter: Kwabena Gyimah-Brimpong

Discussants: Adetotun Phillips (for the UK Diaspora) Dominic Tarpeh; (for the US Africa/Diaspora paper),

1.15 – 2.30: Lunch Break

2.30 – 4.00: **Plenary Session contd.**

Moderator: A.M. Maruping,

Topic: Strengthening African gender and development policy research through stronger links with the African Diaspora

Presenter: Regina Karega G. Mwatha

Topic: Building a Research Capacity Network in Africa: The University Science, Humanities & Engineering Partnerships in Africa (USHEPiA)

Presenter: Martin West

Topic: African regional integration: a pre-condition toward multilateral liberalization
 Emphasis on institutional arrangements and capacity

Presenter: William Amponsah

Discussants: Marema Dioumu (for the gender and development presentation), and Apenteng and Nnadozie (for USHEPiA) and Gunning for the regional integration paper

Discussion:

4.00 – 5.30: **AKNF Medium-Term Strategy and Indicative Work Plan**

Moderator: Adebayo Olukoshi

Work Program Priorities—3- year perspective

Non-ICT component of the Work Program 2001/2002

The way forward: knowledge management strategies for networking of organisations

Challenges and opportunities on the use of ICTs for enhanced networking in selected knowledge producing institutions (e.g. Centre for Economic Policy Analysis—Ghana)

Building knowledge management strategies and integrating communication for reaching out to stakeholders

Steps for developing ICT-supported knowledge networking in Africa

Presenters: George Alibaruho and Lishan Adam

Discussants: Andrew Barendse and Chukwu-Emeka Chikezie, Diery Seck

Proposed Network governance and operational structure
 Proposed operational modalities

Presenter: George Alibaruho

Discussion: The discussion will focus on the relationship of the proposed strategy, work program priorities for 2001/2002 and their consistency with identified priorities of affiliated network organisations; review and finalisation of AKNF governance and operational structure. Review of consistency of the proposed operational modalities with the recommendations of the AKNF Preparatory Workshop. The discussion will also look at the implementability of the programme with respect to resources and the operational modalities proposed.

5.30 – 6.00: Informal presentations

Fundraising skills and experience by network managers: sharing happy moments, frustrations, and how to better prepare

Presenters: H. Ben Hamouda and D. Seck

Brief Informational Statements from representatives of organisations of networked institutions

Many organisations have already exchanged information on their website, others are bringing brochures per my request, so we will allow little time for any additional information needed to be passed around by network managers who did not present papers on their organisations.

Presenters: A.M.M. Maruping, Executive Director, MEFMI,
A.Gergis, SEAPRN
M.Musinga, Research Coordinator, ACEG
M. Dioum, Programme Officer, FAWE
G. Nhema, OSSREA
Chukwu-Emeka Chikezie, AFFORD
A.Olukoshi, Executive Director, CODESRIA
D.Tarpeh, Head of Administration and Finance, AAU
C.Nyalugwe, SAEN
Adedotun O. Phillips, Director- General, NISER
C. du Toit, Executive Coordinator, UN/UNDP Research Network Project

6.30 – 7.30: Reception

Day Two—Thursday October 18, 2001

Plenary Session: Power point presentation about Annual Report on Integration in Africa (ARIA) followed by discussion

Moderator: William Amponsah

9.00 – 9.45 **A. The ARIA scheme: Approach and methodology**

A brief presentation on the ARIA project, its conception, the process followed and methodology used including indicators of assessment

A Synthesis of the ARIA 2001 findings.

A presentation of ARIA's main findings in terms of the general status of Africa's integration at the present time. In this context, the presentation will highlight overall progress to date in relation to goals and objectives, key constraints, and main messages emerging from the assessment. It will indicate

elements for a Way Forward in terms of key issues and challenges to be addressed with a view to enhancing progress in the future.

Presenter: Yousif Suliman, Chief, Regional Co-operation and Integration Division (RCID), ECA.

9:45 – 10:00 Practical aspects of the preparation of ARIA – key lessons and experiences

The presentation will highlight some of the practical difficulties encountered in the preparation of ARIA, including conceptualisation of indicators for the assessment, complexity of the issues involved, data limitations, weakness of responses to questionnaires, and the linkages between sub-regional and sectoral assessments.

Presenter: Stephen Lande, Lead Consultant of ARIA

10:00 – 10:45 Discussion: Comments, questions and general technical inputs by participants with a viewing to enriching the ARIA work-in-progress

10:45 – 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:45 Discussion (Cont.)

1.00 - 2.30 **Lunch Break**

2.30 – 4.30: **Parallel Plenary Sessions**

1. **ARIA Steering Committee Meeting.**(Only for Members of the ARIA Steering Committee)

More in-depth examination of the issues and recommendations presented in the morning session. Review of the ARIA sectoral papers. Review of the core theme of the second ARIA report. Discussion of mandated issues pertaining to the ARIA project partnership arrangement.

2. **Presentation and discussion of papers written on some of the sub- themes of ADF- 2001**

Moderator: Jan van Heerden

2.30 – 4.30: Economic Policies for Accelerating Regional Integration:

Title: ADF 2001: note by the IMF

The primary themes are the identification of critical elements in successful economic integration, and the implications for macroeconomic policies, exchange rate arrangements, trade liberalization, tax regimes, financial infrastructure, economic data, transparency, and surveillance.

By Alex Kyei, prepared by Jon Shields

Title: Fiscal Policy Harmonisation in the Context of African Regional Integration

Paper focuses on feasibility of macroeconomic (mainly fiscal) policy convergence criteria for various regional economic communities (RECs)

By ECA, prepared by, and to be presented by Allemayehu Geda.

Title: Challenges of Regional Integration in Africa: Review of Pertinent Issues
Paper surveys, reviews and priorities policy issues for Africa

By Dr. Njuguna S. Ndung'u
International Development Research Centre, Nairobi, Kenya

Title: Regional Integration and issues of multilateral trade agreements

WTO paper by Peter Tulloch, presented by Mr. Dickson Yeboah

--Regionalism versus multilateralism, compatibility of integration objectives and operations with commitments under WTO multilateral trade agreements

Discussants: Abdalla Gergis (IMF paper), W.A. Razzak (ECA paper), E. Nnadozie (IDRC paper), William Amponsah and Malam Kandine Adam (WTO paper)

Rapporteurs: Aloysius Ajab Amin (IMF paper), Felix Orah Ndukwe (ECA paper), D.Njinkeu (IDRC paper), Jill Clements (WTO paper)

Discussion: This discussion will focus on cooperation and convergence in key macroeconomic policies-- monetary, fiscal, trade and exchange -- including consistency of national and integration targets and supporting policies at the national level. Towards this goal, it will identify the key strategic policy actions that will need to be taken at the regional, sub-regional and national levels. The discussion will also address the issue of losers and winners in the process of forging convergence and how to address it in practical terms;

4.30 – 5.00: Coffee Break

5.00 – 6.00: **Infrastructure Development**

Moderator: Andrew Barendse

Paper: Infrastructure for regional integration
The World Bank

Presenter: Marie-Francoise Marie-Nelly

Discussant: Ali Dehlavi

Rapporteurs: Sheila Page

Discussion on Infrastructure: This discussion will focus on priorities for infrastructure development as a means to step up the pace of regional integration. It will consider the appropriate regulatory framework for regional projects, financing of such projects, and services to be delivered by supra-national institutions. The discussion will look at modalities for agreeing, designing and implementing regional infrastructure projects, and for attracting and servicing investment in these sectors. It will also look at modalities for taking advantage of improved regional infrastructure to promote strategic lines of industry, or enterprises that can operate in regional markets and enhance their competitiveness in the global economy;

Discussion on Peace and Security Architecture: The discussion will take as its point of departure the clear link between peace, good governance and development, and will focus on the successes and failures of the peace and security architecture on the continent. A key question will be how the peace and security architecture can address post-conflict transformation issues, and bridge the gap between conflict and normative development. The discussion will also look at the link between liberal citizenship and residency frameworks that make national borders legally porous to migration, and avoidance of conflict and promotion of peace. Overall, the discussion will examine and identify priorities for rationalizing and harmonizing the peace and security architecture to ensure the necessary conditions for an accelerated African Union.

5.30 – 6.15: Closing and way forward

Moderator: Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf

Presenter: Kempe Ronald Hope

7.00 – 8.00: Reception

Day 3 Friday 19, 2001

Meeting of the Steering Committee of ADF 2001 (only for members of that Committee—they know who they are)