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Conselho Económico, Social E
Cultural Da União Africana

ECOSOCC CLUSTER OPERATIONALIZATION

OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE
POLITICAL AFFAIRS CLUSTER

NAIROBI, KENYA, 11-12 OCTOBER 2015

**Operationalization Meeting of the Political Affairs Cluster,
Nairobi, Kenya, 11-12 October 2015**

I. INTRODUCTION

The meeting on the operationalization of the ECOSOCC Political Affairs Cluster was held in Nairobi, Kenya from 11-12 October 2015.

II. OBJECTIVES

The objective is for the Political affairs Cluster to operationalize its Sectorial cluster in conformity with Article 11 of the statute of the ECOSOCC of the African Union.

The main objectives of the Sectorial cluster committee are:

- a) Formulate opinions
- b) Provide opinions into the policies and programme of the African Union

III. DELIBERATIONS

The core cluster committee, deliberated on the various issues in the agenda and work plan in a technical meeting for duration of two days, subsequently the following decisions and recommendations were provided.

IV. DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The core cluster committee:

1) On the Role and Structure of political affairs cluster:

- a) Notes the continued relevance of the scope of work of the political affairs cluster committee as outlined in Article 11(b) of the Statutes of the ECOSOCC of the African Union
- b) Decides to supplement the scope of work as per the mandate of political affairs cluster, by including the following: Governance Deficit; Politics of development; Constitutionalism; Elections; Migration; Advocacy; all other issues where relevant non state actors within and outside Africa can add value.

2) On Membership:

- a) Recalls decision III(c) of the standing committee on its 1st ordinary session of the 2nd ECOSOCC permanent general assembly, on the “Modalities for the Operationalization of Sectoral Cluster committee”
- b) Decides to allow membership as per decision III(c) of the standing committee.

- c) Directs that associate members from the wider Civil society should adhere to the ECOSOCC rules and regulations
- d) Recommends the Decentralization of cluster units through the establishment of national and regional chapters.
- e) In the interim Decides to adhere to the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly of ECOSOCC until the cluster develops its own rules of procedure.
- f) Also Decides that policy decisions will be submitted to the AU decision making organ through the ECOSOCC Standing Committee

3) On the Cluster Workplan

- a) Notes and agreed on the workplan for years 2015 and 2016 (Enclosed)
- b) Highlighted the need for consultations with the wider civil society related to the political affairs cluster

4) On the Relationship and Partnerships

- a) Notes and appreciates the existing relation with the Department of the political affairs.
- b) Decides to further define and develop functional relationships with the Department of Political Affairs; other departments in the African Union Commission; ACHPR; African Court; PAP; AUCIL; ACRWC
- c) Decides to Enhance and strengthen Cooperation especially in areas dealing with the Civil Society
- d) Emphasizes the need to establish linkages with other clusters for purposes of complementarity
- e) Appreciates the existing platforms at the national and regional levels including the ECOSOCC national chapter and underscores the importance of collaboration.

5) On Financing

- a) Underlines the need to adhere to African Union Commission financial rules and regulations.
- b) Encourages that the cluster regulations explore possibility of cooperation and co-financing.
- c) Recalls Article 13(2) of the Statutes of the ECOSOCC regarding mobilizing resources from extra budgetary sources.
- d) Decides that cluster draft resource mobilization and financing framework should be submitted to the executive council following approval of the ECOSOCC standing committee.