

ECOSOCC Clusters Operationalization

Constitutive Meeting of the Core Group for the Operationalization of the ECOSOCC Infrastructure & Energy Cluster

Guided by the deliberations of the Nairobi Meeting on the operationalization of Sectoral Cluster Committees as stipulated in Article 11 of the ECOSOCC Statutes, the Infrastructure and Energy cluster convened in Cairo, Egypt for the Constitutive Meeting for the operationalization of the Infrastructure and Energy Sectoral Cluster Committee on 7-8 April 2016.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr Gowtam Raj Chintaram, Chairperson of the Infrastructure and Energy Cluster and followed by the opening remarks of the ECOSOCC Deputy Presiding Officer (North) and concluded with the address of Amb. Jalel Chelba, African Union Commission, representing the ECOSOCC Secretariat.

The second session received three presentations from Cluster members, Mr Samuel Dotse, Dr Malick Sane and Mr. Patson Malisa.

Mr Dotse gave a presentation on Energy Solutions in the wake of Climate Change. He emphasized on the need of the IE cluster to adopt a climate-sensitive approach in its work-plans and future advocacies.

Dr Sane expanded on the issues surrounding Sustainable Transport Policy in Africa. In his presentation he gave an overview on the Negative Externalities of transport in Africa, the Concept, Policy, Promotion and Practice of Sustainable Transport in Africa.

Mr Patson Malisa gave a speech on enhancing Air Transport to realise the goals of Agenda 2063. He advocated that the infrastructure and Energy Cluster Deliberates on instituting a mechanism for establishing a policy position on meeting the goals of Air Transport Market Liberation based on the ensuring of Enhanced Cooperation, Cost Effectiveness, Security and Succession He highlighted the need for the IE Cluster to encourage the members of the African Union to move forward in implementation of the Yamoussoukro Declaration by establishing a Single Air Transport Market as affirmed by Assembly/AU/Dec.1(XXIV): Declaration on the Establishment of a Single Air

Transport Market.

The Cluster meeting was concluded on 8 April 2016 with the following conclusions and recommendations:

I. On the Mandate of the Infrastructure and Energy Cluster

a) The Committee recognized that its mandate of operation was derived from the ECOSOCC Statutes and specifically Article 11(c). Article 11 provided the legal framework for the establishment of ten (10) Sectoral Cluster Committees as key operational mechanisms of ECOSOCC to formulate opinions and provide inputs into the policies and programmes of the African Union. Article 11(c) then spells out the core areas of the mandate of the Infrastructure and Energy Cluster as including Energy, Transport, Communication, Infrastructure and Tourism etc.

As such, the committee embraced the need to be conscious of the environmental impact of Infrastructure Development on Climate Change and factors propagating it. Efforts are thus made in to ensure that these developments are implemented in the spirit of the African Common Position on Climate Change and are manifested in the formulation of policies on key infrastructure issues such as the production of Africa Sustainable Transport Policy etc.

b) The Committee also recognized the need for its programmes and workplan to give priority to programs on forging partnerships with Continental Stakeholders, Air Access and transport, Climate Change, Renewable Energy and Tourism. Agenda 2063 was the guiding document throughout deliberations for the work plan and it was agreed that the Cluster will focus its programme of work on the implementation of the ten years plan of Agenda 2063.

II. On Structure and Category of Membership

The Cluster devised a generic framework for Sectoral Cluster Committees and proposed the same to be adopted by other clusters to ensure homogeneity in cluster composition and operations. The core team of members present for the meeting would henceforth be known as Cluster Steering Group (CSG).

It was agreed that the Cluster would distribute its membership in the following order:

- Cluster Steering Group
- Cluster Members
- Pro-Bono Experts and Consultants

The Cluster Steering group would comprise of the following portfolios:

- Chairperson
- Cluster Secretary
- Coordinator for CSO & Stakeholders Engagement
- Coordinator for Financing, Projects and Monitoring
- Coordinator for Strategic Planning & Partnerships
- Coordinator for Research and Policy

(See Annex A)

III. CSO Engagement

CSO Mapping would be conducted via the Infrastructure and Energy Webpage via google links as well as social media adverts as the budget permits.

IV. On Cluster Work Plan

The following activities were highlighted as focal points for action in 2016:

SN	Time Frame	Activity
1	April	TASAM Forum, Turkey
2	May to Aug	Stakeholders Mapping Program
3	May-Dec	IE Cluster Expansion Strategy
4	May - June	Building on Partnerships (Phase 1)
5	June	Engaging Research Institutions(Phase 1)
6	End July /1 st week Aug	Engagement Meeting with IE Directorate
7	27-28	IE ECOSOCC Forum on Air Access Policy & Tourism Potentials for Integrating Africa
8	Dec	COP 22 Side Event: Renewable Energy for Africa Focus
9	April	International Civil Aviation Day

10	May to Aug	Miscellaneous
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(See Annex B for detailed Work Plan 2016)

The workplan for 2017 was also deliberated upon with consensus to review in the Ordinary Meeting to be held in July 2016(See Annex C for draft Work Plan 2017)

V. On Partnerships

It was agreed that Phase 1 of our Partnerships strategy would be initiated from the month of May till June of 2016. Amongst other stakeholders, The Africa Development Bank, NEPAD, The United Nations Commission for Africa, SADC and ECOWAS were identified as partners for engagement in this phase. This phase will aim to enhance the capacity of the cluster for future collaborative work.

A Phase 1 engagement of Research Institutions in the continent will be launched for collaborative efforts in attaining information for the producing of Advisory Opinions and Policy Briefs. The first institutions to be approached will be the Pan African University and the University of Energy and Natural Resources (Ghana).

VI. General Issues

The CSG agreed to a communication strategy that embraces ICT platforms for the dissemination of information and regular contact amongst members of the Cluster. This would primarily be implemented through the already running ENS (enterprise social networking) platform, Groupspaces set up for the Cluster. It was also agreed that a newsletter would be released periodically for the popularization of the work being conducted by the IE Cluster. It was further agreed that the CSG will meet in ordinary sessions twice a year.