



1st African Union Specialized Offices Retreat

FINAL REPORT

Midrand 8, 9 December 2011



NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency
Agence de Planification et de Coordination du NEPAD

NEPAD@10
Working for the people of Africa



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INTRODUCTION

As the technical agency of the African Union, the NEPAD Agency convened a 2 days retreat for the African Union specialized offices, in Midrand, Republic of South Africa on the 8th and 9th December 2011.

The purpose of the retreat was to bring together all the AU's specialized institutions and the NEPAD Agency for a Brainstorming Session. The session was to collectively design an integrated and coordinated method of engagement, that will ensure the effective implementation of the AU's priority programs and projects.

The programme, the presentations made during the session and the list of participants are presented in the annex of this report

Summary of the presentations made during the Session:

NEPAD Agency

Established in February 2010 by the 14th AU Assembly to replace the NEPAD Secretariat

- An AU technical agency with statutory mandate to:
 - Facilitate and coordinate the implementation of continental and regional programmes and projects
 - Mobilize resources and partners in support of the implementation of Africa's priority programmes and projects
 - Conduct and coordinate research and knowledge management
 - Monitor and evaluate the implementation of programmes and projects
 - Advocate the AU and NEPAD vision, mission and core principles

NEPAD Agency Programme Thematic areas:

1. Agriculture and food security
2. Climate change & natural resources management
3. Regional integration & infrastructure
4. Human development
5. Economic & corporate governance
6. Cross-cutting issues

NEPAD regional centers initiative

1. African Biosciences Initiatives (ABI)
2. NEPAD Water Centers of Excellence
3. NEPAD/African Laser Centre
4. African Mathematical Sciences Network NPCA

SAFGRAD (Semi-arid, Food Grain Research and Development)/OUAGADOUGOU

The Heads of African States and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) established SAFGRAD in 1977 (based on Resolution 505 XXIX adopted by the Council of Ministers).

The mandate of AU SAFGRAD is :

- To contribute to the advancement of agricultural research technology transfer and marketing as well as the management of natural resources ...
- To facilitate and coordinate the use of the scientific talents of National Agricultural Research System, (NARS) International Agricultural Research Center (IARCs) and Scientific Research Organizations (SROs)...
- to enhance food security, promote sustainable agriculture, development of irrigation, both in rural and peri-urban areas of the semi-arid zones of Africa.

STRC (Scientific technical research commission)/LAGOS

Created in 1964 STRC serves Africa in all matters relating to science, technology and research.

Priority areas

Agriculture and forestry, oceanography and fisheries; biological research; medical research; industrial and technological development including biotechnology and new, renewable and solar energies, natural resources, environmental sciences, basic sciences including computers and information technology human resource development.

CAERT (Centre africain d'études et de recherches sur le terrorisme)/ALGER

L'objectif du Centre est de contribuer au renforcement des capacités de l'Union africaine dans les domaines de la prévention et de la lutte contre le terrorisme en Afrique, et l'objectif final est l'élimination de la menace qu'il représente pour la paix, la sécurité et le développement de l'Afrique. A cet égard, le Centre devra centraliser les informations, les études et les analyses relatives au terrorisme et aux groupes terroristes, mettre en place des programmes de formation et organiser, avec l'appui des partenaires internationaux, des programmes de formation des réunions et des colloques.

ATU (Africa telecommunications union)/NAIROBI

ATU is the leading continental organisation fostering the development of information and communication technologies infrastructure and services.

The mission: to promote the rapid development of info-communications in Africa in order to achieve universal access, and full inter-country connectivity.

ATU provides a forum for stakeholders involved in ICT to formulate effective policies and strategies aimed at improving access to information infrastructure and services.

PAPU (Pan African postal union)/DAR ES SALAM

Following the decision of the Heads of State of the then OAU member countries during their meeting in Libreville, Gabon in 1977, PAPU was established on the 18th January 1980 by the Plenipotentiary Conference.

PAPU mission is to promote reforms in the development of physical, electronic and financial postal network in all member countries and encourage cooperation among stakeholders.

CELTHO (Centre d'études linguistiques et historiques par tradition orale)/NIAMEY

In 1974, the CELTHO of Niamey was integrated by the Organization of the African Unity (OAU) as Center for Linguistic and Historical Studies through Oral Traditions.

From the beginning, CELTHO/OAU was assigned the mission of coordinating the research programmes on the languages in West Africa and on the oral traditions of the whole continent.

CPI (Conseil phytosanitaire interafricain)/YAOUNDE

1956 : Création à Londres en Grande Bretagne suite à la recommandation de la FAO relative à la création des organisations régionales de protection des végétaux avec pour principales missions :

- Coordination des procédures de protection des végétaux en Afrique;
- Promotion de l'échange d'information phytosanitaire et;
- facilitation de la collaboration entre les Organisations Nationales de Protection des Végétaux (ONPV's) du continent et renforcement de leurs capacités.

Key recommendations

Harmonization of programmes

1. The NEPAD agency should involve the AU specialized offices in the implementation of its development programmes; those intersecting with CAADP should be integrated in the pillar work of CAADP

2. NPCA should lead in the harmonization of activities process and utilized websites and associated media to that purpose.
3. ICT common activity programme for 2012:
 - i. Facilitation of remittances from Diaspora.
 - ii. Post office to serve as community information and e-service centers.
 - iii. Local hubs to provide connectivity and services to schools, hospitals, farmers etc.
 - iv. Home and away roaming Capacity building.

Modus operandi & Frequency of meetings

The Network should be institutionalized and carry out M&E of its own activities.

The communication strategy must be as clear as possible; mailing list and setup of e-group discussions.

Meetings should be annual and preferably should coincide with some "big events" to reduce costs and for visibility (ex AU summit).

Sponsorship of the meetings

Each Agency should pay for its participation.

Need for a budget line within the NEPAD Agency which can support agencies that cannot afford to participate in these meetings.

Membership of the network

- AUC specialized offices
- NEPAD Agency including regional centers
- The 8 Recs (level to be determined)

- NEPAD liaison office within AUC

Network Focal point

Should be appointed by Director of programme alignment of the NEPAD Agency; he or she will serve as secretary of the Network.