

Sub-Regional Coordination Mechanism - SRCM-North Africa
Consultative Regional Meeting to Support the Achievement of SDGs and
Strengthen Partnerships in North Africa
Rabat (Morocco), 18-19 June 2019

Aide-memoire

I- Context and introduction

The Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa (RCM-Africa) provides a framework to facilitate coordination and collaboration at continental level between the United Nations system and development partners, in support of the priorities and initiatives of the African Union and its organs, the Regional Economic Communities. The RCM-Africa includes four sub-regional coordination mechanisms covering Central Africa, East and South Africa, West Africa and North Africa.

The 20th session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism - Africa¹ focused on ways and means to strengthen the effectiveness of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM-Africa) and Sub-Regional Coordination Mechanisms (SCRM), in the context of ongoing reforms of the United Nations system and the African Union (AU).

Discussions focused in particular on improving working relations between the RCM-Africa and the United Nations Regional Group on Sustainable Development, in order to better address the African Union's² and its Regional Economic Communities' new priorities. The meeting also agreed on the need to align the work of the RCM-Africa with the two joint United Nations-African Union frameworks which have been adopted to enhance partnerships on peace and security, and for an integrated implementation of both Agendas 2030 and 2063³.

The meeting highlighted key constraints hampering the effectiveness of the RCM-Africa and SCRM, including: gaps in joint planning, lack of clear working arrangements (limiting coordination and information sharing) and of a monitoring and evaluation framework, shortage of dedicated human and financial resources and insufficient commitment of partners in the implementation and monitoring of activities.

¹ The meeting was jointly organized with the regional teams' secretariat of the United Nations Group on Sustainable Development (Marrakech, 23-24 March 2019). The RCM derives its mandate from Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution 1998/46.).

² The African Union's strategic priorities identified under the RCM-Africa are: (i) regional integration and AfCFTA; (ii) silencing arms, (iii) climate change, (iv) gender and youth, (v) capacity building, (vi) division of labor among regional economic communities, Member States and international actors and (vii) supporting the African Union's annual theme.

³ A joint United Nations system-African Union development framework was signed in January 2018, with a view to strengthening coordination and cooperation between the two organizations, for the harmonized implementation and monitoring of both agendas.

The following recommendations were made:

- Align the work plans (2019-2020) of the coordination mechanisms (regional and sub-regional) with the 7 strategic priorities of the AU and the two AU-UN frameworks on peace and security and the implementation of both agendas 2030 and 2063;
- Regional Economic Communities (RECs) development priorities and agendas to serve as an entry point for SRCM activities;
- Enhance partner engagement, collaboration and communication;
- Designate a lead agency/institution for each selected area of action;
- Partners involved should designate a focal point and an alternate;
- Establish clear working arrangements within the MCR-Africa and MSRC clusters;
- Strengthen collaboration between relevant RCM-Africa clusters and SRCMs;
- Bolster ties between the continental, sub-regional and national levels;
- Ensure that the progress report prepared by the Secretariat of each mechanism, based on partners' inputs, includes only joint activities implemented by at least two agencies/partners and the AU or RECs, and not individual partners' activities;
- Develop a joint strategy for the mobilization of predictable resources.

The meeting discussed and adopted the RCM-Africa clusters' revised joint work plans for the period 2019-2020, which include AU priorities as well as those arising from United Nations reform. The joint work plans of the various SRCMs have yet to be finalized.

At the sub-regional level, the Sub-Regional Coordination Mechanism for North Africa (SRCM-North Africa) aims to promote information sharing, discuss sub-regional priorities and initiatives and strengthen collaboration and coordination between United Nations organizations and other partners with AMU, in order to adequately address sub-regional priorities. It also intends to help consolidate ties between the regional, sub-regional and national levels.

The SRCM should also facilitate the implementation of joint initiatives to support Member States' efforts to implement and monitor the objectives of the African Union's Agenda 2063⁴ and Sustainable Development Objectives (Agenda 2030).

The SRCM-North Africa is co-chaired by the ECA's Office for North Africa and the General Secretariat of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU). The annual consultative meeting of the SRCM-North Africa held in Rabat, Morocco, on March 1 and 2, 2018 led to the adoption of a regional roadmap (2018-2019) to support the achievement of SDGs in North Africa.

II- Overall objective of the meeting

The objective of the meeting is to review the status of implementation of the regional roadmap and challenges encountered in its implementation and to agree on (i) necessary adjustments in light of the African Union and the AU-UN framework's strategic priorities for the implementation of both Agendas 2030 and 2063 (ii) working arrangements to ensure more effective implementation and monitoring and (iii) ways to use available resources to implement actions relating to the roadmap.

⁴ Agenda 2063 was adopted by the 24th Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly, held in Addis Ababa, on January 30-31st, 2015. It includes 20 objectives and 172 targets and aims to accelerate the continent's economic and social transformation. Its first 10-year action plan (2015-2025) adopted in June 2015 is currently being implemented.

III- Specific objectives of the meeting

More specifically, the meeting aims to:

1. Take stock of progress and challenges in the implementation of the regional roadmap;
2. Review the roadmap for the 2019-2020 period with a view to integrating the African Union's strategic priorities relevant to the sub-region as well as the UN-AU development framework for the harmonized implementation and monitoring of both Agendas;
3. Discuss and adopt working methods and a monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework. This includes the following:
 - Defining thematic working groups for each of the roadmap areas; Each group will then be responsible for defining its work plan with its activities/projects, implementation timeline, responsibilities, resources, etc.;
 - o Adopting a single template for the development of the work plan, in order to facilitate monitoring-evaluation of the activities/projects that will be identified by each working group. A quarterly monitoring report could be prepared by each group and sent to the SRCM Secretariat.

IV- Expected outcomes

The meeting is expected to achieve the following outcomes:

- The regional roadmap (2019-2020) is revised and adopted;
- Working groups chaired by a lead agency/institution are identified;
- Monitoring and reporting procedures are defined.

V- Meeting proceedings and format

The meeting will be conducted over a day and a half. The work will be organized into plenary sittings, structured around the following sessions:

- **Session 1:** Continental framework for the implementation and monitoring of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063;
- **Session 2:** Progress in SDG implementation at the sub-regional and national levels ;
- **Session 3:** Review of the regional roadmap;
- **Session 4:** Implementation, monitoring and reporting of the roadmap;
- **Session 5:** Resource mobilization;
- **Session 6:** Wrap up and closing session.

VI- Expected outputs

At the close of the meeting, the following outputs will be prepared and distributed to all participants:

- The report of the meeting;
- The updated regional roadmap (2019-2020);
- The SRCM consolidated work plan (2019-2020) to be developed from the work plans of selected working groups.

VII- Documentation

Working documents for the meeting include:

- The aide-memoire;
- The meeting programme;
- The draft report on the implementation of the regional roadmap

VIII- Participants

The following institutions will attend the meeting:

- The ECA Office for North Africa;
- The AMU General Secretariat;
- The United Nations Sustainable Development Group at the regional level;
- Resident Coordinators of the United Nations System in North African countries;
- Directors of Regional Offices of specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations System with programmes/activities in North Africa;
- The African Development Bank;
- The Islamic Development Bank;
- International/intergovernmental organizations operating in North Africa;
- Secretariat of the Regional Coordination Mechanism RCM-Africa.

IX- Date and venue of the meeting

The meeting will be held in Rabat (Kingdom of Morocco) on June 18 and 19th, 2019. The venue of the meeting will be announced at a later date.

X- Working languages

The working languages of the meeting are French and English. Simultaneous translation will be provided.

XI- Contacts

Information about the meeting can be obtained from:

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