

**EIGHTH ANNUAL REGIONAL CONSULTATION MEETING OF UN
AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS WORKING IN AFRICA IN
SUPPORT OF THE AFRICAN UNION AND NEPAD**

5-6 November 2007

**Implementation of the Recommendations of
the Seventh Regional Consultation Meeting**

Draft Progress Report

1. INTRODUCTION

1. As part of its reform agenda, the United Nations prioritized improved coherence in the activities of its various agencies at the regional level, leading to the establishment of regional consultative meetings among its agencies working in the five regions of the world. In 1997, the General Assembly mandated the regional commissions to take leadership of and responsibility for coordination of United Nations activities at the regional level. The overall purpose was to promote synergy and coordination among United Nations agencies and institutions in order to improve their collective response in addressing the priority needs of each of the five regions.

2. In the case of Africa, successive resolutions on improving United Nations coordination led to the adoption of a number of system-wide initiatives. A review of the implementation of these initiatives shows that although their goals and objectives were defined at the regional level, the practical mechanisms for their integration into the programmes of the various United Nations agencies at the country level were often not sufficiently articulated. Following the launching of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) by African leaders in 2001, the United Nations General Assembly adopted it as the framework within which the international community, including the United Nations system, should concentrate its efforts for Africa's development.

3. This led to the holding of six successive regional consultation meetings. The 7th Regional Consultation Meeting (RCM), which took place in Addis Ababa in November 2006, adopted a set of recommendations for strengthening United Nations system-wide support for the implementation of NEPAD. The purpose of this progress report is to take stock of the implementation of those recommendations and to identify areas that need significant improvement. The report first provides an overview of the RCMs and then focuses on the progress in implementing the recommendations of the 7th RCM.

2. OVERVIEW OF UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM-WIDE SUPPORT FOR NEPAD AND THE REGIONAL CONSULTATION MECHANISM

4. After the adoption of NEPAD by the General Assembly, each United Nations institution and agency was requested to examine how it should respond to the priorities of NEPAD, particularly in the light of the need to work with African countries and their regional organizations. General Assembly resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002 called upon the United Nations system, within respective mandates, to "align its activities in Africa with the priorities of the New Partnership" and "to organize the activities of the United Nations system around thematic clusters covering the priority areas of the New Partnership." The resolution further urged the strengthening of this process as a means of ensuring a coordinated response of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership. In this endeavour, it emphasized the need to strengthen the advocacy role and public information activities in support of Africa's development; work closely with the African Union (AU) and other regional and subregional organizations; mobilize financial resources for Africa's development; strengthen coordination and programming mechanisms, and enhance the simplification and harmonization of planning, disbursement and reporting procedures of the United Nations system.

5. In December 2003, the General Assembly requested the United Nations system to actively intensify its efforts to develop and implement joint programmes in support of NEPAD at the regional level. The General Assembly also requested the United Nations system to continue providing assistance to the NEPAD Secretariat and to African countries in developing projects

and programmes in line with the priorities of the New Partnership. To this end, it developed a framework to operationalize the support for NEPAD at the global, regional and national levels.

6. At the global level, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA) at United Nations Headquarters was tasked with the role of global advocacy for NEPAD and reporting to intergovernmental bodies on the progress made by United Nations system organizations in providing support to NEPAD. At the regional level, the RCMs of the United Nations agencies working in Africa convened by ECA became the mechanism for coordinating United Nations support to NEPAD. At the country level, existing Common Country Assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework (CCA/UNDAF) coordination mechanisms, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and other national strategies, particularly those related to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), continued to be used through the United Nations Resident Coordinator system and the United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs).

7. The United Nations system has demonstrated its commitment to using the existing coordination mechanisms, especially the regional consultation mechanism, as a forum for promoting cooperation and collaboration. Efforts have been made by the United Nations system to adopt a coherent framework based on existing programming and coordination mechanisms, in support of NEPAD at global, regional, subregional and national levels.

8. Given its mandate to coordinate United Nations support for NEPAD, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has convened seven RCMs during which notable progress has been reported and work programmes agreed upon. The 3rd RCM held in October 2001 in Addis Ababa decided that NEPAD constituted a framework and vision for the United Nations system to improve its collective response to the challenges facing Africa. During the 4th RCM, five thematic clusters were established around the priority areas of NEPAD. By the 6th RCM, the inter-agency thematic clusters had increased to seven. A consolidated cluster report was also prepared for the meeting that highlighted a wide range of activities undertaken during the preceding two years.

Table 1: Evolution of the regional consultation meetings

	Date	Attendance	Clusters
4th RCM	24-25 October 2002	28 United Nations agencies African Development Bank, African Union; and International Organization for Migration as observer	Infrastructure Development; Governance; Peace and Security; Agriculture, Trade and Market Access; Environment, Population and Urbanization; Human Resources Development, Employment and HIV/AIDS
5th RCM	15-16 May 2003		-----
6th RCM	9-10 July 2004	30 organizations	Science and Technology; Advocacy and Communication;
7th RCM	14-15 November 2006	39 United Nations agencies and institutions	Peace and Security; Industry, Trade and Market Access

9. At the 7th RCM, the number of thematic clusters increased to nine with the formation of the Peace and Security cluster and the Industry, Trade and Market Access cluster. The meeting provided a basis for advancing the agenda and coordinating United Nations support for NEPAD, from debate, assessments and recommendations to tangible actions. It also provided a platform for improved cooperation and coordination between United Nations agencies and African continental organizations, such as the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the regional economic communities (RECs).

10. Since their establishment, these clusters have carried out numerous activities in support of NEPAD implementation. Nevertheless, a critical assessment of their performance and that of the RCM as a whole reveals that much more needs to be done to enhance the coherence and coordination of United Nations system-wide support for NEPAD. For instance, cross-sectoral collaboration needs to be improved and cross-cutting issues such as HIV/AIDS, gender and human rights need to be mainstreamed into all cluster activities. Resources also need to be mobilized to enable United Nations agencies and institutions to assist in building the capacity of the RECs, AUC and the NEPAD Secretariat. The regional consultation mechanism needs to be strengthened by clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of the various agencies operating at the regional and subregional levels in Africa, to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication.

11. To this end, a number of internal reviews¹ were conducted and the key issues and concerns as well as the recommendations raised in the different reports were the focus of the 7th RCM. To move forward and accelerate United Nations support for NEPAD implementation, the 8th RCM must assess progress made in implementing the recommendations of the 7th RCM.

3. PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 7TH RCM

12. This progress report is organized around the key themes and policy issues identified by the 7th RCM as being crucial to strengthening United Nations system-wide support for the implementation of NEPAD. They include strengthening regional coordination; revitalizing the cluster system; fostering coordination and integration of United Nations activities at the subregional level; improving United Nations relationships with continental and subregional organizations; enhancing capacity and mobilizing resources to implement recommendations and improve collaboration in support of AU/NEPAD. The recommendations of the 7th RCM are outlined in Annex 2.

3.1 Strengthening coordination of United Nations support for AU and NEPAD

13. The 7th RCM stressed the importance of strengthening coordination at the regional level and recommended the following:

3.1.1 ECA should move from a convener to a strategic coordinator of the RCM

14. ECA has indeed moved from being a convener to a strategic coordinator of the cluster system. It co-organized the launch and inaugural meeting of the newly created ninth cluster -

¹ These reviews include the Second Report of the Secretary-General's Advisory Panel on International Support to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (2006); The report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Further Measures to Strengthen United Nations System Support to the New Partnership for Africa's Development" (2005); and the ECA report entitled "Assessment of United Nations System support to NEPAD: Rethinking the Collective Approach" (2004).

Industry, Trade and Market Access – and assisted in establishing the Peace and Security cluster. In addition, it played a role in rekindling and revitalizing the Human Resources Development, Employment and HIV/AIDS cluster. ECA is more actively involved in encouraging the collaborative efforts of the cluster. It participates in cluster meetings and has provided secretarial support when requested. ECA has participated in all the meetings of the Peace and Security; Human Resources Development, Employment and HIV/AIDS; Advocacy and Communication; and Environment, Population and Urbanization clusters.

3.1.2 Meetings should be more frequent and more predictable—at least once a year

15. The RCM has become more regular and is now held once a year. The 7th RCM was held on 14 to 15 November 2006 and the 8th is scheduled for 5 to 6 November 2007. As recommended, the RCM continues to be held in Addis Ababa to facilitate attendance and participation.

3.1.3 AU should participate more prominently in the RCM and at the technical level

16. The AU co-chaired and participated in the 7th RCM, a practice it will continue at this year's RCM. The Chairperson of the AUC and AU commissioners have been invited to the 8th RCM. At the technical level, AU has been participating in the work of the clusters. It is particularly active and works closely with the Peace and Security; Industry, Trade and Market Access; and Human Resources Development, Employment and HIV/AIDS clusters.

3.1.4 The RECs should be invited to the RCMs

17. All of the heads of the eight RECs officially recognized by AU have been invited to take part in the deliberations.

3.2 Cluster revitalization

3.2.1 Clusters should mainstream gender and youth as well as capacity-building into their support for AU and NEPAD and monitor such actions accordingly

18. Based on information received from the clusters, there are no indications that efforts to mainstream gender, youth and capacity-building have been systematically built into the support that the clusters have provided to AU and NEPAD. Moreover, there is no evidence that these actions have been monitored.

3.2.2 The cluster system should be reviewed and revitalized for greater efficiency and effectiveness

19. One of the key recommendations was that ECA should conduct a review of the cluster system to improve its operational efficiency and effectiveness. In this regard, ECA hired an external consultant to conduct the review. The consultant's report was based on documentary review and a questionnaire survey. It was subsequently reviewed and revised and served as the basis for an *ad hoc* expert group meeting. The report was discussed during two days of meetings by experts from the NEPAD Secretariat, RECs, AfDB, member States, the private sector and United Nations agencies, including subregional offices (SROs) of ECA. The deliberations provided an opportunity to better understand the cluster-based approach and concluded with a number of findings and recommendations to improve United Nations system-wide support for NEPAD implementation, which will be tabled at the 8th RCM.

3.2.3 Each cluster should:

- Have its meetings co-chaired by a representative of AUC or the NEPAD Secretariat;
- Have a convener and vice-convener;
- Be refined to have sub-clusters;
- Develop its own operating rules and procedures;
- Align its programmes and resources with AU and NEPAD priorities;
- Implement specific jointly planned programmes/projects; and
- Submit reports on its activities to ECA.

20. The table below shows the progress made in implementing this recommendation. A reporting format was prepared and sent to cluster conveners to elicit information and gauge progress made in implementing the recommendations of the 7th RCM. Based on the responses obtained from the clusters, a comprehensive progress report was to be prepared. However, a consolidated cluster report is not available because some cluster reports were not received. The table shows that the majority of clusters have not submitted a progress and/or activity report as of 26 October that would allow for the monitoring of their progress in implementing the recommendations of the 7th RCM.

21. Three out of the nine thematic clusters have managed to meet at least twice a year and to develop rules and procedures to govern their operations. Apart from the Science and Technology; Environment, Population and Urbanization; and Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development clusters, all the remaining clusters have been refined into sub-clusters. Only one third of the clusters have implemented jointly planned programmes and projects and have made progress in aligning their programmes and resources with NEPAD priorities. A representative of AU or the NEPAD Secretariat served as co-chair at meetings of two clusters.

Table 2: Progress in implementing the recommendations on cluster revitalization as of 24 October 2007

Clusters	Created sub clusters as needed	Meetings co-chaired by a representative of AU/NEPAD Secretariat	Has convener and vice-convener	Met at least twice a year	Developed rules and procedures	Aligned programmes & resources with NEPAD priorities	Implemented joint programmes	Mainstreamed cross-cutting issues, gender, youth and capacity-building	Submitted reports to ECA
INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT WATER AND SANITATION ENERGY TRANSPORT AND ICTS	WATER ENERGY ICT TRANSPORT		✓		✓	✓			
			✓		✓	✓	✓		
			✓		✓	✓			
			✓		✓	✓	✓		
GOVERNANCE									
HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND HIV/AIDS	HUMAN RESOURCES EMPLOYMENT HIV/AIDS	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
			✓			✓	✓		✓
			✓			✓	✓		✓
ENVIRONMENT, POPULATION AND URBANIZATION						✓			
AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY & RURAL DEVELOPMENT			✓					✓	
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY									
ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATIONS			✓	✓	✓				✓
PEACE AND SECURITY	PEACE AND SECURITY ARCHITECTURE OF THE AU POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT HUMAN RIGHTS, JUSTICE, AND RECONCILIATION		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
			✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
INDUSTRY, TRADE AND MARKET ACCESS			✓						

3.3 Subregional coordination and integration of United Nations activities

22. The 7th RCM adopted the following recommendations for fostering subregional coordination of support to the AU vision and NEPAD programmes.

3.3.1 ECA subregional offices should bring other United Nations agencies together in support of AU/NEPAD at the subregional level

23. ECA subregional offices have taken various actions to implement the recommendations of the 7th RCM on subregional coordination, such as developing issue papers and undertaking discussions with United Nations agencies in their respective subregions, particularly those with subregional presence. For example, initial discussions have taken place at SRO North Africa on improving coordination of United Nations activities at the subregional level and aligning them with existing country mechanisms. Meetings have been held with heads of United Nations regional and subregional offices, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), etc. At the Arab States/Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Regional Directors Team (RDT) and UNCT meeting scheduled to take place in Cairo from 22 to 25 November 2007, SRO North Africa intends to address United Nations support for NEPAD as well as coherence in United Nations activities in the Arab States/MENA region. SRO North Africa is facing difficulties in its efforts to bring together United Nations agencies, because countries in its region are considered part of the MENA region and are not mobilized for or even aware of the dynamics of United Nations involvement in NEPAD. SRO Southern Africa has also undertaken preliminary discussions to galvanize United Nations agencies in order to support NEPAD implementation in the subregion, and is compiling an inventory of United Nations agencies' activities. It is currently in the process of finalizing the memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Southern African Development Community (SADC) and exploring the feasibility of a SADC/United Nations MOU under the custodianship of the Regional Director. SRO East Africa co-organized an East African NEPAD meeting in which subregional harmonization of efforts featured prominently.

24. The Central Africa SRO has gone the furthest in bringing together United Nations agencies to support NEPAD at the subregional level. A meeting with United Nations agencies will be held in November 2007 to discuss the establishment of the subregional framework for the implementation of NEPAD and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Central Africa. Moreover, the SRO is involved in a committee composed of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic and Monetary Union of Central Africa (CEMAC), AfDB and AUC to bolster the deliberations on the rationalization and harmonization of cooperation mechanisms which would ultimately establish one REC in the subregion.

3.3.2 ECA should consult with other United Nations agencies and the NEPAD Secretariat and coordinate discussions on the needs of RECs

25. ECA has held both formal and informal consultations in this regard within the framework of the existing cluster mechanism and through the MOU with the NEPAD Secretariat. As a follow-up to the signing of the MOU, formal consultations have taken place to discuss issues of subregional coordination. At each Intergovernmental Committee of Experts meeting organized by the SROs, ECA presentations have emphasized and highlighted the need and importance of developing a subregional coordination mechanism.

26. Deliberations on a subregional mechanism were conducted at an *ad hoc* expert group meeting organized by ECA from 10 to 11 October 2007 and attended by five RECs. As a first step, it was recommended that a clearing house be established for information collection and

dissemination on all issues pertaining to NEPAD and the operations of the United Nations cluster system in support of NEPAD.

27. Consultations between ECA and subregional stakeholders reveal that there is agreement on the importance of coordinating United Nations support to NEPAD at the subregional level. However, several challenges that may impede this effort have been identified. For instance, it is difficult to align programmes because most of the United Nations agencies operate at the national level. In addition, SROs and United Nations agencies working at the subregional level need to find ways of aligning their programmes with those of RECs that have their own mandates established by their member countries.

28. Given the importance and centrality of the RECs to the implementation of NEPAD at the subregional level, further reflection is needed to explore the best mechanism for coordinating subregional support for NEPAD, and to establish linkages between the work of the clusters at the RCM level, the RECs at the subregional level and processes at the national level through the UNCTs.

3.3.3 A subregional coordination mechanism and knowledge and information management system should be developed

29. From the preceding discussions, it is clear that the recommendation to develop a subregional coordination mechanism has not been accomplished. All the SROs, with the exception of Central Africa, are still at the initial stages of bringing other United Nations agencies together in support of AU/NEPAD at the subregional level.

30. ECA has developed a knowledge management strategy and is currently piloting its knowledge platform. Based on the pilot, the portal is expected to be rolled out to support the entire cluster system and provide a common platform for information sharing and collaboration within and between clusters. SROs will be able to use the knowledge management platform and communities of practice as a virtual meeting place and data repository to facilitate information exchange and collaboration. The knowledge and information management system will make information easily accessible, minimize duplication and allow the building of synergies among development actors.

3.3.4 RECs and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) should be targeted to enhance their ability to own and manage the implementation of AU/NEPAD priorities, including: capacity-building, organizational, institutional and legal framework development, and development of action plans to implement two to three activities jointly in support of AU/NEPAD in the subregion

31. Many United Nations agencies and ECA SROs have been involved in capacity-building for the RECs, but a more systematic and better approach is required. A number of United Nations agencies are also providing support to AU and NEPAD and have planned joint activities in that regard.

3.4 *Cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and AU, NEPAD Secretariat, AfDB and the RECs*

3.4.1 Support should be provided to AUC and NEPAD Secretariat, and comprehensive communication and advocacy should be developed for NEPAD

32. The signing of the declaration entitled “Enhancing AU-UN Cooperation: Framework for the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union,” has provided a framework for

United Nations institutions and agencies to support AU. Regular consultations have been taking place between the Executive Secretary of ECA and AUC. As the regional arm of the United Nations in Africa, ECA has repositioned itself to address Africa's present challenges and work with AUC, AfDB, RECs and other development partners to address the continent's priorities. ECA continues to work with AU and AfDB on a range of issues that seek to deepen regional integration and promote infrastructure development on the continent. In collaboration with AU, it has provided technical support to the African Group at World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations, and produced the second edition of the Assessing Regional Integration in Africa (ARIA) report to help strengthen the institutional arrangements for building a strong economic community. United Nations agencies have provided support to the peace-building agenda of the AU Peace and Security Council, as exemplified by the collaborative effort of United Nations institutions in Southern Sudan, Sierra Leone and Burundi in providing post-conflict and recovery support.

33. The normative and operational activities of United Nations agencies and institutions in the Africa region provide strong support to NEPAD. They address NEPAD objectives and priority areas at various levels, not only individually, but also in bilateral partnerships and within their respective clusters. The contribution of the United Nations to NEPAD programmes is not easy to quantify, but it has become apparent that NEPAD is now the main framework through which the United Nations channels its developmental resources to Africa. The 2006-2007 biennial programme shows the nature and scope of United Nations support to NEPAD. In this context, United Nations agencies have implemented activities to promote and accelerate Africa's development, such as analytical studies, advisory services, policy advocacy, capacity-building programmes and technical and organizational activities.

34. The nature of United Nations support to the AU and NEPAD can be categorized as follows: financial, technical and capacity development. For instance, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) contributed \$2.7 million to the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Trust Fund. UNDP has also assisted in establishing local trust funds in Kenya and Rwanda and has provided extensive assistance to the Mechanism's Secretariat for implementation. The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) has seconded a staff member to build the institutional capacity of the NEPAD Secretariat. Technical collaborative support is also provided to the NEPAD Secretariat to develop a framework for the five-year review of NEPAD. ECA has developed a concept paper on the five-year review of NEPAD, which has been shared with the NEPAD Secretariat, OSAA and UNDP office for Africa.

3.4.1.1 Provide comprehensive communication and advocacy for NEPAD

35. It has been identified that communication needs to be enhanced on a number of levels: communication within AU-NEPAD, governments, APRM structures, "programmes" and frameworks, communication of the spirit/vision to create a movement of African citizens and communication beyond Africa.

36. The support for communication and advocacy for NEPAD is of paramount importance, especially as the success stories of NEPAD are not well publicized, leading some to feel that it is irrelevant, dead or dying. With the support of the United Nations Communication and Advocacy cluster, the NEPAD Secretariat has developed a comprehensive communications strategy. A number of initiatives such as workshops and joint publications have been undertaken to improve reporting, promote outreach and raise awareness. For instance, a communication and advocacy workshop was held in Accra with AU, NEPAD Secretariat and other partners on 12-14 April 2007. A brainstorming session was also organized by ECA on 9 October 2007 to allow media experts to deliberate and come to a consensus on critical issues of media strengthening and development in

relation to reporting on NEPAD. The outcomes of the session set the agenda for a forthcoming regional dialogue on NEPAD to be conducted with senior African media personnel.

37. NEPAD Secretariat's NEPAD Dialogue online weekly, DPI's Africa Renewal and Understanding NEPAD brochures and ECA's weekly newsletter NEPAD Briefs, are examples of publications that facilitate information exchange and inform the public.

3.4.2 ECA should advise AUC and NEPAD as appropriate

38. ECA has provided advice to the AUC and the NEPAD Secretariat upon request. The Executive Secretary meets on a regular basis with the Chairperson of AUC and high-level officials of ECA are in constant contact with the AU commissioners. ECA, UNDP and OSAA have actively participated in NEPAD Steering Committee meetings and AU summits, providing technical advice and input. They also participated in the discussions on the integration of NEPAD into AU structures and processes.

3.4.3 Involve AfDB more in the RCM

39. Various agreements have been reached to increase collaboration with AfDB, which has been encouraged to actively participate in the RCM. Since the last RCM, an invitation has been extended to the President of AfDB to attend the annual consultative meeting.

3.5. Monitoring and evaluation

3.5.1 ECA's NEPAD Support Unit should monitor processes and activities, outputs, resources and impact of interventions of United Nations system-wide support

40. ECA's NEPAD Support Unit is developing a monitoring and evaluation strategy for the cluster mechanism to monitor processes and activities, outputs, resources and the impact of interventions. The strategy has two basic elements: monitoring collaboration as well as the achievements of the clusters. It considers what effective collaboration entails, indicates the different levels involved, suggests a way of monitoring and evaluating the collaboration process and identifies a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating achievements to ensure that each cluster pursues objectives and achieves outcomes in line with NEPAD priorities. The MDG targets have been chosen as the criteria and benchmarks for performance indicators because all participating United Nations agencies already recognize these indicators and subscribe to the measurement of achievements along these lines.

3.5.2 NEPAD Support Unit should establish a database for both quantitative and qualitative information on processes and activities, outputs and resources relating to United Nations support

41. At present, various software, databases and data collection and processing systems are being explored for use in effectively leveraging information generated to improve decision-making. The databases will be especially useful for enhancing operational effectiveness, adjusting the configuration of the clusters as necessary and evaluating progress.

42. Currently the NEPAD Support Unit is monitoring progress in implementing the recommendations of the 7th RCM by requesting information and following up on the clusters. In addition, the unit has requested activity reports from the clusters to assess the level of cooperation among United Nations agencies in their support of NEPAD. ECA is in discussion with the NEPAD

Secretariat to establish the modalities for reviewing United Nations system-wide support for the implementation of NEPAD and assess the impact of United Nations interventions.

3.6 Challenges and constraints

43. The challenges and constraints faced by ECA in coordinating the activities of United Nations agencies are similar to those faced by the clusters: insufficient resources, capacity constraints, and coordination and collaboration difficulties resulting from geographical dispersion. Furthermore, the focus of the work and activities of most clusters is sometimes uncertain, with some organizations leaning towards normative issues while others emphasize operational aspects.

44. Moreover, the involvement of the NEPAD Secretariat in the work of many clusters and sub-clusters often cannot be ensured due to capacity and organizational constraints. Instead, interactions both within the clusters and with the NEPAD Secretariat are usually of an *ad hoc* nature, making the activities unsystematic and unfocused. In addition, the linkages between the clusters, AU and AfDB are weak in most cases.

45. Inadequate funding is often cited as a major hindrance to the ability of several agencies to participate in cluster meetings. Likewise, funding limitations have reduced incentives for joint programmes and limited the capacity of agencies to provide more technical assistance and other operational support to NEPAD programmes. While the lack of resources is often cited as an impediment to the RCM, it does not seem to be the foremost cause of the general problem. The leading causes seem to be the lack of dialogue and coordination among participating organizations, lack of institutional commitment and lack of clarity on the objectives and responsibilities of each cluster.

46. The major constraint facing ECA's NEPAD Support Unit is one of capacity. Given its expanded mandate and responsibility for coordinating United Nations system-wide support for the implementation of NEPAD at the regional and subregional levels, the unit is having difficulty in properly fulfilling its role with its limited capacity. The clusters have not yet reinforced the RCM by seconding staff to the ECA coordinating unit as was recommended at the last RCM. The low response of the clusters to requests to submit reports and provide information also poses a problem to ECA's coordination role.

4. CONCLUSION

47. This progress report outlines the efforts made in implementing the recommendations of the 7th RCM. It demonstrates that while steps have been taken to mobilize United Nations agencies and institutions in support of AU and NEPAD at the subregional level, much needs to be done to implement the recommendations and develop a subregional coordination mechanism. There is a pressing need to harmonize efforts at the subregional level, as this level represents the missing link and requires concerted efforts in order to establish structures for inter-agency collaboration. This would facilitate linkages between the three levels (regional, subregional and national) of United Nations coordination and collaboration and help identify clearer roles for United Nations agencies, based on their comparative advantages. ECA and the other United Nations agencies should intensify their efforts to fully implement the recommendations of the 7th RCM, especially those on subregional coordination. The 8th RCM should revisit these issues, review the cluster system and further discuss the implementation of the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union.

REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS
TABLE OF PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS BY CLUSTER

Cluster	Convener	Sub-Cluster	Members
INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT WATER AND SANITATION, ENERGY, TRANSPORT AND ICT S	ECA		AfDB, FAO, IAEA, IMO, ITU, ECA, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UN-HABITAT, UPU, WHO/WAC, WIPO AND WMO
		WATER	
		ENERGY	
		ICT	
		TRANSPORT	
GOVERNANCE	UNDP		AFDB, DPA, DPKO, IMF, NEPAD, OCHA, OSAA, UNDESA, UNDP, ECA, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOHCHR, WORLD BANK, AND WFP
HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND HIV/AIDS	UNICEF		FAO, IAEA, ILO, IOM, UNDP, ECA, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNFPA, WFP, WHO/WAC AND WIPO
	UNESCO	HUMAN RESOURCES	
	ILO	EMPLOYMENT	
	UNAIDS	HIV/AIDS	
ENVIRONMENT, POPULATION AND URBANIZATION	UN- HABITAT		IMO, ECA, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT AND WMO
AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY & RURAL DEVELOPMENT	FAO		FAO, IAEA, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNHCR, WFP, IFAD, ECA, WIPO, WORLD BANK AND WTO
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	UNESCO, ECA (VICE- CONVENER)		UNESCO, ECA, WIPO, UNIDO, FAO, OSAA, UNEP, WORLD BANK, CGIAR, UNDP, UNCTAD, UNU/INTECH AND WHO
ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATION	OSAA		UNEP, UNON, UN-HABITAT, WORLD BANK, NEPAD, UNAIDS, UNHCR, UNESCO, ITU, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, ECA, OSAA AND DPI
PEACE AND SECURITY	DPA		DPA, UNHCR, ILO, UNDP, OHCHR, ECA, FAO, IOM, DPKO, WFP, UNAIDS AND WHO
	DPKO	PEACE AND SECURITY AU ARCHITECTURE	
	UNHCR	POST - CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTIO N AND DEVELOPMENT	
	OHCHR	HUMAN RIGHTS, JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION	
INDUSTRY, TRADE AND MARKET ACCESS	UNIDO		ECA, UNIDO, UNCTAD, ITC, ICE, WTO, WIPO, UNDP, UNESCO, IAEA, UNEP, FAO, ILO, UN-HABITAT, AfDB AND WORLD BANK

Note: The Africa Union and NEPAD Secretariat are members of the clusters.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 7TH RCM

Strengthen the regional coordination of United Nations system-wide support for AU vision and NEPAD

- ECA should move from a convener to a strategic coordinator of the RCM;
- RCM should be more frequent and more predictable—at least once a year;
- AU should participate more prominently in the RCM and at the technical level;
- All RCMs should be held in Addis Ababa to facilitate attendance and participation; and
- The RECs should be invited to the RCMs.

Revitalize the cluster system

Gender and youth mainstreaming and capacity-building should be cross-cutting issues and systematically built into the support of AU and NEPAD and monitored accordingly.

- The cluster system should be reviewed and revitalized for greater efficiency and effectiveness;
- Each cluster should meet at least twice a year;
- Cluster meetings should be co-chaired by a representative of AUC;
- Each cluster should have a convener and a vice-convener;
- Each cluster should have sub-clusters if necessary;
- Rules and procedures should be developed for the functioning of the clusters;
- Clusters should undertake clear and traceable alignment of programmes and resources with AU and NEPAD priorities;
- Clusters should implement specific jointly planned programmes/projects based on NEPAD action plan as well as support priorities from governments; and
- Cluster conveners should submit reports on their cluster activities to ECA.

Foster subregional coordination in support of AU and NEPAD

- ECA SROs should bring other United Nations agencies together in support of AU/NEPAD in the subregion;

- ECA should consult with other United Nations agencies and the NEPAD Secretariat and coordinate discussions on the needs of RECs in order to improve alignment and targeting of United Nations support to AU/NEPAD priorities in the subregions;
- A subregional coordination mechanism should be developed;
- A knowledge and information management system should be developed with regard to:
 - the presence of United Nations agencies and organizations within the subregion;
 - areas of competence and concentration; and
 - activities of other key development partners.
- Information should be made accessible to minimize duplication and build synergies among development actors;
- RECs and Intergovernmental organizations should be targeted to enhance their ability to own and manage the implementation of AU/NEPAD priorities:
 - Capacity-building, human resources development;
 - Organizational, institutional and legal framework development; and
 - United Nations coordination systems should develop action plans and commit to implementing two to three activities jointly in support of AU/NEPAD in the subregion.

Improve relationship between the United Nations and African organizations—AU, NEPAD, AfDB, RECs

- Regular consultations should be held between AUC and the United Nations through the Secretary- General of the United Nations or the Executive Secretary of ECA;
- Support should be provided to AUC and NEPAD Secretariat;
- Provide comprehensive communications and advocacy for NEPAD;
- ECA should advise AUC and NEPAD as appropriate; and
- AfDB should be involved more in the RCM

Mobilize resources and enhance capacity to support the implementation of NEPAD

- Each United Nations agency or institution should develop a minimum degree of institutional capacity at all levels, with at least one staff member dedicated to NEPAD;
- Alternative means should be considered for funding activities at cluster and sub-cluster levels;
- Budget lines should be opened to support functions;

- Joint programmes and a funding framework should be developed for trust funds and financing facilities;
- A resource mobilization strategy should be developed based on needs assessment;
- Cluster conveners should make efforts to reinforce staff capacity;
- The RCM should be reinforced by seconding staff to the ECA coordinating unit;
- Clusters should establish trust funds and build partnerships at all levels before the next RCM; and
- Heads of agencies and institution should take direct responsibility for monitoring efforts to mobilize resources and enhance capacity.

Monitor actions and outcomes

- Actions and outcomes should be monitored based on value addition of United Nations system-wide support;
- ECA's NEPAD Support Unit should monitor:
 - Processes and activities, outputs, resources and impact of interventions;
- NEPAD Support Unit should establish a data base containing both quantitative and qualitative information on processes and activities, outputs and resources relating to United Nations support;
- Criteria and benchmarks should be identified for measuring impact and lessons learned;
- Each cluster should develop a monitoring framework;
- ECA, AUC and NEPAD Secretariat should monitor impact of interventions;
- Clusters should share reports on activities with other agencies, NEPAD and AUC;
- ECA's NEPAD Support Unit should facilitate information sharing; and
- The Executive Secretary of ECA should share reports of United Nations system-wide support for AU/NEPAD with Heads of State at their annual summits as well as at other relevant ministerial meetings.