

ECA Panelist- 5 Minutes

The just concluded presentation of the Africa RIM chair provides a good overview of progress, challenges and constraints, as well as lessons learned and the way forward to accelerate implementation progress. From the presentation, it is clear that the implementation gap is huge. It is also clear that all five thematic areas are interrelated. This justifies the need for an interlinkages approach to the development and implementation of policies and programmes in the different areas. And requires systems and mechanisms that promote integrated planning and allow for concerted and coordinated actions from all stakeholders at all levels.

The role of regional implementation in bridging the gap between global level agreements and national level actions is well recognized. In this regard, ECA's role in the implementation of sustainable development agreements and commitments includes providing appropriate platforms for policy dialogue, advocacy, experience and knowledge sharing, as well as networking. One important institutional mechanism set up for this purpose is the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development that provides the platform for the Africa RIMS.

The importance of productive partnerships to achieving desired results cannot be overemphasized. For example, in convening the Africa RIM that served as Africa's preparatory meeting to the current Session of the CSD, ECA received invaluable support from the African Union Commission, UNEP, UNIDO, SAICM and the ARSCP. These organizations, together, provided the much needed political support and technical inputs into the process. Please allow me to recognize their presence in this room, as well as the presence of other partners whose support and collaboration we greatly cherish.

Such partnerships could be strengthened within the framework of the Tripartite Secretariat of the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and ECA, as well the Regional Coordination Mechanism of UN Agencies in Support of the African Union and its NEPAD Programme, of which ECA serves as Secretariat. ECA and partners are now working to replicate this mechanism at subregional levels and to effectively link it to UNDAF processes at the national level.

The RIM emphasized the need for enhanced implementation of concrete action on the ground. This calls for effectively integrating sustainable development concerns into national development planning processes. The need to make available adequate financial resources in a sustained manner is quite evident. In this regard, the AUC/ECA Joint Conference of Ministers of Planning, Finance and Economic Development, as well as relevant governing bodies of the African Development Bank have important roles to play. And so have national level institutions for sustainable development.

Civil society groups have been very effective in bridging realities on the ground with political interests and actions. We call on all Major Groups to bring to bear their respective comparative advantages to enable Africa overcome implementation constraints and to walk the path of sustainable growth and development.

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The African Union Commission is honored to be associated with the Africa Session of the Regional Discussions. The Commission participated actively in the Africa RIM, which provided Africa's inputs into the current CSD Session. AUC's collaboration with ECA is long-standing and has been undertaken within the framework of the Tripartite Secretariat, which includes the African Development Bank.

As the continental **political and development organization**,.....AUC is committed to supporting the implementation of sustainable development commitments through AU structures and programmes.

At this juncture, it is important to highlight that the New Partnership for Africa's Development provides the framework for sustainable development on the continent.

All five thematic areas under review in the current CSD- cycle, namely; transport, mining, chemicals, waste management and mining have been addressed in the NEPAD Document; and strategies and actions plans have been elaborated for their implementation. NEPAD has now been integrated into AU structures and processes and the body coordinating its implementation upgraded from a Secretariat to a NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency

Regional Economic Communities, which are the building blocks of the African Economic Community, have an important role to play. They provide effective links between national level priorities and actions and regional level initiatives, which are essential to ensuring effective coordination and coherence in the implementation of policies and programmes at the national, subregional and regional levels.

Various African Ministerial bodies are now Specialized Technical Committees of the AU. A case in point is the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) whose work is relevant to the chemicals, waste and SCP thematic areas. You will recall that AMCEN adopted the African 10- Year Framework of Programmes on SCP. Other Ministerial bodies include those responsible for infrastructure and industry. The infrastructure ministerial body (Fatoumata please provide) adopted the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) (Fatoumata please check) and the Conference of African Ministers of Industry (CAMI) adopted the Africa Mining Vision.

Needless to say, AUC will do its utmost to ensure that the areas under review in the current CSD cycle are given due consideration at the highest level of decision making on the continent- AU Summit.

AUC will continue to provide political support and direction for the implementation of the Africa's sustainable development agenda and to promote coherence and coordination in the development and implementation of policies and programmes.