



**Joint Conclusions from the Fourth Meeting**  
**of the High Level Group of the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF Regional Indicative Programme**  
**for the Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and Indian Ocean Region**  
**9 November 2016, Brussels**

*The HLG met on 09 November 2016 to discuss the agenda attached in Annex A. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Koen Doens, Director DEVCO D ESA-IO region and Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, the SADC Executive Secretary.*

**1. Global challenges and role of DMROs**

*The High Level Group exchanged on the global challenges and identified the following as key issues: Social-Economic Transformation, Labour and Irregular Migration, Poverty and Food Insecurity, Radicalisation and Violent Extremism, Economy and Demographics, Climate Change, Democracy, Elections and Good Governance, Natural Disasters and Terrorism.*

**2. Update by DMROs on Institutional Reforms**

*The DMROs presented updates on their on-going and planned institutional reforms.*

*The discussion focussed on the DMROs role to drive regional integration and the importance of national-regional linkages.*

*The HLG underlined the need to find sustainable solutions for the financing of the DMROs in the medium term.*

**3. Update on the APSA Programme**

*The EU referred to the decision of the HLG of June 4 – 5 2015 that certain APSA activities should be financed from the RIP as from 1 January 2018.*

*The meeting agreed that joint analyses will be undertaken to determine the added value and type of interventions to be supported under the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF RIP.*

**4. General Stocktaking and state of play of the implementation of the EA-SA-IO RIP**

*The meeting noted the EU's presentation on the status of the implementation of the RIP to date. The meeting also noted the status of the DMROs' pipeline. It is foreseen that the sub-regional programmes will be formulated by the end of 2017.*

The HLG agreed that the status report will be updated on the basis of comments of the DMROs to be provided by 15 December 2016.

The High Level Group agreed that the work on the development of value chains should be reinforced within the existing RIP, recalling that within the RIP there is certain flexibility to adjust programmes according to new priorities.

## **5. Cross-regional envelopes**

### **Inclusion of a Cross-Regional Chapter for AFRITACs in the RIP**

The meeting discussed the EU's proposal to revise the RIP in order to include a chapter on support to AFRITAC South and AFRITAC East. The DMROs gave a 'no objection' to the proposal but agreed that the following aspects should be taken into account in rolling out the decision:

- DMROs shall ensure that the legal framework for engagement with the AFRITACs mainstreams strategic priorities of the DMROs into the AFRITACs' work programme.
- The DMROs shall participate in the preparation of the Contribution Agreements to be signed with IMF for support to AFRITACs and with a clear reporting and monitoring structure.
- In order to ensure that all COMESA member states are covered, some actions are to be implemented in partnership with COMESA Monetary Institute.

### **Lake Tanganyika – cross-regional envelope**

The meeting agreed that the budget for the project on trans-boundary water management in the Tanganyika basin, which is being identified, will be increased by 2 million Euros from the capacity development envelope of the infrastructure chapter.

## **6. Merging Infrastructure Regulation and Legislation with Capacity Development**

The meeting agreed to merge the infrastructure sub-components of: (i) Governance Reforms (40 million Euros) and (ii) Capacity Building (25 million Euros) to total 75 million Euros. The meeting noted that, so far, from the 40 million Euros, 25 million Euros has been committed for Transport and Energy projects. Merging the sub-components would ensure there is adequate funding for the remaining ICT, Civil Aviation and Railway Transport projects.

## **7. Infrastructure – State of Play – Review of Indicative List of Priority Projects**

The EU presented the revised and substantially increased list of infrastructure projects including indicative grants for the projects found attractive to development banks. The list is attached in Annex B.

The meeting agreed on the need to expand the current list to ensure adequate and timely uptake of the available funds, and that the DMROs are to provide input to the updated list in consultation with the Member States by 15 February 2017.

The criteria for selecting additional projects for the priority list are the same as those identified in the RIP. The RIP also foresees a balanced geographical distribution of the available funds for blending.

*It was also agreed that the new IGAD's Sudan-Ethiopia Transmission Line project is to be considered as part of the hard infrastructure priority list.*

#### **8. Review of Proposals on "Soft" Infrastructure**

*The DMROs presented the status of the identification of the soft infrastructure projects under their leadership. The meeting noted that:*

- COMESA is at an advanced stage of the formulation of ICT projects. The ICT project will be fully formulated by 15<sup>th</sup> December 2016, taking into account, the input of all the DMROs.*
- COMESA has identified a project on civil aviation in consultation with the DMROs. The project will be fully formulated by 15<sup>th</sup> December 2016, upon receipt of final comments from the DMROs.*
- IOC circulated a draft on Maritime Transport in September 2016, and is awaiting comments from the DMROs to be provided by 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2016.*
- EAC has circulated a proposal for a railway transport project. Inputs from the DMROs will be provided by the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2016.*
- Financing Agreements for the finalised projects (Transport and Energy) have been signed by the EU and will be sent to the DMROs for consideration.*
- IGAD informed the HLG that it will present a concept note for a soft infrastructure project on renewable energy by 15 December 2016.*
- The EU also underlined that proposals should be comprehensive and integrated covering in principle the entire EA-SA-IO region and taking duly into account the particularities of Island States.*

#### **9. Presentation on the Proposed Technical Assistance Facility for Capacity Development**

*The meeting noted the main features of the Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) proposed for consideration under the soft infrastructure envelope. The purpose of the TAF is to boost capacity building for project preparation at the regional and national levels. The meeting agreed that the DMROs are to consult and provide comments on the proposal by 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016.*

*The meeting also agreed that the distribution of the 48 million Euros remaining from the merged infrastructure sub-components shall be agreed by the 15th December deadline. The EU pointed out the need to operate within realistic budgetary expectations.*

#### **10. Presentation on the EU External Investment Plan**

*The EU presented the main features of the EU External Investment Plan (EEIP) which is currently under preparation. The DMROs were informed that the EEIP presents a single approach bringing together the existing facilities, support to the business environment, and technical assistance, and which also includes a guarantee facility. The DMROs noted that the Africa Investment Facility (AfIF) will remain operational in the next 8 months, after which it will evolve into the EEIP.*

*The EU agreed to provide additional detailed information on the functioning of the AfIF by 1 December 2016.*

*The DMROs welcomed the EEIP and urged the EU to:*

- i. Provide detailed information on the EEIP;*
- ii. Ensure that African private sector benefits from the EEIP*
- iii. Ensure investment in renewable energy*

*The meeting noted that dissemination of information on the EEIP will be addressed as soon as approved by the EU.*

**11. Information and Approach on the Mid-Term Review of the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF RIP**

*The meeting noted the need to finalise the guidelines and orientations for the MTR of the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF, which are the starting point for discussions on the Terms of Reference and indicative dates for the MTR.*

**12. Post-Cotonou Update and Scenarios**

*The EU informed the DMROs that the Communication on post-Cotonou will be adopted by the College of the Commission on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016. This will provide the basis for discussions.*

*The EU urged the DMROs to initiate reflection on their expectations of the future partnership with the EU.*

**13. AOB**

***Implementation of the “Direct Access” principle***

*The meeting noted the DMROs’ concerns regarding implementation of the “Direct Access” principle and agreed that the principle will be applied in a manner that does not undermine the ownership and coordinating role of the DMROs.*

***Next meeting will take place tentatively in April 2017 in Gaborone, Botswana.***