

**United Nations Economic
Commission for Africa**



**UN System Support to the African Union Capacity Building
Programme**

**Official Presentation of Work Programme of RCM-Africa Clusters to
AUC**

Remarks

by

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AUC**

Your Excellency, Mr. Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union Commission,

Your Excellency, Mr. Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission,

Colleagues of the United Nations System,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to be with you this afternoon on this very important occasion where the UN system has come together as a family to present the Work Programme for the implementation of the Ten Year Capacity Building Programme of the AU to the AUC.

As we are all aware, the UN Secretary General and AUC Chairperson signed the Declaration on *“Enhancing UN-AU Cooperation: Framework for the Ten Year Capacity Building Programme for the AU”* in 2006. In signing the Declaration, their vision was that of the UN, AUC, and African sub-regional organizations working together effectively as partners in addressing the challenges of Africa’s development. The evolving framework was conceived as the UN overall strategic framework for cooperation with the AU, with emphasis on capacity building.

In the Declaration, it was agreed that stock would be taken of efforts to implement the Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme at three-year intervals. In light of this, the 10th session of RCM requested ECA to undertake the first triennial review in collaboration with UNLO/DPA, AfDB and AUC. The review was indeed undertaken and its findings presented at the 11th Session of RCM held in November 2010.

The review revealed that implementation of the Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme had been hampered by the absence of a

clearly defined Work Programme. On that basis, a major recommendation of the 11th Session of RCM was that the Secretariat should steer the process of elaborating a comprehensive Work Programme to ensure better coordination and coherence as well as sharper focus of capacity building interventions in support of AU.

The Secretariat therefore launched a comprehensive and participatory process to develop the Work Programme, which entailed extensive consultations with AUC, including the AU-UN Retreat that most of us attended in Kuriftu in September last year.

I am pleased to note that the outcome of this process is a document that is collectively owned by the AUC and the UN System. Indeed, it was endorsed by the 12th Session of RCM.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me at this stage particularly thank Mr. Mwencha for his personal involvement in the preparation of this Work Programme and for his inspiring leadership of RCM in general - in his capacity as Co-Chair of the Mechanism. Permit me also to thank the dedicated staff of the joint AUC-UN Secretariat of RCM and the Consultants brought on board for this particular assignment, for working hard and harmoniously to produce this document. This is a good sign that collaboration between AUC and UN has indeed been enhanced.

Dear Colleagues,

Developing a Work Programme is an important milestone in achieving the objectives set out in the Ten Year Capacity Building Programme. However, having a Work Programme is not an end in itself. What is more important is for us to apply ourselves in implementing the activities in the programme.

As a first step, and as recommended by the 12th Session of RCM, Clusters should incorporate activities of these Work Programme in their Business Plans, and particularly their annual work plans. I am pleased to note that some Clusters are already doing this. I urge all Clusters to take this important step.

Beyond the UN System, the document we are presenting today contains a wealth of material that could be harnessed by other development partners in support of AU capacity building. I am sure the opportunities created by the document would be fully exploited.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is now my pleasure, on behalf of the UN System, to officially hand over the document titled **“UN System Support to the African Union Capacity Building Programme: Diagnosis and Work Programme of RCM-Africa Clusters”** to the AUC.

Thank you for your attention.