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**Key Outcomes of the Technical Planning Meeting on
Operationalization of the AU-Specialized Technical Committee on
Public Service, Local Governance, Urban development and
Decentralization.**

18-20 August, 2014

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia:

1. INTRODUCTION

The African Union meeting on the operationalization of the Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service, Local Governance, Urban development and Decentralization was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 18th to 20th August 2014. The meeting was convened to discuss and agree the modalities of transitioning from Ministerial Conferences to Specialised Technical Committees under the African Union.

The Meeting was attended by twelve (12) Member States of the African Union (Benin, Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Namibia, Nigeria, Republic of South Africa, Sudan, Chad, Uganda, and Zambia). The participants represented the following conferences; Conference of African Ministers of Public/Civil Service (AU CAMPS), Africa Ministerial Conference on Decentralization (AMCOD), and African Ministers Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD). The Meeting was also attended by the following cooperating partners and development Agencies; the African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM), UN Habitat and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

1.1. OBJECTIVES OF MEETING

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- i. Discuss and agree on the Structure of the STC;
- ii. Deliberate and reach a consensus on how the former three Ministerial Conferences that are now clusters will work together as one STC;

- iii. Discuss and agree on what the programmes and activities of each Cluster of the STC would be;
- iv. Brainstorm and spell out what the role of the Department of Political Affairs of the African Union as the Secretariat of the STC will be;
- v. Review and make inputs in the Draft Rules of Procedure of the STC on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization; and
- vi. Understand the African Governance Architecture (AGA) and mainstream the STC as AU organ on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization in the AGA framework.

2. KEY OUTCOMES

The following were the key outcomes of the meeting:

- i. Activities under AMCHUD to be formally integrated into the AU framework;
- ii. Interim Structure for the STC was agreed upon based on the following the criteria
 - a) Geographical distribution
 - b) Representation of the three (3) sectorial ministerial conferences
 - c) Ministerial Conference that gets the Chairperson gets one slot while the remaining two (2) get two slots each
 - d) Representation in the bureau is based on representation in the Bureau of the Ministerial Conferences

- iii. The meeting adopted the following interim Bureau to oversee its affairs and pending the formal adoption of a Bureau during the meeting of the STC:

| Positions | Ministerial Conferences | Regions | Countries |
|------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Chairperson | AU CAMPS | Central | Congo |
| 1 st | AMCOD | West | Benin |
| 2 nd | AMCHUD | South | Zambia |
| 3 rd | AMCOD | North | TBD |
| Rapporteur | AMCHUD | East | Kenya |

- IV. The activities and programmes formerly under Ministerial Conferences to continue as they were under the Sub-Committees of the STC;
- V. Each Sub-Committee of the STC should send its work to the Secretariat of the STC for harmonization, in consultation with the Bureau of the Sub Committee;
- VI. Follow-Up Actions shall be adopted by the following stakeholders:

African Union Commission

- a. Letter to be written to Member states and Chairpersons of Ministerial Conferences to confirm and sensitise them on the STCs and the resolution made as captured in Doc.EX.CL/845(XXV).
- b. Letter to be written to the Bureaus of the Ministerial Conferences to confirm the AUC's Department of Political Affairs as the Secretariat of the STC on Public service, Local government, Urban development and Decentralisation; and the focal point for the three STC Subcommittees.

Deadline: No later than End of August 2014.

The AMCHUD, CAMPS and AMCOD conferences:

- a. Convene Ministerial Conferences to table AUC resolution to Members States with the supervision of AUC-STC.
- b. Table a request to AUC that an Additional Cluster be added to the five (5) African Governance Architecture (AGA) Clusters, as the Urban Development and Human Settlements Cluster

Deadline: No later than End of November 2014, the exact dates to be determined following consultation between the proposed host country (Republic of Congo), and the AUC-DPA.

Budget and Finance:

- a. Henceforth, the African Union should make provisions in its budget for activities under the STC.
- b. STC to convene a partners meeting to determine the reallocation of their support from the Ministerial Conferences to the STC

3. KEY OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTS

The meeting made the following key observations and comments with regard to the operationalization of the STC:

- i. It was observed that the Rules and Procedure for the STC did not make adequate provision for issues of human settlement and housing. It was advised that Rule 5 of

Rules and Procedures for STC could be altered to provide for issues related to human settlements and any other matter that had been omitted;

- ii. The meeting was informed that all STC's should-by decision of the Assembly of the African Union Ex.CL/845(XXV) be operational by January 2015. It was further recommended that for the time being the respective Secretariats of the current Ministerial Conferences would continue to serve as the operational arms of the technical sub-committees of the STC. Further, that a transition period would be allowed for the winding up of the Ministerial Conference Secretariat as well as satisfaction of other legal obligations with funders and interested parties;
- iii. The meeting agreed that the activities and programmes formerly under the Ministerial Conferences would be harmonized and transferred to the STC;
- iv. The meeting recognized that although AMCHUD was operating with the support of the United Nations (UN-HABITAT), following the operationalization of the STCs the following programmes would be continued under the African Union; investment in cities to avert chaotic urbanization, development of policies for sustainable housing, incorporation of urban policies into national development plans, urban planning and design, slum upgrading and prevention, spatial planning, land markets, housing finance, capacity development, knowledge sharing as well as access to basic public services;
- v. The meeting was informed that the Bureau would be comprised of member states based on the applicable principles of the African Union and sectoral representatives would be catered for under sub committees;

vi. The meeting observed that in order to ensure consistency, there may be need to develop a charter on values and principles of urban development ,housing and human settlement;

vii. The meeting agreed that the concept of Service Champion developed under CAMPS was a good practice that will need to be extended to activities under the STC and its sub-committees;

viii. With regard to resource mobilization, it was agreed that the AU would provide support for the STC and member states would continue to extend support to the programmes and activities under the STC Sub-committees.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING

After due consideration of the fore-going, the meeting recommended that in order to give full effect to the Assembly decision on STC's the following measures must be put in place :

- a. The first session of the STC should convene before the end of November 2014 to adopt the recommendations of the technical meeting.
- b. An interim Bureau composed five (5) member states should immediately be established to oversee the operations of the STC pending the formal adoption of a substantive Bureau during the meeting of the STC. In addition, the Bureau's of the Ministerial Conferences should be instituted as interim Bureaus of the sub-committees of the STC in order to cater for programmes continuity, legality of their decisions and budgetary considerations. This arrangement will enable AMCHUD to

exercise a leadership role towards HABITAT 3 and other matters incidental to its existing work plan.

- c. The interim STC Bureau, AUC and the Secretariats of the three (3) ministerial conferences develop a time-bound change management plan for the integration of the Secretariats of the three (3) Ministerial Conferences into AUC, including review of AUC human resource and other capacities. This plan will incorporate all administrative and legal mechanisms for the dissolution of the respective ministerial conferences and the integration of the secretariats into the AUC. In the Interim, it was recommended that staff of the Ministerial Bureau Secretariats could be seconded – without the need for relocation - to the AUC Department of Political Affairs. Under this arrangement, the day-to-day supervision of such staffs would be the responsibility of the relevant sub-committee of the STC with overall accountability to AUC-DPA.
- d. That this transition period should not go beyond January 2016.