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PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2006-2007

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I. Introduction

1. About 25 experts from the Bureau of the ECA Conference of Ministers, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the Intergovernmental Committees of Experts (ICE) and the six thematic Committees set up by African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development hold a two-day consultation (9-10 December 2004) on ECA's work programme and strategic directions for 2006-2007. The consultation aimed at creating a greater ownership of the ECA programme.
2. The consultation was a fulfillment of the desire expressed by the African Ministers in May 2004 during the annual Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development which was held in Kampala, that ECA involve experts more closely in the process of the preparation of its work programme and strategic directions before sending it to the UN headquarters.
3. The North Africa ICE was represented by his Chairman, from the Ministry of Planning in Morocco. Participants hold consultations with ECA's substantive Divisions and its five sub-regional offices to get more familiar with their programmes and have a clearer picture of their relevance to the development agenda. They were invited to comment on the proposed programmes.
4. The ECA programme includes activities in eight interdependent and complementary sub-programme areas. Activities under "Sub-programme 7: Supporting Sub-regional Activities for Development" are the responsibility of the five ECA sub-regional offices (SROs) located at Tangiers for North Africa, Niamey for West Africa, Yaoundé for Central Africa, Kigali for East Africa and Lusaka for Southern Africa
5. The objective, strategy and expected accomplishments of sub-programme 7 for 2006-2007 are described below.

II. Objective of Sub-programme 7

6. The objective of the sub-programme is to harmonize national policies in various sectors in support of integration efforts at the sub-regional level within the overall framework of the African Union and the regional economic communities in addressing problems and challenges that are specific to each sub-region.

III. Strategy of Sub-programme 7

7. The above objective will be pursued in close collaboration with member States and established organizations and institutions for development in the sub-regions. This will include the main Regional Economic Communities, UN agencies operating at country and sub-regional, bilateral donors, IGOs, NGOs as well as individual experts and other stakeholders. Particularly, efforts will emphasize on improving trends towards the achievements of the Millennium development goals (MDGs) that are congruent with the principles and objectives of NEPAD.

8. Activities to be undertaken comprise technical assistance in the form of workshops, training, data collection and knowledge-sharing on a variety of development issues, including the need for common policy measures particularly with respect to high impact activities of a sub-regional nature such as HIV/AIDS, gender mainstreaming, ICTs for development, and post-conflict reconstruction and development. Support will be provided to member States and the RECs in translating the priorities and objectives of NEPAD into concrete projects and programmes at the country level.

IV. Expected accomplishments of Sub-programme 7

9. The expected accomplishments of the sub-programme activities are:

- (i) Enhanced capacity of member States to formulate and harmonize macroeconomic and sectoral development policies at the national and sub-regional levels, particularly in the areas of trade, infrastructures, human capacity development, gender mainstreaming, agriculture, food security and the environment;
- (ii) Strengthened human and institutional capacities of RECs and other IGOs to coordinate and monitor the implementation of regional and sub-regional programmes, including NEPAD.

V. External factors to Sub-programme 7

10. The sub-programme is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) Member States effectively implement the common policy measures and institutional mechanisms agreed upon; (b) Member States fully endorse the guiding principles of NEPAD and the MDGs and translate them into national development programmes; (c) The Regional Economic communities are supportive of NEPAD and are willing to strengthen their cooperation with SRO-NA through joint programming exercises; (d) sufficient financial resources are made available.

VI. Outputs of SRO-NA

11. The outputs listed below will be implemented by SRO-NA which covers the following seven countries: Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia.

A. Servicing of Intergovernmental Meetings and Expert Bodies

1. Substantive Servicing of Meetings

- (i) Two sessions of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE)
(One in 2006, one in 2007).

2. Parliamentary Documentation

- (i) Report on the economic and social conditions in North Africa (one in 2006, one in 2007);
- (ii) North Africa and the international and regional development agendas (one in 2006, one in 2007);
- (iii) Integration in North Africa: Focus on trade issues (one in 2006);
- (iv) Progress and prospects in the attainment of the MDGs and the implementation of NEPAD in North Africa (one in 2007).

3. *Ad hoc expert group meetings on:*

- (i) Intra-regional trade (one in 2006);
- (ii) Mainstreaming gender in development policies in North Africa: Tools and methodologies (one in 2006);
- (iii) Strategies for Sustainable Development: Experiences and Lessons (one in 2007);
- (iv) Promoting codes and standards of good economic and corporate governance (one in 2006)

B. Other Substantive Activities

1. *Recurrent Publication*

- (i) Biennial Water Development Report in North Africa (one in 2006).

2. *Non-recurrent Publications*

- (i) Intra-regional Trade: Rules of Origin in North Africa (one in 2006);
- (ii) Capital Mobility among North African Countries (one in 2007);
- (iii) Strategies for Sustainable Development: Experiences and Lessons in North Africa (one in 2007).

3. *Special Event*

- (i) North African Development Forum: Support for the implementation of NEPAD in North Africa (one in 2007).

C. Technical Cooperation

1. *Advisory Services*

- (i) Eight advisory missions, upon request, to member States, RECs and IGOs on institutional and sectoral issues related to strengthening regional integration and on the implementation of NEPAD in North Africa.

2. *Group Training*

- (i) Workshop on ECA African Gender Development Index (one in 2006)

3. *Field Projects*

- (i) Joint ECA/ESCWA/ECE Mediterranean Initiative: Alternative approaches to financing new and renewable energy projects;
- (ii) Observatory for Regional Integration in North Africa.