

Africa Capacity Development Report Drafting Work Session

22 – 27 October 2012, Park Inn Hotel,
Johannesburg, South Africa

Concept Note

Introduction

The NEPAD Agency with the support of UNDP is developing and publishing an annual Report on the “*State of Capacity Development in Africa*” (Africa-CDR). The report seeks to identify capacity assets and constraints in translating policies and plans into concrete development results. The maiden Africa-CDR will also examine the key institutions involved in the process of translating policies into results and the critical capacity development interventions required at the interface of planning and implementation. As a premier and flagship knowledge product of the African Union, the maiden 2013 Africa-CDR will be launched at the 20th African Union Assembly in January/February 2013. The launch will offer an opportunity for the AU to engage with policy makers at the highest level on Africa’s capacity development challenges in the quest for Development Effectiveness and the associated inclusive and sustainable growth.

National and regional experts have been identified to prepare country CD profiles for 12 countries and sub-regional case studies to serve as input into the 2013 report. These profiles will, among other things, analyze the institutional challenges and assets in policy planning and implementation, assess the state of CD in key sectors and identify key institutions highlighting areas in which attention is needed towards incremental investments for effective CD outcomes. The results of the profiles will feed into the integrated regional report.

The Africa-CDR process has involved several stages, including selection of experts through open regional competitive processes, training, orientation and on-going coaching, as well as technical review sessions of draft products. The stage has now been reached where the experts are collating inputs into the integrated report, and a technical work-session is being organized to facilitate this process.

Objectives

The objectives of the work-session are:

- a) To review products/inputs prepared and submitted by the various experts;
- b) Identify and agree on major messages/themes emerging from the national profiles and sub-regional cases to form core of the report;
- c) To collate the various inputs and prepare a draft chapters of the Africa-CDR.

A major deliverable from the session will be the draft chapters of the Africa-CDR leading to a last stage of finalizing the report before the High-Level and Regional validation meeting scheduled for end of November 2012. The Regional Validation Meeting is a culmination of several national validation workshops which are currently underway (Oct/Nov) in the participating countries.

Participants and format

Sub-regional experts and selected national experts will attend the work-session, together with members of the editorial board. The CD teams from the NEPAD Agency and the UNDP-RSC will guide the drafting process in terms of content, structure, style of writing and report length. Further, the session will benefit from inputs by NEPAD and UNDP experts, beyond the CD teams as valuable resource persons. The session will adopt a writing workshop format:

Day 1 will be devoted to presentations and discussions of inputs by the lead expert (*revised concise drafts of background chapters*) and sub-regional experts explicitly and concretely highlighting:

- Overall capacity situation in their respective sub-regions based on findings from country profiles, case studies and secondary sources;
- Key common issues/themes emerging on capacity assets and constraints;
- Unique messages/issues emerging from each national case;
- Commendable practices

Members of the editorial board and other resource persons will critique the submissions and make suggestions as appropriate.

Day 2 will be devoted to issues of structure, style/presentation and organizational issues. Standardization of writing style and language in line with AU practice will be key given the target audience of the report.

Members of the editorial board may leave after the first two days, leaving the sub-regional and selected national experts to proceed with drafting and dialogue.

Days 3 – 7 are earmarked for the collation of various inputs, intense writing/re-writing sections and consolidating the key themes. NEPAD and UNDP CD as well as other experts will be reviewing products piece by piece and offering targeted guidance to the drafting team for refinement. After refining the products, sub-regional experts will table these at the end of the session – Day 7.

Outputs

It is expected that a collated draft of the Africa-CDR containing all chapters would be available by the end of the work-session.

Outline agenda

12.00 – 17.30 hrs

Day 1: Presentation of revised and refined Introductory and Background Chapters by Lead Expert

- Input by Editorial Board and Drafting Team

Presentations of findings by sub-regional experts

- Overall capacity situation in respective sub-regions based on findings from country profiles, case studies and secondary sources;
- Key common issues/themes emerging on capacity assets and constraints;
- Unique messages/issues emerging from each national case;
- Commendable practices

- Critique by members of the Editorial Board and Drafting Team

09.00 – 17.30 hrs (depending on activity)

Day 2: Discussion and guidelines on structure, style/presentation, language and organizational issues

Day 3 – 7: Collation of various inputs, intense writing/re-writing sections and consolidating the key themes

NEPAD/UNDP Review of individual products and feedback for refinement

Final Presentation of consolidated versions – Take home comments

END