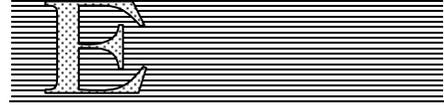




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Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development
Regional Implementation Meeting (RIM) for CSD-18

Sixth session

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
27-30 October 2009

**Progress Report on the Activities of the “Food Security and
Sustainable Development” Subprogramme
for the Biennium 2008-2009**

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Acronyms

ACPC	African Climate Policy Centre
AfDB	African Development Bank
ALPFG	Africa Land Policy Framework and Guidelines
AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CFSSD	Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development
ClimDev-Africa	Climate for Development in Africa Programme
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
EAC	East African Community
ECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
FSSD	Food Security and Sustainable Development Division
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
LPI	Land Policy Initiative
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
PPP	Public-private partnership
RECs	Regional economic communities
RIM	Regional Implementation Meeting
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SCP	Sustainable consumption and production
SDRA	Sustainable Development Report on Africa
SMART	Sustainable modernization of agriculture and rural transformation
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNPOG	United Nations Project Office on Governance
WTO	World Trade Organization

I. Introduction

1. The Food Security and Sustainable Development Subprogramme is under the responsibility of the Food Security and Sustainable Development Division (FSSD) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

2. This progress report on the activities of the Subprogramme for the biennium 2008-2009 is being submitted to the sixth session of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development (CFSSD-6) to inform the committee about the progress made on the implementation of the subprogramme planned outputs for the biennium 2008-2009. The report is also expected to elicit guidance and direction from the committee for the implementation of the 2010-2011 work programme of FSSD, taking into account the lessons learned from the implementation of the 2008/2009 work programme.

Objectives and planned accomplishment of the subprogramme for the biennium 2008-2009

3. The objective of the subprogramme is to strengthen the capacity of member States to formulate and implement policies, strategies and programmes that take into account the synergies between agriculture and the environment, with the view to fostering sustainable development in Africa.

4. The planned accomplishment is “improved national capacity for designing and implementing policies that take into account the interrelationships between agriculture and the environment, to be used in national sustainable development plans and strategies and other national plans and strategies to achieve food security and sustainable development.”

II. Main activities carried out during the biennium 2008-2009

5. Most of the programmed outputs for the biennium 2008-2009 have been accomplished. Specifically, the following activities have been implemented:

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies

Substantive servicing of meetings

6. The subprogramme participated in the sixteenth session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-16) in May 2008, the intergovernmental preparatory meeting for CSD-17 and at the CSD-17 policy session in May 2009 that deliberated on the thematic issues of agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and “Africa.”

7. The subprogramme serviced the meeting of the Bureau of the Fifth Session of the Africa Committee on Sustainable Development (ACSD-5), which took place on 1 October 2009. The minutes of the meeting are contained in annex 1.

Parliamentary documentation

8. The following three parliamentary reports have been prepared for submission to the CFSSD-6/Africa RIM:

(a) *Report on the follow-up on the implementation of World Summit on Sustainable Development outcomes:* Produced under the theme “Sustainable consumption and production (SCP) for sustainable growth and poverty reduction”, the report provides a consolidated overview of progress and achievements made in the implementation of commitments related to sustainable consumption and production, including the ten-year framework of programmes on SCP, chemicals, waste management, mining and transport. It outlines implementation challenges and constraints, as well as lessons learned, and highlights the way forward, including policy measures and actions needed to accelerate implementation in each of the thematic issues;

(b) *Progress report on implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme:* In 2003, the AU-Maputo Summit adopted the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) as a strategy for agricultural development in Africa. The purpose of this report is to assess the progress made towards the expected outcomes of the programme, which is now in its fifth year of implementation, and to identify its future direction. In this regard, the report gives an overview of the framework, principles and objectives of CAADP, assesses its status of implementation, its achievements, lessons learned from its implementation, and recommendations on the way forward; and

(c) *Report on the status of food security in Africa:* The report provides an assessment of progress being made towards the attainment of food security. In particular, it identifies the short-term prospects and some best practices. It presents a regional review of food security issues and challenges, and an assessment of the impact of the food price surge at household and country levels. It also discusses policy responses and options at country, regional and subregional levels, as well as how international actions and commitments helped to mitigate risks, seize opportunities and overcome challenges, in order to improve the state and prospects of food security in Africa.

Ad hoc expert group meetings

9. The following ad hoc expert group meetings were organized during the biennium:

(a) *The ad hoc expert group meeting (EGM) on monitoring and assessing progress on sustainable development in Africa:* This EGM was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 24 to 26 June 2009. The meeting reviewed the draft regional thematic reports on chemicals, waste management, transport, mining and sustainable consumption and production. A consolidated working report for consideration by the Africa RIM in formulating the Africa statement to CSD 18 and 19 was also produced. The report summarizes major trends and emerging issues; progress and achievements made; current and future implementation challenges and constraints; lessons learned; and recommended priority policy measures and actions to accelerate implementation in each of the above-mentioned thematic issues.

(b) *The ad hoc expert group meeting on promoting agro-industry and agribusiness development in African countries* was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 22 to 24 July 2009. The

meeting made recommendations on the way forward for promoting agro-industry and agribusiness development in Africa. These include the formation of a forum by ECA in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa and selected public and private sector representatives to promote the adoption of a regional value chain approach in the development of agribusiness and agro-industry in Africa; and the commissioning of in-depth subregional studies by ECA and partners to assess the potential for regional value chains based on selected strategic commodities identified at the 2006 AU Summit in Abuja. The meeting also made recommendations for improving the non-recurrent publication on public-private partnerships for agro-industry and agribusiness development in Africa.

(b) Other substantive activities

Recurrent publications

10. *Sustainable Development Report on Africa (SDRA) third issue*: The report is being prepared under the theme “Sustainable consumption and production (SCP) for sustainable growth and poverty reduction in Africa”. It focuses on the thematic cluster of issues to be considered by CSD-18. They include sustainable consumption, transport, mining, waste management, and chemicals. The report is being prepared in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UNIDO. The thematic reports which will constitute chapters of the report were reviewed and enriched by the Expert Group Meeting on Monitoring and Assessing Progress on Sustainable Development in Africa which was held in June 2009. The report will be released by December 2009.

Non-recurrent publications

11. The subprogramme has produced four non-recurrent publications:

(a) *Compendium on Best Practices on the African Green Revolution*: The compendium highlights green revolution best practices in Africa with a view to enhancing the knowledge of African countries so that they can make informed policy, strategic and programme-related decisions regarding sustainable agricultural transformation. The compendium builds on inputs from the five subregions of Africa, and presents lessons learned from past agricultural development successes. These lessons can be used to help African countries design well-informed agricultural transformation projects for the achievement of food security and sustainable development in Africa;

(b) *The State of Human Settlements in Africa*: The report takes stock of the state of human settlements in Africa within the prevailing economic and social context and landscape as of 2008, by examining various elements of human settlements, including the state of housing and housing services; land tenure and markets; water supply and sanitation; environment, energy and climate change impacts on human settlements; human settlements planning and implementation; governance of human settlements and its effectiveness; human settlements management institutions and their capacities; and financing of the development and management of human settlements. The report also assesses the prospects of realizing the pertinent targets of the Millennium Development

Goals, including those of halving the proportion of people living on less than one dollar a day and those who suffer from hunger (extreme poverty) by 2015; reducing by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015; and achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020;

(c) *Trade and Environment Linkages: Priority Issues for Africa:* The aim of this report is “to enhance the capacity of member States to formulate coherent trade and environment policies that address issues related to the environment in an effective manner, thereby increasing access for their products in developed country markets, while enhancing environmental sustainability and promoting sustainable development.” The main sections covered by the report are: the current thinking and concepts that drive the trade-environment-development debate, drawing attention to the complex nature of their inter-relationship; examining the various environmental standards and requirements in industrialized countries that have a bearing on Africa’s trade performance; examining the possibilities of increasing the amount of non-traditional and “green” exports from Africa; discussing the phenomenon of trade in hazardous products and sub-standard and second-hand goods; addressing the issue of capacity needs in the areas of trade and the environment; and considering broad guidelines and policy recommendations put forward to address the impact of the emerging regimes of multilateral disciplines in the areas of trade and environment. It is considered vital that African countries play a pro-active role in shaping the new rules and regulations in this area; and

(d) *Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) in Agro-Industry and Agribusiness:* The publication discusses various PPP frameworks, their functions, advantages, disadvantages and constraints. Specifically, the report reviews Africa’s experience with PPP applications in agriculture, and draws lessons and policy recommendations that can be translated into actions to promote the PPP approach in agribusiness and agro-industrial development in Africa within the framework of CAADP. The report complements the ECA Economic Report on Africa (2009) and outlines the role of PPPs in promoting the development of regional value chains for strategic agricultural commodities. It also proposes an action plan for the development of commodity value chains of selected strategic agricultural commodities and the modalities of its implementation. The report received favourable reviews from the experts group meeting on promoting agro-industry and agribusiness development in African countries.

Special events

12. *The High-Level Meeting on Public-Private Partnerships in Agro-Industry and Agribusiness:* The objective of the event is to make the case for agribusiness development in Africa through public-private partnerships. The event is being organized jointly with UNIDO, FAO, and the Governance and Public Administration Division.

Technical material

13. The Subprogramme has one technical material programmed for this biennium, namely, the establishment of the *Database on African Agricultural Markets*. The background work on specific requirements for the implementation of the database has been completed. Given the complexity and extent of data issues in Africa, it is expected that the subprogramme will have produced technical programme documentation for the database by December 2009.

(c) Technical cooperation**Training courses, seminars and workshops**

14. Two training workshops/courses planned for the biennium are yet to be conducted, namely, the seminar on environmental accounting for professionals and policy makers; and the workshop on institutional and strategic frameworks for sustainable development for professionals and policy makers.

Field projects

15. The subprogramme completed implementation of the following two field projects in the current biennium:

(a) *Capacity-Building in Support of Land Policy and Administrative Reforms (LPI)*: The project was delivered as a joint AU-ECA-AfDB Land Policy Initiative. It provided technical leadership in conducting subregional reviews and multi-stakeholder consultative workshops that resulted in the formulation of the Africa Land Policy Framework and Guidelines (ALPFG). The major achievement of the project is the official adoption of the ALPFG by the AU Conference of Ministers in Charge of Land in April 2009 and the AU Summit in July 2009. Member States have also started requesting assistance to use the ALPFG, to which the subprogramme is going to respond through a second phase of this initiative;

(b) *Climate and development programmes in Africa*: The climate and development programme activities entailed the development of the joint AU-AfDB-ECA Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa) Programme and the establishment of its African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) in ECA. ClimDev and ACPC received endorsement and strong support from the African Union Summit, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), and the First Joint Annual Meetings of the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. The Department of International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom provided initial funding for the programme through which a number of activities were undertaken in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme, the African Development Bank, the secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation-Africa Partnership Forum. Among these activities were the preparation and provision of analytical inputs on climate change to inform Africa's preparations for the climate change negotiations, including the elaboration of a common position and the provision of resources to facilitate substantive and consensus-building consultations and meetings of the Africa Group of Negotiators. Additional activities conceived under the climate and development programme will be carried out under the auspices of ACPC, which will lead the implementation of the policy component of ClimDev-Africa.

16. The implementation of the following projects is still ongoing:

(a) *Development, transfer and application of biotechnology for sustainable development in Africa: validation, institutionalization and operationalization of UN-Biotech/Africa*. Among the

activities undertaken so far are: further development of UN- Biotech website and newsletter; update and development of UN-Biotech content; preparation of a report on biotechnology and biofuels; and production of the status report on the United Nations system-wide contribution to Africa's biotechnology agenda. The ultimate result of the project will be the institutionalization of UN-biotech/Africa and the adoption of the plan of action to be implemented under the science and technology cluster of the regional coordination mechanism in support of NEPAD;

(b) *Sustainable Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Transformation (SMART)*: The project aims to enhance the knowledge and the capacity of member countries to formulate and implement appropriate programmes, strategies and policies towards sustainable modernization of agriculture and rural transformation. The project is expected to lead to increased knowledge among member countries of SMART indicators of readiness and potential; enhanced awareness of SMART best practices; improved national capacity for SMART design in member countries; and increased knowledge among member countries of SMART. The following activities have already been carried out: a validation and synthesis expert group meeting on indicators for assessment of SMART readiness and potential, jointly with UNDESA and UNPOG; development of a common SMART index which still needs further improvement and finalization; assessment of SMART best practices for selected strategic commodities in West Africa, Central Africa and Southern Africa. The value chain approach was used to capture successes and related determinants, as well as challenges and constraints. Commodities selected for the assessment are cassava in Nigeria, rice and tomato in Senegal, milk in South Africa, palm oil and banana plantain in Cameroon, and maize in Malawi. Best practices on maize, milk and rice were also assessed in East Africa. In Southern, Central and West Africa, video material is being produced for each commodity to capture underlying successes and lessons learned. Also produced for each commodity were a report and a video, which constitute advocacy and awareness-raising materials that will be used widely to promote the green revolution in Africa. Three SMART training workshops have been conducted in Ibadan for West Africa, Pretoria for Southern Africa, and Yaoundé for Central Africa. These activities are expected to facilitate and guide the replication and/or upscaling of documented SMART best practices;

(c) *Promoting Biofuel Development for Sustainable Development in Africa*: This field project is being designed to, among other things, produce a synthesis report on issues (challenges and opportunities) and policy options for biofuels development in Africa; policy briefs and an ECA strategy paper on biofuels development in Africa. Consultations are on-going with potential partners within and outside the United Nations to finalize the design and start implementing the project;

(d) *Capacity-building in Trade and Environment (T&E) Linkages*: This is being implemented in the framework of the second phase of the ECA African Trade Policy Centre (ATPC II). A number of activities have been carried out in response to the needs of the regional economic communities (RECs) and member States to strengthen their capacity to harness the linkages between trade and the environment. These activities include the capacity-building workshop for the East African Community (EAC), and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and their member States, to strengthen their capacity to formulate coherent trade and environment policies. The workshop adopted recommendations to, among other things, establish mechanisms for knowledge exchange and coordination between trade and environment ministries; put in place appropriate policies, legislation and strategies at the national, subregional and regional levels in order to protect Africa from being used as a dumping ground for waste from industrialized countries; and establish/rejuvenate national trade and environment committees in order to improve

the mainstreaming of inter-linkages in policy-making and negotiations, and implementation and monitoring of multilateral environment agreements (MEAs) with trade-related obligations; and

(e) *A study on strategic commodities/regional approach:* This field project is being implemented in collaboration with the FAO subregional office for Eastern Africa, to translate the vision of developing regional value chains for strategic commodities into reality. In this regard, a preliminary assessment of selected oil seed value chains in East Africa has been undertaken and the results are being reviewed.

III. Selected results achieved

17. The following are some of the main results from the activities undertaken during the biennium:

(a) *Adoption, by the 53 member States of the African Union, of the ECA-advocated regional approach to agricultural development and transformation in Africa.* Analytical work of the sub-programme in support of the implementation of the NEPAD CAADP resulted in the development of a regional approach for the implementation of the pillars of CAADP built around the development of regionally coordinated value chains of selected food and agricultural commodities of strategic importance within a context of broader regional integration. Policy advocacy work through regional policy meetings further resulted in the official adoption of this strategy by the African Union Conference of Ministers of Agriculture in April 2009 and the African Union Summit in July 2009. Furthermore, the 19 member countries of COMESA have undertaken, with support from the subprogramme, the translation into reality of the ECA-advocated strategy for the development of a common agricultural market of strategic food and agricultural commodities;

(b) *Adoption, by the 53 member States of the African Union, of the AUC-ECA-AfDB Land Policy Framework and Guidelines:* The subprogramme provided technical leadership in conducting subregional reviews and assessments and holding subregional multi-stakeholder consultative workshops and, based on their outcomes, prepared the regional framework and guidelines (ALPFG) for the formulation and implementation of comprehensive land policies, which would ensure economic efficiency, social equity and environmental protection. The ALPFG was officially adopted by the African Union Conference of Ministers in Charge of Land in April 2009 and the African Union Summit in July 2009. Member States have begun requesting assistance to use the ALPFG to formulate or reform national land policies. The subprogramme has undertaken to respond to these requests through a second phase of the AUC-ECA-AfDB Land Policy Initiative, with targeted inputs/services of information system, capacity-building and technical assistance;

(c) *Adoption, by the 53 member States of the African Union, of a common African position for negotiations towards the post-2012 global agreement on climate change:* The subprogramme successfully prepared and provided analytical inputs on the key pillars (mitigation, adaptation, technology and finance) of the Bali Road Map for the negotiations, mobilized resources to facilitate substantive and consensus-building consultations and meetings of the Africa Group of Negotiators, leading to the adoption of a common African negotiating position by a special session of AMCEN in May 2009 and the endorsement of this position by the African Union Summit in July 2009. As a result, all African countries would be represented at the climate negotiations by a single delegation led at the political level by a team of Heads of State and Government, to ensure an

adequate reflection of the region's concerns, interests and expectations for the post-2012 global agreement on climate change;

(d) *Adoption by the seventeenth session of the CSD (CSD-17) of policy options and other practical measures to expedite food security and sustainable development:* The subprogramme made a major contribution to highlighting and articulating Africa's sustainable development challenges and priorities at the review and policy sessions of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development. The Sustainable Development Report on Africa (SDRA) 2006-2007 and other regional inputs, including the review reports, the common African statement and policy options produced by the subprogramme, were effectively used by member States at the CSD-16 review session in May 2008, the intergovernmental preparatory meeting for CSD-17, and the CSD-17 policy session in May 2009, to shape and facilitate dialogue on the thematic issues of agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and "Africa." The SDRA and other inputs were extensively quoted by member States during these meetings. The outcome documents from the meetings highlight policy and other practical measures that the 53 African countries should take to expedite implementation of commitments in the listed thematic cluster of issues in order to achieve food security and sustainable development;

(e) *Capacity-building in sustainable human settlements:* The work of subprogramme contributed to raising awareness on the fact that African human settlements are still undergoing tremendous transformation and underscored the need to continue to improve conditions through better spatial development planning and implementation; improved human skills development; greater and better financial resources; increased investments in urban infrastructure and services; and improved and strengthened urban governance and management institutions and processes. The study on human settlements in Africa which was widely distributed during the World Urban Forum held in Nanjing, China in November 2008, will contribute to improving the capacity of member States and civil societies to design and implement policies;

(f) *Capacity development on trade and environment linkages:* The work of the subprogramme contributed to raising awareness of the linkages between trade and environment policies. This was realized through its publication on trade and environment, which analyses the priority issues and linkages between trade and environment policies in Africa; and

(g) *Sustainable Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Transformation (SMART):* Through the field project on SMART, indicators for assessing the SMART readiness and potential of African countries were developed. These were used to assess SMART best practices for selected strategic commodities in West Africa, Central Africa and Southern Africa. These activities are expected to facilitate and guide the replication and/or scaling up of the documented best practices. The SMART project has also resulted in the creation by a pioneering group of member States of the Dairy Africa Initiative, an institution that is being earmarked to advance the development of dairy production across Africa. Member States are also actively advancing the SMART through subregional ad hoc SMART steering groups and a network of SMART experts and country focal points. Some of these institutional initiatives will become more visible and active in the next biennium.

IV. Lessons learned and the way forward

18. Climate change has rapidly emerged as an urgent sustainable development challenge. This is evidenced by the fast-growing and multi-dimensional demand from member States for analytical inputs and policy advice/assistance on climate change and social and political issues such as gender, migration, governance, peace and security; macroeconomic issues such as trade and finance; sectoral issues such as water, energy, industry and agriculture; and the crosscutting issues of science and technology. Effective response therefore requires mainstreaming and reflecting of climate change in all ECA subprogrammes. In addition, it requires the proactive planning of subprogramme activities in order to effectively meet the demand, including providing support to member States in the context of the Copenhagen agreement to be negotiated in December 2009.

19. There is need to develop and implement an effective programme to advocate and support the implementation of the outcomes of the CSD policy sessions. This will ensure the translation of the adopted policy and other measures into concrete country-level policies and strategies to achieve food security and sustainable development. The subprogramme will ensure that the outcomes of the policy session are disseminated through the upcoming session of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development /Africa Regional Implementation Meeting (RIM) to be held on 27-30 October 2009

20. Strong political commitment at the highest level is paramount for Africa to achieve food security and sustainable development. This applies to all of the subprogramme's thematic subsectors, namely, agriculture, environment and sustainable development. That commitment will help advance the agenda for achieving sustainable modernization of agriculture and rural transformation, as well as the development of a common African market for strategic agricultural commodities along regionally integrated value chains.

21. Consensus-building on policy and strategies at regional level is a major challenge. It requires the commitment of adequate financial and human resources. However, these resources remain an important impediment. In addition, joint planning with relevant partner organizations is necessary.

Annex 1: Minutes of the Fifth Session of the Africa Committee on Sustainable Development Bureau Meeting

Date 1 October 2009
Time 10:00 hrs
Venue Conference Room 6, United Nations Conference Centre

In Attendance

Bureau Members

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Ms. Beatrice Karago | Kenya (Chair) |
| 2. Mr. David Amutenya | Namibia (First Vice-Chair) |
| 3. Mr. Christopher Kwajok | Sudan (Third Vice-Chair) |
| 4. Mr. Radiane Mohamed | Senegal (Rapporteur) |
| 5. Mr. Samy S. Burwin | Libya (Special Invitee) |
| 6. Mr. Nathan Machani | Kenya |

Absent:

Democratic Republic of the Congo Second Vice-Chair

Secretariat

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 7. Mr. Josué Dioné | Director, Food Security and Sustainable Development Division (FSSD), ECA |
| 8. Ms. Isatou Gaye | Chief, Environment & Sustainable Development Section, FSSD/ECA |
| 9. Mr. Kodjo Abassa | OIC, Agricultural Production Systems Section, FSSD/ECA |
| 10. Mr. Yinka Adeyemi | Communication Officer, ICS/ECA |
| 11. Mr. Hamdou Wane | Economic Affairs Officer, FSSD/ECA |
| 12. Mr. Charles Akol | Environmental Affairs Officer, FSSD/ECA |
| 13. Mr. Medhat El Helepi | Economic Affairs Officer, FSSD/ECA |
| 14. Mr. Taro Boel | Associate Economic Affairs officer, FSSD/ECA |
| 15. Mr. Benjamin Banda | Associate Economic Affairs officer, FSSD/ECA |
| 16. Mr. Nega Emiru | Research Assistant, FSSD, ECA |
| 17. Ms. Meseret Arega | Research Assistant, ECA |
| 18. Mr. Franck Ndefo | Intern, FSSD/ECA |

Agenda

- 1. Welcoming remarks by ECA**
- 2. Remarks by the Chair**

3. Selected implemented activities related to key outcomes of ACSD-5

- a. Land Policy Initiative
- b. Support for the implementation of CAADP
- c. Sustainable Modernization of Agriculture for Rural Transformation (SMART) Project
- d. Sustainable Development Report on Africa

4. Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa) Programme and its African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC)

5. Outcomes of the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

6. CFSSD-6 preparatory process and suggested title for the session

7. Any other business

8. Closing remarks

Welcoming remarks

Mr. Josué Dioné, Director of the Food Security and Sustainable Development (FSSD) Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), welcomed Bureau members to the meeting. He extended a special welcome to the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, who had received a special invitation to the meeting on account of Jamahiriya's position as the Vice-Chair from the Africa region of the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-18), and its current position of its President as the Chairperson of the African Union. He expressed his sincere appreciation for their participation given the many competing demands on their time. He pointed out that the objectives of the meeting were twofold. Firstly, to brief the Bureau on implementation of selected activities related to key outcomes of ACSD-5; and to solicit their guidance on the preparations for CFSSD-6, to be held from 27 to 30 October 2009.

Remarks by the Chair

The chairperson of the Bureau, Ms. Beatrice Karago, representing Kenya, introduced the Bureau members present, namely Namibia (1st Vice-Chair), Sudan (3rd Vice-Chair) and Senegal (Rapporteur). She extended a warm welcome to the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Ms. Karago stressed the importance of food security and sustainable development in realizing Africa's peace, growth and development objectives. She expressed the full support of her Jamahiriya Government to ECA efforts to contribute to the reduction of poverty and hunger in Africa. She then invited the Bureau members to consider the agenda for adoption. The agenda was adopted without amendments.

Briefs on selected activities undertaken by ECA related to key outcomes of ACSD-5

The chairperson invited the secretariat to brief the Bureau on activities undertaken to implement key outcomes of ACSD-5 and on preparations for CFSSD-6.

1- Land Policy Initiative

In relation to the implementation of the AUC/ECA/AfDB Land Policy Initiative, ECA provided technical leadership by conducting five subregional reviews and five consultative workshops which resulted in the formulation of the Africa Land Policy Framework and Guidelines (ALPFG), Benchmarks and Indicators. The framework was officially adopted by the AU Conference of Ministers in Charge of Land in April 2009 and by the AU Summit in July 2009. Some member States have requested assistance to use the ALPFG to formulate their land policies. ECA, in collaboration with AUC and AfDB, will establish a programme to follow up on the implementation of the approved framework at national level.

2- Support for the implementation of CAADP

ECA has prepared a report that assesses progress made towards the achievement of expected outcomes of CAADP and identifies the future direction of the programme. ECA continues to provide analytical support towards the implementation of CAADP. The Commission is spearheading the implementation of regional agricultural commodity value chains to promote regional integration and foster the development of agriculture and agribusiness in Africa.

3- Sustainable modernization of agriculture and rural transformation

Validation and synthesis expert group meetings on indicators for the assessment of sustainable modernization of agriculture and rural transformation (SMART) readiness and potential were implemented jointly with the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG). Through the SMART project, the Dairy Africa Initiative, an institution that is earmarked to advance the development of dairy production in Africa, was established. Member States are actively advancing SMART through subregional ad hoc steering groups, a network of SMART experts, and country focal points.

4- Sustainable Development Report on Africa

The third issue of the Sustainable Development Report on Africa (SDRA), one of the flagship publications of ECA, will be jointly produced with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) under the theme “Sustainable consumption and production for sustainable growth and poverty reduction”. The thematic reports from which the chapters of SDRA will be derived have already been produced. UNEP produced the report on sustainable consumption production, UNIDO produced the reports on chemicals and waste management, and ECA produced the reports on mining and transport. The draft reports were reviewed by an ad hoc expert group meeting on monitoring and assessing progress on sustainable development in Africa in June 2009. The draft SDRA to be produced will be subjected to internal and external peer reviews prior to finalization and production by December 2009.

Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa) Programme and its African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC)

The Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa) Programme was developed by the African Union Commission (AUC), ECA and the African Development Bank (AfDB) in collaboration with the secretariat of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). The programme has received political endorsement at the highest level. The overall goal of ClimDev-Africa is to promote the sustainable attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and overall sustainable development in Africa. More specifically, the programme sets out to scale up the capacities of key institutions and stakeholders with a view to improving climate-related data and observation, information services, policies, investment processes and risk-management practices in climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture, water and other natural resources, energy and health.

ClimDev-Africa will be implemented at the regional, subregional and national levels with the active involvement of the RECs, regional and subregional climate institutions, river/lake basin organizations, national weather, climate and water services and other public authorities, research institutions, civil society organizations and the media. The programme implementation rests on two key instruments: the ECA-based African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) as its policy arm, and the AfDB-based Special Climate Change Funding Mechanism, as its financial arm.

Within the framework of ACPC and with support from the United Kingdom's Department of International Development (DFID), ECA has been supporting Africa's preparations towards Copenhagen. Activities include support to the Algiers meeting in November 2009, whose main outcome was the African Climate Platform to Copenhagen. ECA also provided technical and financial support for the third special session of AMCEN on climate change. The outcomes of the special session included the updated Algiers platform and ministerial decisions pertaining to the ongoing climate change negotiations towards Copenhagen and the elaboration of framework subregional climate change programmes.

Furthermore, ECA provided technical support to the third "Financing for Development" (F4D) Conference, held in Kigali, in May 2009, under the theme of climate change. In September 2009, it hosted the Special Session of the Africa Partnership Forum on Climate Change, to which it provided technical and financial support, and the Regional Conference on Enhancing the Potential of the Clean Development Mechanism in Africa. Several other activities are lined up for October and November, including the Africa preparatory meeting for the fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP-15)

Outcomes of the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

The seventeenth session of CSD (CSD-17) adopted policy options and other practical measures to expedite food security and sustainable development. ECA made a major contribution by highlighting and articulating Africa's sustainable development challenges and priorities at the review and policy sessions of CSD. Africa's contribution to CSD helped shape and facilitate dialogue on the thematic issues of agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and "Africa." Africa was the only region with an articulated statement at CSD. This was highly commended and regarded as a best practice.

CFSSD-6 preparatory process

The sixth session of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development (CFSSD-6) will take place at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 27 to 30 October 2009 under the theme: “Sustainable consumption and production for sustainable growth and poverty reduction”.

About one hundred and sixty invitation letters have been sent out. Although some confirmations of attendance have been received, many member States are yet to confirm. A meeting website has been created to provide information on the session. All background documents – aid-mémoire, information note, provisional agenda, annotated agenda, provisional programme, registration form and evaluation form – have been posted on the website. Working documents have been prepared and are being translated into French.

UNDESA is providing round-trip economy-class tickets for the thirteen African countries that are members of CSD to attend the RIM. This has been communicated to the countries; however, only three had confirmed their participation as at the time of the Bureau meeting. Bureau members were urged to encourage all their colleagues to confirm their participation in CFSSD-6 as well as in the RIM.

In preparation for CFSSD-6, ECA will conduct a briefing meeting for the African diplomatic missions in Ethiopia on 8 October (now rescheduled for 7 October), to sensitize member States to participate in CFSSD-6. The agenda of the briefing meeting was presented to the Bureau members for their consideration. It was agreed that the main highlights of the Bureau meeting will be presented at the briefing meeting.

Discussions

The Chair of the Bureau invited members to raise any comments, questions or observations.

The member from Namibia, Mr. David Amutenya, expressed his appreciation of the briefing by the secretariat. He commended the achievements of ECA in supporting Africa to realize its poverty reduction and sustainable development aspirations. He noted that the meeting provided a good account of the activities that had been undertaken towards the organization of CFSSD-6.

He said that land utilization had a substantial impact on food security, thus proper land management that enabled high agricultural productivity was essential for food security. He lauded countries that had achieved food security such as Malawi and Nigeria and indicated that the experiences of those countries should systematically be shared with other member States. He opined that African countries should provide subsidies to the agricultural sector to boost production and productivity, as well as to enhance the competitiveness of agricultural exports in the face of highly subsidized exports from the developed countries. He stated that Namibia would be interested to learn from the experiences of other African countries on land distribution so as to gain insights into how to efficiently resolve its chronic land distribution dilemma. He stressed the importance of Africa speaking with one voice in international forums. In concluding, he urged all Bureau members to sensitize the African diplomatic community to the importance of participating in CFSSD-6.

The member from the Sudan, Mr. Christopher Kwajok, noted with satisfaction the efforts made by ECA to implement the Land Policy Initiative, culminating in the adoption of the Land Policy Framework by the AU Summit. He noted that endorsing the Land Policy Framework at the highest level was essential to securing the political will and attracting the necessary resources for implementation. He commended ECA and its partners for developing the Land Policy Framework, as many countries lack an effective policy on land utilization. He urged African countries to place the land framework in the heart of agricultural development plans, so as to accelerate the realization of expected benefits. He enquired whether in implementing a follow-up mechanism, ECA would ensure that the approved Land Policy Framework will be translated into effective land policies at the national level. He expressed the hope that the policy framework had taken into consideration factors that could substantially influence land utilization, including population displacement and livestock movement.

Further, he confirmed that his embassy had received the invitation to the upcoming CFSSD-6 and that feedback was being awaited from the capital. He expressed the Sudan's commitment to play an active role in sensitizing the African diplomatic community to the importance of the upcoming meeting. He advised the secretariat that special invitations should be sent to the 13 African countries of CSD to enable them to take advantage of the ticket being provided by UNDESA. Finally, he urged ECA to provide hard copies of the documents to be presented at the CFSSD-6 well in advance of the meeting, to give delegates ample time to prepare for the meeting.

In his response to the comments and observations made by Bureau members, Mr. Dioné expressed his gratitude for the sentiments of appreciation directed at the secretariat about the organization of the Bureau meeting and the achievements registered. He then provided the following response to the specific issues raised.

The recently endorsed Land Policy Framework was developed based on two main processes. The first included conducting subregional review assessments, during which existing land policies of member States were reviewed and assessed. The second entailed presentations of the findings of the review assessments to stakeholders for validation. These steps ensured that the framework captured the different situations that prevailed in different regions. Further, the development of the framework was guided by three principles, namely, land policy must indicate support for the most efficient utilization of land; land policy should ensure social equity; and land policy should guarantee environmental protection. A land policy that incorporates these three principles would certainly ensure efficient, fair and sustainable land utilization.

There is an urgent need to adopt regional integration and abolish inconsistent policies that have led to poor intra-regional trade in Africa. In this context, Africa should take lessons from other parts of the world such as the European Union (EU) and the North African Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) that have adopted regional trade liberalization. Regional integration has contributed to successful agricultural development in these regions, where common markets have been established. Facilitating intra-regional trade would provide a huge market for local farmers to the tune of US\$150 billion.

On the implementation of the Land Policy Framework, ECA, in collaboration with AUC and AfDB, is planning to provide advisory services and technical assistance, and to mobilize resources for member States. In this regard, the Department for International Development (DFID), the

European Community (EC), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) have expressed their readiness to provide funds to assist African countries translate the Land Policy Framework into effective, implementable policies at the national level. Kenya was cited as a good example of a country that has used the Policy Framework to formulate a draft national land policy. In concluding, Mr. Dioné said that the Land Policy Framework will be circulated widely once published.

In addition to being a threat to peace, climate change is a major factor that will determine the shape of the development map in Africa in the decades to come through its impact on land and its pattern of utilization.

The secretariat confirmed that a special invitation had been issued to the 13 African countries of CSD, and promised to make efforts to ensure that the meeting documents are posted on the website in a timely manner.

Any other business

No other matter was considered under this agenda item.

Closing remarks

The Bureau Chair thanked ECA for organizing the meeting and for the comprehensive briefing on activities undertaken to implement key outcomes of ACSD-5, as well as for the preparations towards CFSSD-6. She expressed satisfaction with the fruitful deliberations and reiterated that food security and sustainable development were curial issues for Africa that should continue to be given special attention.

Mr. Dioné thanked Bureau members for their participation and useful guidance on issues of importance to the work of the secretariat.