Aide Memoir: Africa Wide consultations on post 2015 Development Agenda
And
Expert Group Validation Meeting on Africa’s Progress Report on MDGs

11 and 14 March, 2013
Tunisia
Background

The 2015 deadline to the current Millennium Development Goals has led to a flurry of activities on what the post 2015 development agenda should look like. The question is not whether there will be a set of international development goals after 2015, but rather, what the proposed framework will consist of. In effect, should the MDGs be retained in their current configuration with an extended deadline? Reformulated? Or replaced by an alternative framework? Underlying all these is the question of which option is likely to have the greatest impact on poverty eradication in Africa.

At the global level, activities have been initiated led by a UN Task Team coordinated by DESA and UNDP resulting in the report *Realizing the Future We Want For All*, which whilst reaffirming the Millennium Declaration of 2000, proposes a set of global objectives based on the three concepts of human rights, social development and environmental sustainability. This will constitute one of the base documents to be discussed at a Special Session of the General Assembly on the post 2015 development agenda in September 2013. This same group has also prepared guidelines for consultations at the global, regional and national levels – including thematic issues. These guidelines are open-ended and adaptable to the local context. Furthermore, the Secretary General established a High Level panel on the post 2015 agenda and the appointment of the President of Liberia of Ms. Johnson Sirleaf as co-chair of this panel together with the newly established Assistant Secretary General for post 2015 development planning Ms. HajiaAmina Mohammed provides a unique opportunity to feed the outcomes of the Africa-wide consultations into the report of the High Level Panel.

The African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme Regional Bureau for Africa - have been jointly producing the Africa MDG report since 2010 that has gained consensus as an advocacy tool for national governments and all stakeholders. In 2012, the thematic focus of the MDG report was on the post 2015 development agenda that was a follow up to the outcome of an initial consultative processes based on a number of activities.

In addition to commissioned papers Africa’s position on the post-2015 agenda, the AUC and UNDP–RBA and UNECA convened a regional workshop on 15–16 November 2011 in Accra, Ghana, attended by 47 representatives from 18 African countries of government, civil society and academia. In tandem, UNECA and AUC administered an electronic survey on the post-2015 agenda, completed by over 200 representatives (in 32 African countries across the five regions) of civil society and non-governmental organizations, research institutions, ministries of planning, finance and economic development and line ministries. This formed the basis of the thematic focus of the Africa 2012 MDG report endorsed at the 19th Ordinary Summit of African Union Heads of State and Government in July 2012.

The resolution emanating from the recently concluded African Union Heads of State Summit mandated the Commission in close consultation with Member States and Regional Economic Communities to identify Africa’s priorities for the post 2015 development agenda with the support of the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Economic Commission
for Africa (UNECA), the United Nations Development Programme -Regional Bureau for Africa (UNDP-RBA) and all other stakeholders.

**Regional Consultations**

Two sub-regional consultative meetings have been held. The first was held in Mombasa 1\textsuperscript{st} and 2\textsuperscript{nd} October 2012 attended by policy makers, CSOs, private sector and parliamentarians from the Eastern and Southern sub-regions. The meeting outcome document identified priority areas in the post 2015 agenda. The second regional consultation representing all stakeholders from West, Central and North African sub-regions has been conducted 10-11 December 2012 in Dakar, Senegal. The outcome from the two consultations will be reviewed with a view to enriching it at a subsequent Africa Continent Wide consultation planned for March 2013. The final outcome document will serve as an input to the African Common Position on the post 2015 development agenda.

**Objectives:** The objectives of the continental workshops are as follows:

- Broaden consensus within Africa, on the post-2015 development agenda drawing on the views and contribution of all stakeholders- CSOs, Policy Makers, Parliamentarians, Private Sector, Academicians;
- Review the outcomes of the two sub-regional consultations.
- Facilitate convergence between the post 2015 agenda and the Rio +20 principles of economic, social and environmental sustainability;
- Propose key elements, issues and recommendations that will inform the continent’s common position on post 2015 development agenda.

**Format of the meeting**

The meeting will have both plenary and breakout sessions. The plenary will be informed by presentations on the consultation processes and outcomes to date. Among the documents to be presented will be the outcome documents from the two sub-regional consultations held in breakout sessions will be organized around stakeholder groups. This will be followed by plenary presentations and an inter-stakeholder consensus building exercise aimed at enriching the outcome document on the post 2015 agenda consultations.

Some of the suggested presentations include:

- Linkages among the consultation processes (national, regional and global) and existing institutions (e.g. the Post2015 secretariat, HLP and Inter-Governmental processes);
- The process towards the preparation of an African common position;
- Findings from all consultative processes to date;
- Sustainable development agenda and Post 2015 initiative: Key Lessons for Africa
• Perspectives from Regional actors (Panel Discussions)
  o Private sector Perspectives
  o CSOs perspectives
  o Views from African Parliamentarians
  o Policymakers’ (Governments) perspectives
  o RECs’ perspectives.

Participants

The event will comprise a representative cross section of all stakeholders from all 54 African countries.

• Policy makers: representing sectors such as Finance, Economy and planning; health, education, water and sanitation, environment, food security, and infrastructure. Efforts will be made to get representation at higher official levels
• MDGs focal points form all the African countries
• Multinational parliamentary networks
• Multinational CSO coalition representatives
• Multinational private sector networks
• Multinational networks of youth networks
• Representatives of all RECs
• Representative of network of universities/research institutions in Africa
• Eminent persons
• Members of the high level forum
• Representatives of the three organizing Institutions (UNECA, AUC, UNDP Africa Bureau)
• Representatives of AFDB

The Africa Wide consultation will be different from the sub regional consultations in the following ways:
• It will bring together policy makers representing Finance Ministries, Line Ministries and Ministries of planning representing the African member states.
• Multinational representatives of the parliamentarians, private sector, CSOs will be brought together to cover multinational issues and priorities.
• Efforts will be made to get higher official level representations from all stakeholders.

Expected Outcome: The outcome document from this meeting will be the final outcome document of the Post-2015 Development Agenda consultations.