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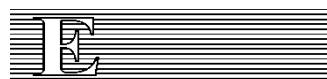
*Thirty-third meeting of the Committee of Experts*



**AFRICAN UNION**

*Ninth meeting of the Committee of Experts*

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**Report on United Nations support to the African Union  
and its New Partnership for Africa's Development  
(NEPAD) programme**

*Theme: Industrialization for inclusive and transformative development in Africa*

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## **I. Introduction**

1. The present report provides an overview of results achieved from activities undertaken by the United Nations system in support of the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) since April 2013. The report contains three components: support pertaining to the direct decisions of African Heads of State; direct technical assistance to the African Union and its NEPAD programme; and support coordinated through the nine clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism of the United Nations agencies working in Africa (RCM-Africa), convened by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). It ends with the main recommendations of the fourteenth session of RCM-Africa, which took place in November 2013. The report is a response to the need expressed by member States for regular and systematic reporting on United Nations activities in support of the sectoral priorities of NEPAD at the regional and subregional levels.

## **II. Implementing the decisions of the African Union Summit and the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee**

2. Routinely, the United Nations system is called upon by African Heads of State and the continent's ministers in charge of finance, planning and economic development to provide direct technical support for the implementation of decisions and ministerial declarations. This section deals with three such decisions and declarations.

### **A. African Union's "Agenda 2063"**

3. In June 2012, African Heads of State mandated the African Union Commission (AUC), ECA, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NEPAD Agency) and the African Development Bank to develop a new vision, to be called "Agenda 2063", which would provide a fifty-year forward-looking and evolving framework for Africa's development and ensure greater coherence in the actions and initiatives of the African Union organs, member States, regional economic communities and other key continental stakeholders in support of realizing Africa's social and economic transformation.

4. Agenda 2063 is anchored in the commonality of challenges faced by a majority of African countries: huge dependence on natural resources for livelihoods and exports; pervasive poverty and food insecurity; soil and land degradation and biodiversity loss; prevalence of armed conflict; low literacy rates; high incidence of HIV/AIDS and malaria; high vulnerability to drought and climatic variability; low technological input; and fragility of the democratic process.

5. As part of its mandate based on United Nations General Assembly resolution 57/7 and in an effort to strengthen the capacity of AUC and to promote synergies in policies and activities on major regional development issues and concerns for Africa, ECA as regional coordinator, acting through RCM-Africa and together with United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa and African Union stakeholders, has continued since the fourteenth session of RCM-Africa to contribute towards finalizing Agenda 2063, in particular in the following areas:

(a) Production of a robust and viable Agenda 2063 framework document that reflects the perspectives of a wide cross-section of Africans, and which will be endorsed by the African Union Heads of State and Government at the January 2015 African Union summit;

(b) Improved knowledge, communication and understanding of Africa's development experience over the past 50 years;

(c) Multi-stakeholder dialogue on Africa's future that will yield tangible policy recommendations that can be reflected in the Agenda 2063 framework text;

(d) Technical expertise needed in order to accelerate development and integration over the next 50 years.

6. Agenda 2063 encapsulates the key elements for Africa of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, notably, in terms of development strategies, emphasis on economic and social transformation, industrialization, human capital investments, infrastructure development, regional integration and the green economy, with the ultimate objective of eliminating poverty and food insecurity and ensuring long-term social development.

### **B. Study on domestic resource mobilization**

7. ECA and the NEPAD Agency were mandated by African Heads of State and Government to carry out a study on domestic resources mobilization in Africa in their determination to ensure that Africa owns and funds its own development. The study, which was carried out in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the African Development Bank, concludes that there is huge potential for investments in Africa's development from domestic resources in Africa and identifies mechanisms and instruments to effectively mobilize them.

8. The report notes that Africa generates over \$520 billion annually from domestic taxes; \$168 billion annually from minerals and mineral fuels, more than \$400 billion in international reserves held by its central and reserve banks, over \$40 billion in diaspora remittances and another \$10 billion which can be raised by securitizing these remittances. It estimates banking revenue at \$60 billion and stock market capitalization at over \$1 trillion. Simple but coordinated tax and incentive schemes could help trigger inflows to large-scale projects that hitherto have suffered from lack of resources.

9. The report, which was received in January 2014 by the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee during the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa, will serve as the background document to the Financing Summit for Africa's Infrastructure, which will be hosted in Dakar by the Chair of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee, President Macky Sall of Senegal, in the second half of 2014.

### **C. Strengthening coordination of NEPAD implementation**

10. In order further to popularize NEPAD and promote coherence and coordination among national NEPAD structures across Africa, the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee mandated ECA and NEPAD to carry out a mapping exercise of all NEPAD focal points and feed the outcomes into an electronic database constructed by ECA and

the NEPAD Agency. Two consultants were engaged for this task and working missions were carried out to selected key countries, while questionnaires were administered to all 54 countries and eight regional economic communities of the African Union. The completed database will facilitate shared experience and coordination in the implementation of NEPAD priorities and will be launched in the second quarter of 2014 at the first regional conference of NEPAD focal points, to be co-organized by ECA and the NEPAD Agency, which will host the meeting together with the NEPAD African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) secretariat, based in Nairobi.

11. Similarly, ECA, UNDP, the NEPAD Agency and AUC are involved in a multi-agency team mandated by the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee to map the capacities of the regional economic communities in Africa. The joint team visited all the regional economic communities.

#### **D. Helping to curb illicit financial flows from Africa**

12. A high-level panel was established pursuant to a resolution of the Fourth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in March 2011 to address the problem of illicit financial outflows from Africa, estimated at about \$50 billion annually, and to set up a technical committee and secretariat at ECA to support the panel's work. In that capacity, ECA commissioned background studies on the status of illicit financial flows in Africa and created the advocacy slogan: "IFF: Track it; Stop it; Get it" in support of the work of the panel. On the margins of the 2013 General Assembly, ECA and NEPAD marked the Africa-NEPAD Week with a highly successful panel discussion on the topic "IFF and domestic resources mobilization in Africa". The event gave additional visibility to the issue of illicit financial flows and mobilized high-level support for the campaign.

13. In March 2014, ECA and the NEPAD Agency plan to organize an interactive event between the high-level panel and ministers at the Seventh Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

### **III. Direct technical support for NEPAD**

14. To strengthen the capacity of the NEPAD Agency in key priority areas and enhance the NEPAD process, ECA seconded two senior advisors to the African Peer Review Mechanism secretariat and to the NEPAD Agency to provide direct technical support and advisory services. It also seconded two additional technical experts to the Agency to assist in implementing two specific mandates of African Heads of State: first, the recommendations of ECA and the African Union-NEPAD Agency study on domestic resources mobilization, and, second, the Capacity Development Strategic Framework.

15. In facilitating the implementation of Agenda 2063, ECA, through its African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) convened a capacity-development session for directors of national planning from all 54 African countries on how to incorporate elements of

Agenda 2063 into their respective national strategies to ensure coherence and better coordination in the implementation of NEPAD priorities. It also developed the capacity of the NEPAD Agency to coordinate and plan regional projects in the context of Agenda 2063. Also through IDEP, and in response to a specific request from Senegal as the host country of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee, ECA conducted an induction course for the staff of the Senegalese ministers responsible for NEPAD and good governance. The course focused on NEPAD priorities and how to implement them appropriately through a regional framework.

#### **IV. “Delivering as one” for the African Union and its NEPAD Programme**

16. The United Nations system supports the African Union NEPAD programme through RCM-Africa, as noted above regarding Agenda 2063, around nine thematic clusters based on the priorities of the African Union and its NEPAD programme. The clusters’ business plans and respective work programmes are prepared in consultation with AUC and are fully aligned with the priorities of the African Union and its NEPAD programme. The activities showcasing the collaboration between the African Union and the United Nations system, alongside the impact on the region in general, are set out below, under their respective clusters.

##### **A. Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development cluster**

17. The cluster achieved substantial results, in particular in the implementation of the study on the cost of hunger in Africa, led by AUC and the NEPAD Agency and supported by ECA and the World Food Programme (WFP). The cost of hunger in Africa study is a multi-country study aimed at estimating the economic and social impacts of child under-nutrition in Africa. The model developed in the study is used to estimate the additional cases of morbidity, mortality, school repetition, school dropout, and reduced physical capacity that can be directly attributed to a child’s under-nutrition below the age of 5. The study is being carried out in 12 countries, namely: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania, Rwanda, Swaziland and Uganda, and implemented in support of the African Regional Nutrition Strategy 2005–2015 and the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme by national implementation teams, including representatives of ministries of health, education, social development, planning, and finance, alongside national statistics institutions.

18. The study has been completed in Egypt, Ethiopia, Swaziland and Uganda. The project is relevant to member States, as the proposed solutions are actions directly related to improving the nutrition security of the most vulnerable population. The cost borne by Africa’s economies as a consequence of food and nutritional insecurity in the past and present has hindered the continent’s realization of its full economic and social potential.

19. The United Nations, through the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and in collaboration with the World Bank, is working with national and regional partners to set up a sustainable system for monitoring the impact of food and agricultural policies in Africa, through the development of common indicators for monitoring key commodities and public expenditures. The resulting initiative, named “Monitoring African food and agricultural

policies”, helps policymakers and donors to ascertain whether policies are having a positive impact and thus facilitate the comparison of results across the participating countries over a specified period of time. The initiative also analyses how participating countries are implementing specific elements of their compacts under the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme. By keeping track of public expenditure in agriculture, the “Monitoring African food and agricultural policies” initiative helps national governments determine whether they are making progress in reaching the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme target of allocating 10 per cent of the national budget for agricultural development. The first phase of the “Monitoring African food and agricultural policies” initiative has been completed in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania.

## **B. Environment, Population and Urbanization cluster**

20. The cluster continued its support to the African Union and NEPAD on the follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) by conducting capacity-building training workshops for staff of AUC and the regional economic communities. Together with UNEP and in consultation with UNDP, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the African Development Bank, the European Union, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and AUC, the cluster also participated in the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) consultative meeting for the development of regional flagship programmes for the implementation of the Rio+20 outcomes.

21. In addition, UNIDO, working together with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and other African member States, has established regional centres for renewable energy and energy efficiency, thereby helping to increase access to modern energy services and improved energy security in ECOWAS member States.

22. The International Maritime Organization (IMO), in joint activities with a number of regional institutions, held a capacity-building seminar which brought together 15 countries in the region for training on the importance and benefits of becoming party to the international oil pollution compensation regime. The seminar led to enhancement of the institutional and human capacities of the recipient countries and regions, thus promoting compliance with relevant international instruments.

23. In parallel, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in collaboration with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and UNDP, ran a capacity-building seminar for national educational directors, on integrating the topics of education for peace and education for conflict and risk prevention into the education sector plans of West and Central Africa. The seminar helped strengthen the capacity of the member States concerned to integrate a holistic vision of education for sustainable development, including climate change education and education for disaster preparedness and risk reduction, into their educational policies.

24. As a contribution to the thematic focus on integrating population dynamics and interlinkages in the context of Africa’s post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable

development goals, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), ECA, AUC and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) jointly organized the African Regional Conference on Population and Development, held in Addis Ababa from 30 September to 4 October 2013. The Conference assembled African ministers in charge of planning, development, health, gender and population, together with representatives of civil society organizations, youth and the regional economic communities, and adopted the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development in Africa beyond 2014, which sets out the African common position on population and development.

### **C. Science and Technology cluster**

25. Within this cluster, the United Nations supports efforts by African Union member States to transform their economies to knowledge and innovation-based economies. The support involves establishing policies and developing programmes and partnerships to assist member States in optimizing their economic opportunities while sustaining their countries' environmental and social fabric.

26. Based on the identified needs of the AUC Human Resources and Science and Technology Department, the cluster rendered technical support in the areas of capacity-building in results-based management, knowledge management, the promotion of policy dialogue on science, education and youth, and training in the areas of research policy and strategic analyses.

### **D. Advocacy and Communications cluster**

27. The cluster plays a strategic role in branding and building a positive image for the African Union and its organs. Accordingly, it focused its activities on three priorities: strengthening advocacy in support of the NEPAD Agency through the RCM-Africa processes; enhancing dialogue between the African Union and United Nations systems on the one hand and the media community reporting on Africa on the other; and improving the capacity of the AUC and NEPAD Agency communication teams. In pursuit of these objectives, each year the cluster continues to organize a series of activities for AUC and the NEPAD Agency in New York on the margins of the General Assembly. In 2013, those activities included: briefing sessions conducted for the African group and for other member States, an address by the chief executive officer of the NEPAD Agency to the General Assembly and a press conference on the activities of the NEPAD Agency.

28. In collaboration with AUC and the NEPAD Agency, ECA produces NEPAD Today, a weekly electronic newsletter in English and French which is disseminated widely to over 10,000 readers in Africa and worldwide.

29. The newsletter focuses on all priority areas of the African Union and its NEPAD programme by compiling NEPAD stories from dozens of news sources. The stories are packaged in short paragraphs with the appropriate links and shared on social media platforms. Feedback from recipients indicates that the newsletter plays a major role in filling information gaps on NEPAD activities and in constructing goodwill and support for the programme. As the United Nations organization which assisted with the restructuring of the NEPAD Agency's communications programme, ECA continues to give direct support to enhance the capacity of the NEPAD Agency in the area of information, communications and knowledge management.



## **E. Infrastructure cluster**

30. There are four sub-clusters within the Infrastructure cluster: Energy; Transport; Information and Communications Technology; and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene. In 2013, the Energy sub-cluster focused on the development and mainstreaming of a gender-sensitive bioenergy framework and policy guidelines for Africa to promote local decent employment in the bioenergy sector. The framework is a joint initiative of the African Union and ECA, aimed at enhancing energy security and access, and at promoting rural development in Africa.

31. The objective of the Transport sub-cluster is to consolidate the transport sector to stimulate the economic integration of Africa. The sub-cluster focuses on the development of the Trans-African Highways network; road safety, transport facilitation and the operationalization of the Executing Agency of the Yamoussoukro Decision.

32. The lack of harmonized norms and standards constitutes a barrier to trade and transport flows among African countries. In order to overcome this problem, ECA and AUC, in collaboration with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, (UN-OHRLLS), are collaborating in developing an intergovernmental agreement to foster the development of the Trans-African Highways network. A draft agreement with annexes was prepared and submitted at the AUC Ministerial Conference of Transport at its third meeting, in November 2013.

33. ECA is also supporting a study on regional norms on transport and assisting AUC in the mobilization of resources to finance the implementation of the project on an intergovernmental agreement on the Trans-African Highways network. Where trade and transport facilitation are concerned, ECA and UN-OHRLLS have been working closely with AUC and the regional economic communities to boost regional cooperation and integration in Africa, in particular with a view to reducing transport costs so as to enhance trade – both intra-African trade and trade between the continent and the rest of the world. In pursuit of this aim, and in the context of the Almaty Programme of Action, ECA undertook a review of 10 years of implementation of the programme in Africa. Trade and transport facilitation, together with fundamental transit policy issues, were comprehensively addressed by the study, funded jointly by ECA and UN-OHRLLS and validated at the African regional review meeting of the Almaty Programme of Action in July 2013. The findings of the study and the outcome of the regional review meeting fed into the deliberations of the fifth ordinary meeting of the African Union Subcommittee of Directors General of Customs, held in Cotonou in September 2013. The findings of the study were initially presented at the AUC meetings of customs experts (Nairobi in June 2013 and Harare in August 2013), organized in preparation for the Cotonou meeting. Overall, the meetings improved the understanding of trade facilitation issues by customs officials. In particular, they raised awareness of the views of other trade facilitation stakeholders and enabled customs officials to better understand the need for close collaboration with these stakeholders.

34. Regional instruments and measures, along with multilateral conventions, play an important role in trade and transport facilitation. It is in this context that ECA undertook a comprehensive review of the signing and ratification and the implementation of these instruments in Africa. The findings of that report and of the Almaty Programme of Action review report have been used to

inform Africa's position at the World Trade Organization negotiations on trade facilitation. In this context, ECA is providing substantive support to the African group in Geneva through AUC.

35. One of the reasons underlying the reluctance of African countries to sign, ratify or implement international conventions and agreements on trade facilitation, including at the regional and subregional levels, is that they are not convinced of the benefits of such instruments – mostly because they have not undertaken any assessment of their potential impacts. To remedy this problem, ECA has been working in close collaboration with AUC to study the impact of introducing trade facilitation measures aimed at reducing customs procedures and clearance time for intra-African trade in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA). The findings of this study have been presented at various AUC meetings organized for member States on trade and customs issues. This has attracted much attention from the regional economic communities and member States.

36. In terms of strengthening transport corridors, ECA is spearheading the establishment of the Africa Corridor Management Alliance. The Alliance brings together major corridor management organizations in Africa, including the Northern Corridor, the Walvis Bay Corridor, the Maputo Corridor, the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor, and the Port Management Association for Eastern and Southern Africa, among others.

#### **F. Social and Human Development cluster**

37. The establishment of the AIDS Watch Africa (AWA) secretariat within AUC with technical and financial support from the United Nations is a salient example of the partnership between the United Nations system and AUC in the health sector. Fully staffed as the continental secretariat, AWA led the gathering of a consultative meeting and its outcomes were ratified by African Heads of State. The main outcome, the Road Map on Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Response in Africa, now furnishes the African Union with a streamlined and prioritized set of directions and guidelines for partners working on the AIDS response in Africa. The AWA secretariat has also established regional representation arrangements with the regional economic communities, beginning with the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

38. The United Nations system supports AUC in reviewing the key frameworks and initiatives on maternal and newborn and child health and recommends actions for the reduction of maternal and child deaths in Africa. Such actions are outlined, in particular, in the 2013 Status Report on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health in Africa; the regional assessment of maternal death audit systems in Africa and the draft agenda for a proposed international conference on maternal, newborn and child health. With the support of the United Nations system, a monitoring and evaluation report was prepared and presented to African Heads of State at the special summit of the African Union on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria (the Abuja+12 summit) in July 2013. United Nations agencies sponsored the participation of regional economic communities and Pan-African Parliament representatives to enrich the dialogue and to ensure follow-up and implementation of the outcomes. Members of the Health sub-cluster supported and influenced the outcome declaration through the various levels of engagement at the summit, which endorsed a declaration on AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

39. The African Task Force on Food and Nutrition Development met on 29 and 30 July 2013 in Lesotho to review the implementation of nutrition initiatives in Africa. The continental initiatives reviewed and recommendations developed included the renewed initiative on the elimination of stunting in Africa by 2025 (ARISE 2025); the proposed nutrition security partnership for Africa, the study on the cost of hunger in Africa, the Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security, the Africa Nutrition Champion awards, and the African Regional Nutrition Strategy. The task force agreed to scale up the implementation of nutrition initiatives in Africa in support of the related efforts by AUC.

40. In 2013, the Gender and Development sub-cluster committed itself to supporting a gender audit of the Agriculture, Food Security, and Rural Development cluster, which volunteered to undergo a participatory gender audit process. The audit aims to build the capacity of the Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development cluster and its key member institutions (AUC Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture and the NEPAD Agency) to effectively mainstream gender in their programmes and activities, with particular attention to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme. The recommendations from the audit will inform the inter-cluster partnership formed to roll out the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme in African Union member States.

41. The Gender and Development sub-cluster acts as an inter-agency technical working group which provides technical and financial support to the campaign, initiated by the United Nations Secretary-General, to end violence against women and girls (UNiTE). In 2013, the campaign secretariat received financial and technical support from the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and UNFPA, thanks to which a technical expert was seconded to support the roll-out of the campaign initiatives. The secretariat also provided capacity-building for security sectors from 36 African countries, to enhance their response to violence against women.

42. Through AUC, ILO, WFP, ECA and UN-Women, the sub-cluster provided technical and financial support for the coordination of the UN-Women-African Union Joint Ministerial meeting on the implementation of the African Women's Decade. The events resulted in the increased visibility of and awareness about the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the rights of Women in Africa (the Maputo Protocol) and the adoption of a road map for the implementation of the African Women's Decade at the national level.

43. The United Nations system also supported AUC in coordinating a consultative conference in Addis Ababa in May 2013 on the theme "Pan-Africanism, African Renaissance and Agenda 2063", attended by women from African Union member States, civil society organizations, pan-African movements, women's rights organizations, the academic sector, diaspora organizations, regional economic communities, the private sector and United Nations agencies. In addition, under the leadership of UN-Women, the sub-cluster supported the participation of over 100 gender-equality experts operating at regional, subregional and nation levels.

44. AUC and the United Nations also jointly coordinated the commemoration of International Women's Day on 8 March 2013. The sub-cluster affirmed the commitment of the United Nations system to support the roll-out of the African Renaissance agenda through, among other measures, partnerships that support the development and implementation of regional policy and

legal frameworks promoting gender equality and women's empowerment at national, subregional and regional levels.

45. On employment, United Nations system agencies, led by ILO and ECA, contributed to the review of the Declaration on Employment and Poverty Alleviation, adopted at the third extraordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union, held in Ouagadougou in 2004, and its associated plan of action. As a result of the review, a draft declaration and associated plan of action have been prepared, which would be tabled first at the conference of African Ministers responsible for employment in Namibia in March 2014, and subsequently at the African Union extraordinary summit on the implementation of the 2004 Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment and Poverty Alleviation, to be held in September 2014 in Abuja. The new agenda on employment includes resource mobilization strategies, to ensure that the key objectives of eliminating poverty, minimizing youth employment, and increasing productivity growth in Africa to world competitive levels are achieved by 2024.

#### **G. Governance cluster**

46. The United Nations system, through the Governance cluster, provided support to the African Union through joint planning of the AUC Strategic Plan for 2014-2017 and Agenda 2063. The Cluster gave technical support to the African Union in the effective implementation of the Human Rights Strategy for Africa; of the African Governance Architecture and the African Governance Platform; of the election management bodies and observation processes; and of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).

47. The various technical support activities resulted in a draft African Union policy framework on transitional justice in Africa; substantive contribution to the African Union-ECOWAS strategy for the restoration of constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau and assistance to Mozambique in harmonizing its national plan of action with other existing development strategies. In addition, ECA, in collaboration with UNDP, provided technical advisory services and training to the Sudan APRM national stakeholders, leading to the launch of the self-assessment exercise and national awareness-raising campaign on APRM.

48. In commemoration of the tenth anniversary of APRM, ECA produced an industry-standard video documentary entitled *The APRM: Working for the African people*, showcasing Africa's governance achievements, challenges and prospects as seen through the evolution of the APRM process since 2003, and published a book entitled *Capturing the 21st Century: African Peer Review Mechanism (ARPM) Best Practices and Lessons Learned*. The video and the book were launched during the one-day colloquium on May 2013, in Addis Ababa. ECA also published a technical paper on the topic of APRM and land reforms in Africa: enhancing good governance in land management, which reviewed and analysed 15 APRM country review reports and consolidated extensive knowledge and best practices on land governance.

#### **H. Peace and Security cluster**

49. The Peace and Security cluster consists of four sub-clusters: African Union Peace and Security Architecture, Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development, Emergency Preparedness Response and Transitional Justice.

50. The engagement of the United Nations and the African Union in the area of peace and security is long standing. Over the years, this engagement has evolved in response to African Union needs and requirements, through the establishment of the United Nations Office to the African Union in 2010. The cluster has been encouraging AUC to develop a comprehensive, holistic and practical framework for partnership in peace and security. The framework brings together all key areas of the peace and security cycle, from building a common understanding between the United Nations, the African Union and the regional economic communities, and other regional mechanisms on what constitutes the root causes of conflict. It works through developing a joint analysis of conflict, and agreeing on common approaches to its prevention, and also to peacekeeping and conflict management, and to peacebuilding in general.

51. The African Union Peace and Security Architecture sub-cluster continued its work on the implementation of the joint United Nations and African Union workplan on the development and operationalization of the Peace and Security Architecture, especially the operationalization of the African Stand-by Force. It provided coordinated United Nations support to the Amani Africa II training cycle for the African Stand-by Force, which runs up to 2014, and to the development and refinement of African Union policies and guidelines for conflict prevention and peace support operations. These include the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform (DDR/SSR) guidelines; standard operating procedures for basic operational security standards; the African Union Mine Action Strategic Framework; medical evacuation guidelines for African Union missions; assessment of the African Stand-by Force doctrine; the initiative on the preparation of guidelines for use in the Lord's Resistance Army on the protection of civilians; the development of the civilian roster and administrative directives for the civilian component of African Union peace support operations; and standard operating procedures for the African Union field assets management system, among others.

52. At the operational level, it provided support to current African Union engagements, such as the technical assistance and planning missions in Mali and the Central African Republic and the joint African Union-United Nations review of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development sub-cluster worked on the organization of the first African Solidarity Initiative, which was endorsed by the Heads of State in July 2012. The Initiative was held on the margins of the January 2014 African Union Summit. The sub-cluster assisted AUC with the preparation of the African Union post-conflict reconstruction and development policy in all the official languages of the African Union. The sub-cluster also worked closely with the Governance cluster on the human rights strategy and with the Social and Human Development cluster on the initiative launched by UN-Women in November 2012 for Governments to take a stand by making new and concrete national commitments to end violence against women and girls – the COMMIT initiative – and on the UNiTE campaign.

53. The Emergency Preparedness Response sub-cluster focused its work on mapping early-warning systems in Africa, raising awareness on humanitarian issues and coordinating United Nations participation in high-level events. To support efforts to raise awareness of the humanitarian role of the African Union and the activities of its partners in Africa, the cluster supported the convening of a panel discussion of African disaster managers as a side event at a meeting of the United Nations Economic and Social Council in Geneva, on 15 July 2013, and the

launching of the “Helping hands” initiative, and coordinated contributions to the open session of the African Union Peace and Security Council on the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

54. The sub-cluster also actively coordinated United Nations participation in the annual African Union Humanitarian Symposium, held in Nairobi in October 2013 on the theme “Beyond assistance: humanitarian challenges and durable solutions in Africa”, and supported the United Nations African Humanitarian Champions Event which took place on the margins of the General Assembly in New York on 25 September 2013.

55. The Transitional Justice sub-cluster provided coordination for the work on the African Union Transitional Justice Policy Framework. United Nations agencies, led by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, provided coordinated substantive inputs to the draft that will be submitted for endorsement by the African Commission on Human and People's Rights at its next session.

56. As a result of continuing advocacy by the Peace and Security cluster, much wider visibility has been given to United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), and the protection of civilians, with a focus on children and women, is high on the agenda of the African Union.

57. In addition to finalizing the framework document, the Peace and Security cluster engaged in preparations for the African Solidarity Conference of the African Solidarity Initiative held on 1 February 2014, and the development of an African humanitarian agenda which is linked to other post-2015 processes and will contribute to the World Humanitarian Summit scheduled for 2016. This agenda will also flesh out elements relating to disaster management and risk reduction, together with other humanitarian considerations of Agenda 2063, and provide support for the development of the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises, the operationalization of the African Stand-by Force, and the finalization of the African Union Transitional Justice Policy Framework.

### **I. Industry, Trade and Market Access cluster**

58. The United Nations system continues to work with the African Union, the regional economic communities and member States on the implementation of the multi-agency action plan for the accelerated industrial development of Africa (AIDA) through a number of programmes and instruments, including the African Accelerated Agribusiness and Agro-Industries Development Initiative and the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa. Various elements of these action plans have been strongly advocated in the current negotiations of an African common position on the sustainable development goals and on the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015.

59. The United Nations system is also providing technical assistance to the African Union in the preparation of a framework for the implementation of the resolution adopted by African Union and European Union Heads of State and Government at the Lisbon summit in 2007, which recommended that AUC should establish a food safety authority within its structure and a rapid alert system for food and feed. AUC, through the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources, organized two continental workshops of food safety experts with participants drawn from AUC, African Union member States, regional economic communities, United

Nations agencies and the European Union. An Africa-wide African Union Food Safety Management Coordination Mechanism would be set up, with the following objectives:

- (a) To protect public health by reducing the risk of food-borne illness, taking into account relevant animal and plant health issues, and the environment;
- (b) To protect consumers from unsanitary, unwholesome, mislabelled or adulterated food;
- (c) To increase market access and competitiveness in food trade, including raising production levels;
- (d) To promote inter-African food trade and exchange between the member States;
- (e) To contribute to economic development by maintaining consumer confidence in the food system and providing a sound regulatory foundation for trade in food.

## **V. Main recommendations of the fourteenth session of RCM-Africa**

60. The fourteenth session of RCM-Africa was held on 21 and 22 November 2013 at the African Union Conference Centre in Addis Ababa on the theme “United Nations support to the African Union Agenda 2063”. The meeting was opened by the co-chairs, Mr. Carlos Lopes, Executive Secretary of ECA, and Mr. Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chair of AUC. It made the following recommendations:

- (a) On Agenda 2063:
  - (i) African countries should promote value addition of their natural resources and strengthen infrastructure for trade, agro-industrial and industrial development;
  - (ii) African countries should strengthen their institutions and promote good governance, especially in the mineral resources sector;
  - (iii) To avoid fragmentation in its design, Agenda 2063 should integrate the three pillars of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental pillars);
  - (iv) The monitoring of increased domestic financing for health should be integrated into APRM;
  - (v) A retrospective analysis on why past development initiatives have had limited success should be undertaken;
  - (vi) A scenario analysis (high, medium and the status quo) should be conducted on the African Union Agenda 2063;

(vii) The governance and management of natural resources should be linked to APRM;

(b) For better coordination and coherence in the work of RCM-Africa:

(i) All future sessions of RCM-Africa will be aligned with the joint meetings of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development;

(ii) Joint programming between the United Nations system and AUC should be premised on the priorities of the African Union and its NEPAD programme. In this regard, the RCM-Africa clusters should formulate medium-term business plans to support their programmes and activities, in collaboration with AUC, NEPAD and the regional economic communities;

(iii) To increase knowledge about RCM-Africa and involvement in its implementation, the RCM-Africa secretariat should organize briefings for the African Union commissioners, department directors of the Commission, and the management of the NEPAD Agency and of the regional economic communities, on the Mechanism and the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union;

(iv) The RCM-Africa secretariat should be furnished with ample resources in order to effectively play its role in support of the African Union and its NEPAD programme at the regional and subregional levels;

(v) The RCM Africa secretariat should strengthen the coordination of fund-raising by forming partnerships with agencies, foundations, the private sector, and other bodies. In this regard, cluster members can also prepare proposals to raise funds for joint programming with tangible results;

(vi) To enhance gender mainstreaming across cluster programmes and activities, the participatory gender audit initiative supported by the Gender and Development sub-cluster should be replicated within RCM-Africa and its clusters;

(vii) The NEPAD Agency should be the co-coordinator of the Agriculture and Infrastructure clusters;

(viii) The Regional Development Assistance Framework should be renamed the Regional Development Cooperation Framework and its scope should be broadened beyond resource mobilization, with clear roles and responsibilities to support RCM-Africa.