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**Draft report of the Review of the ECA NEPAD and  
Regional Integration Division – NRID,  
Work Programme, including Priorities for the  
next biennium 2010-2011**

## **I. Activities undertaken during the 2008-2009 biennium**

The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) continues to provide significant institutional support to the NEPAD programme through a fully dedicated Secretariat. The overall objective of ECA's support is to strengthen the United Nations system-wide support for the implementation of NEPAD at the regional and subregional levels in Africa, by improving the processes, contents and outcomes of UN system action in support of the implementation of NEPAD. Activities in this regard are organized in four complementary areas.

1. Activities meant to enhance coherence, coordination and cooperation among United Nations agencies in support of the implementation of NEPAD at the regional and subregional levels. These activities are mainly to:
  - Create awareness and bring better alignment of UN programmes and activities with NEPAD priorities;
  - Improve the coherence and coordination of NEPAD-related support provided by the United Nations System; and
  - Establish joint activities and programmes in support of NEPAD at the regional and subregional levels.
2. Activities meant to improve cooperation and coordination between United Nations agencies and African continental organizations (African Union, African Development Bank and the Regional Economic Communities) for the effective implementation of NEPAD at the regional and subregional levels. These are basically jointly programmed and/or implemented activities in support of NEPAD at the subregional and regional levels.
3. Activities to strengthen capacities of regional and subregional organizations in support of NEPAD. These include support, including capacity enhancement activities, to regional and subregional organizations in establishing and implementing programmes in support of NEPAD (African Union Commission, Regional Economic Communities and the NEPAD Secretariat).
4. Activities meant to increase advocacy for NEPAD at the regional and subregional levels.

### **Collaboration with other UN agencies in Support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)**

ECA's cooperation and collaboration with other UN agencies and organizations in support of NEPAD is carried out in the context of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM). ECA has put in place a Unit - the RCM Secretariat - dedicated to coordinate UN support to NEPAD. This Unit has been quite proactive in terms of follow-up on the implementation of RCM recommendations, facilitating networking and consultations. The overall coordination of UN support to the AU and its NEPAD programme has been enhanced and strengthened. The RCM process has gained an important momentum having been

transformed into a veritable “Regional Coordination Mechanism” at the Ninth meeting of the RCM that took place on 21 and 22 October 2008.

The Ninth meeting provided the opportunity to build on the achievements of previous RCM Meetings and to deepen partnership with the AU Commission, the AfDB, the Regional Economic Communities and the NEPAD Secretariat. The level of attendance at RCM meetings has increased over the years. The Ninth meeting attracted 197 participants and was chaired by the UN Deputy Secretary-General and co-chaired by representatives of African organizations. UN agencies were represented at the level of the Deputy Secretary-General, the ASG for Political Affairs, Regional Directors/Representatives, Directors and senior staff. The Ninth Meeting of the RCM considered two important issues – the food crisis and climate change – and agreed that UN response to the related challenges should take a coordinated and multisectoral approach built around the African Union’s CAADP programme and ECA’s ClimDev project, respectively.

The RCM has nine thematic clusters serving as its operational arms. The clusters identify and implement activities in support of the AU and its NEPAD programme. The RCM Secretariat is closely involved in cluster activities. It participates in most of the cluster meetings, including those meetings held outside Addis Ababa; it provides Secretariat support to cluster meetings as well as updates and clarifications on the implementation of the recommendations of RCM meetings. It regularly shares the minutes of cluster meetings and other relevant information with all agencies and African regional and subregional organizations participating in the RCM process to facilitate information and to keep everyone at the same level of information and to encourage clusters to promote inter-cluster dialogue that could spur the implementation of joint activities. All clusters are increasingly looking at ways of undertaking joint activities and programmes within clusters and between clusters. They are preparing multiyear business plans to pave the way for clusters to work together around joint activities and programmes. Cluster meetings have become more structured and more regular and minutes of these meetings are widely circulated enabling improved communication among UN agencies and between these agencies and African organizations and increased participation of these organizations in cluster meetings. Cluster activities are having tangible impacts on the implementation of key regional development agenda and on the institutional landscape to support the AU and its NEPAD programme.

Good examples of strong interactions, strengthened coordination and collaboration between RCM clusters on the one hand and between the latter and relevant Departments of the AUC on the other are: The Year of the African Youth; the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child; the AU Summit on Water and Sanitation; activities on Internally Displaced Persons; interagency meetings on coordination and harmonization of HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria policies and strategies; the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP); Science & Technology policies, Joint Annual Meetings of the AU and ECA; ADF VI; and the 60th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights. The RCM focus on emerging issues of food crisis and climate change will sharpen the focus of cluster activities, improve coordination and increase interaction within and among clusters.

ECA is the convenor of the RCM cluster on Infrastructure. The membership of the cluster is composed of AfDB, AUC, FAO, IAEA, IMO, ITU, the NEPAD Secretariat, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UN-HABITAT, UPU, WHO/WAC, WIPO, WMO, the World Bank and ECA. The cluster has four sub-clusters dealing with water, energy, transport and ICT. This cluster has a strong engagement in the activities of the AUC

and the relevant African Ministerial Conferences and institutions. The sub-cluster on water has developed a strategic partnership with the African Ministers' Council on Water, the Water Units of the Regional Economic Communities, the Water and Sanitation Department of ADB and the Water and Energy Section of the NEPAD Secretariat. It has fully aligned its activities with the water and sanitation agenda set by the continents lending institutions in the areas of water and sanitation. In energy, the sub-cluster activities are informed by the AU and NEPAD priorities. It includes direct assistance to these two bodies as, for example, in the formulation of the Africa Energy Vision 2030 (which the AUC leads) and in the provision of capacity building for regional integration (proposed by the NEPAD Secretariat). In ICT, the sub-Cluster played an important role in the adoption by the AU of the African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE) as its ICT Action plan for the next 10 years. ARAPKE, which is part of the Ten Year AU Capacity Building Programme was developed by ECA with full support of all sub-cluster members and was endorsed by the European Commission as its cooperation framework with Africa and subsequently approved funding of 3 of the ARAPKE projects for the amount of US\$ 9,912,270.00. Other major actions by the sub-cluster are the implementation of the Connect Africa Summit Goals led by ITU with involvement of all sub-cluster members and the international private sector; and the development of harmonized regulatory frameworks and e-strategies for RECs to enable their respective countries enter the Knowledge Economy smoothly with compatible standards and guidelines. In terms of tangible results of these actions, model bills and guidelines on ICT have been adopted at RECs level, hence eliminating at the country level duplication of activities and re-inventing the wheels, thus saving resources and time. In the context of ARAPKE, templates for project design and project selection criteria were approved at the regional level, thus facilitating submission of ICT projects to partners worldwide. The transport sub-cluster continuously supported the AUC in developing a consolidated plan of action for the transport sector in the various modes by making substantive contributions at the concept and formulation stages.

### **Institutional Support by ECA to the NEPAD Secretariat**

ECA enjoys a close working relationship with the NEPAD Secretariat on the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat on 01 September 2006. ECA's programmes reflect the nature and scope of its support to the NEPAD programme, including analytical studies, advisory services, policy advocacy and capacity building. ECA, through its RCM Secretariat, participates actively in meetings organized by the NEPAD Secretariat and provides technical advice and inputs. It regularly holds consultations with and attends meetings of the NEPAD Secretariat and vice versa. Within this framework, ECA plans to support the NEPAD Secretariat with technical expertise.

### **Advocacy work by ECA in support of the development vision of NEPAD**

As part of its biennial programme of work, ECA carried out a number of activities supporting Africa's development. These activities ranging from intergovernmental to expert meetings, from flagship publications to promotional materials, from technical cooperation to joint activities carried out in collaboration with African organizations play a major advocacy role by deliberating on and recommending solutions to key development challenges in Africa, in line with the development vision of NEPAD.

Technical cooperation activities such as workshops, seminars and training courses were carried out to enhance awareness on the many sectoral issues under the focus of NEPAD. Advisory missions were also carried out to raise awareness, build capacity and garner support for the implementation of NEPAD-related programmes and activities at national, regional and sub regional levels.

As a strategic partner of the APRM process, ECA promoted international understanding of the APRM concept and the peer review process by (i) providing guidance for the review of the APRM methodology and instruments, (ii) advocating for the integration of APRM National Plans of Action (NPoA), with existing national development strategies, and providing a strategic financing framework for the PoA by devising a costing; (iii) making presentations at many forums; and (iv) actively participating in country review missions.

In the context of its NEPAD Support Unit, ECA established the knowledge-networking platform in July 2008 and enabled e-discussion around the RCM thematic areas for increased coordination and collaboration. The platform is also used to facilitate and enhance knowledge sharing and collaboration among and between clusters.

## II. Priorities for the 2010-2011 biennium

### (a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB):

#### Substantive servicing of meetings

- Annual session of the regional coordination mechanism (RCM) of United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the implementation of NEPAD
- Functional support to enhanced cooperation among UN agencies at the sub-regional level

#### Parliamentary documentation

- Report to the annual session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) of United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of African Union and its NEPAD programme
- Report to the annual meetings of the ministerial session of ECA sub-regional offices on United Nations system-wide support to AU and for the implementation of NEPAD at the sub-regional level

#### Ad hoc expert group meetings on:

- Strengthening the United Nations regional coordination mechanism and its cluster system for an effective UN support for the vision and priorities of the African Union and its NEPAD programmes
- Enhancing the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) process

Substantive servicing of inter-agency meetings

- Functional support for meetings of the nine United Nations thematic clusters of the regional coordination mechanism in support of NEPAD
- Functional support for meetings organized within the context of enhancing UN-AU cooperation: framework for the ten-year capacity-building programme for the African Union

**(b) Other substantive activities (RB/XB):**

Non-recurrent publications

- Enhancing coherence and coordination among United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the implementation of the United Nations/African Union cooperation programme and NEPAD
- Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits: booklets and others promotional materials highlighting best practices as well as effective joint projects and programmes in support of the African Union and the implementation of NEPAD

Technical material

- Development and maintenance of e-discussions among United Nations thematic clusters on NEPAD in order to improve intra-cluster dialogue and facilitate cross-sectoral programming and implementation within clusters
- Maintenance of a website on United Nations system-wide support to AU and NEPAD: United Nations agencies working in Africa

**(c) Technical cooperation**

Advisory services

- Advancing the NEPAD programme and action plans
- Implementation of United Nations/African Union cooperation within the framework of the 10 year capacity-building programme for the African Union
- Support to the African Peer Review Mechanism countries in the implementation of national programme of action

Training courses, seminars and workshops

- Advocacy and outreach activities for NEPAD in collaboration with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the Department of Public Information, the United Nations Development Programme, the NEPAD secretariat and the regional economic communities