

AFRICAN UNION

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Economic, Social and Cultural Council
ECOSOCC

المجلس الاقتصادي والاجتماعي والثقافي
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UNION AFRICAINE

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Conseil Economique, Social et Culturel
ECOSOCC

Conselho Económico, Social E
Cultural Da União Africana

ECOSOCC CLUSTER OPERATIONALIZATION

OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE CROSS-CUTTING
CLUSTER

NAIROBI, KENYA, 3-4 JUNE 2016

Operationalization of the Cross-Cutting Cluster, 3-4 June 2016, Nairobi, Kenya.

Guided by the key deliberations of the Nairobi Meeting of the Africa Union (AU) ECOSOCC held from 10-14 August 2015 on the Operationalization of Sectoral Clusters Committees as stipulated in Article 11 of the ECOSOCC Statutes the core group of the Cross-Cutting cluster convened in Nairobi, Kenya from 27-28 May 2016 to initiate the operationalization of the Cluster.

The meeting was attended by the members of the Cluster, the Presiding Officer of ECOSOCC, ECOSOCC Secretariat staff and the Head of Partnerships Coordination and Monitoring Division of the AU Commission, Dr. Levi Madueke. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Serge Kodom, Chairperson of the Cross-Cutting Cluster.

General Principles

1. AU ECOSOCC should act as a catalyst for African Union strategy and implementation guide.
2. Promote and safeguard African Common Position on all key issues in AU ECOSOCC
3. The Cross Cutting Cluster themes should include Environment, Gender, Youth, HIV AIDs and Ebola at the National, Sub National and Continental as priorities to guide implementation strategy.
4. Popularising Agenda 2063 and 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
5. To preserve, maintain and defend social and cultural values of Africa
6. Promoting friendship, human dignity, respect, understanding and national and regional cohesion and cooperation through the teaching of the Golden Rule which says “treat others the way you want to be treated” which is affirmed in different religions, cultures and traditions as a common ethical values.

Cross Cutting Cluster Suggested Objectives and Actions

WORK PLAN 2016- JUNE-DECEMBER

Continental

1. Official communication to all Member states to prioritize and support establishment and operation of AU ECOSOCC National Chapters

2. Development of a communication booklet with basic information on AU ECOSOCC that can be translated to local languages to foster ownership at the capitals
3. Creation of links among the different clusters chairs at a continental level to facilitate a knowledge base
4. To establish working relation with African Media Initiative which is based in Kenya to involve African media in a more constructive way and to popularize the work of African Union and ECOSOCC different clusters
5. Actively Engaging and facilitation of African Diaspora on African Development
6. Establishment of a African Dialogue Forum among the RECs under the facilitation of ECOSOCC to establish linkages

Sub Regional

1. Establishment of a working relation with the 5 regional blocks of RECs
2. Establishing working partnership within different regional integration processes.

National Level

1. Sensitization and creation of awareness of ECOSOCC mandate, goals and objectives
2. Establishment of National ECOSOCC Chapters across 54 African Countries and strengthening operations of the already launched chapters
3. To include inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue to promote a culture of peace and to address the issue of counter violent extremisms and radicalization in Africa
4. Providing a channel to link National Civil Society Organizations with opportunities for policy advocacy and implementation.

Partnerships

1. Work closely and in partnership with the Partnership Management and Coordination Division (PMCD) of the African Union Commission.
2. Explore methodologies for AU ECOSOCC and UN ECOSOCC to work closely and harmonise the African development agenda
3. AU ECOSOCC should prioritize on pursues areas of synergy and partnership with International and Regional Organizations with

common interest for Africa's sustainable development; such as the African Development Bank.

4. Establish partnerships with media house; and the Council of Elders in various member states.
5. Establish working partnerships with African private sector.
6. Work in partnership with international organizations based on common interest and proper consultation which reflect the interests of Africa.

WORK PLAN 2017

Continental and National

1. Engagement of member states National Parliamentarians on AU Agenda
 - Facilitate dialogue on AU matters among parliamentarians and civilians.
 - introduce AU Parliament Week for Members of Parliament to debate, introduce, interrogate and foster implementation of AU Resolutions among member states; such as the Protocol on Free Movement of People
 - Pass legislature on facilitating African Passport Holders to move freely in the African Continent.
2. Formation of AU Youth Pan African Parliament in all member states
 - Facilitate National, Sub National and Continental debates to capture children voices and to foster intergeneration dialogue.
 - Before the meeting of Security Council CSOs representatives from all member states can meet prior and give contribution
3. Formation of University AU Debate clubs
 - To integrate Agenda 2063 into institutions of higher learning
 - To encourage students dissertations on African Union Commission mandate
4. AU ECOSOCC should mobilise efforts among Member States to promote and celebrate Africa Day on May 25.

Sub-Regional Level

- Popularise and Promote REC's activities under AU ECOSOCC
- Foster effective working relationships with the 5 Deputy Presiding Officers of AU ECOSOCC.
- Work closely with all sub regional organizations

Communication Strategy Input

1. Pursue a three tier communication strategy that entails:-
 - ❖ African Union Commission
 - ❖ ECOSOCC (General Assembly, The Standing Committee and National Committee)
 - ❖ Population
2. Encourage national chapters to access relevant materials on AUC and utilize existing ECOSOCC communication platforms for effective coordination and information sharing
 - a) Website
 - b) Magazine
 - c) Twitter Handle
 - d) You tube
 - e) TV/Radio
3. The Cross Cutting Cluster and the Social Affairs should work closely to effect and popularize ECOSOCC communication strategy.
4. Promotion of use of AU Symbols among member state at a National Level such as the playing of the AU Anthem during all functions at national level and flying the AU Flag alongside the National Flag
5. Creation of an Award Category for the different clusters to encourage individuals and organizations work at a national and regional level.