



Support Programme to the African Union (55M€)

SUMMARY

1. Rationale

From the outset, the European Union has been supportive of the African Union (AU) and underpinned its political commitment with financial support in key areas. As such, the European Commission set up an innovative African Peace Facility (APF) to support African peace keeping operations and supported a number of concrete projects in relation to thematic AU priorities such as institutional capacity building, governance, peace building and conflict prevention. At the same time, the AU gained more credibility both within and outside Africa revamping Africa's quest for a more integrated continent. It adopted a Strategic Plan giving the organisation a long term mission and roadmap for the first AU Commission (2004-2007) led by Chairperson Konaré.

A number of structural weaknesses continue however to hamper the AU's development: the functioning, performance and interaction of the AU institutions need be reviewed and the AU programmes and policies need to further discussed and developed. To address the institutional weaknesses the AU launched an Institutional Transformation Process (ITP) –the first pillar of the AU Strategic Plan- to reinforce the AU Commission, to rationalise Africa's complex institutional set-up and to review the overall governance of the AU.

2. Objectives

Through the Support Programme *two general objectives* are pursued:

- to enable the AU Commission to effectively play its role as “motor” of the integration process and
- to facilitate the deepening of the partnership between the AU and the EU.

Based on these general objectives, *four specific objectives* are pursued:

- to strengthen the overall institutional capacity of the AU (Commission and organs);
- to support synergies and organic links between the AU, NEPAD and the Regional Economic Communities, as building blocks of the African Union;
- to foster effective dialogue and cooperation between AU and EU on areas of mutual interest;
- to prepare the ground for an effective implementation of the future pan-African multi-annual support programme (under the 10th EDF)

3. Expected results

To fulfil these objectives, the four pillars of the AU Strategic Plan 2004-2007 will be supported. Within each pillar, support will focus on a limited number of processes and programmes, taking into account the existing strategic plans and priorities of the different departments.

- *Institutional Transformation.* This support aims at institutional strengthening of the AU Commission (e.g. modernizing financing and accounting systems, modernization of information systems, knowledge management); and strengthening the capacity of the AU Commission to manage and coordinate effective links with the different organs and other key stakeholders such as the Regional Economic Communities.
- *Peace, human security, governance.* This support aims at further completing the political and institutional architecture which should enable the AU to pursue a more integrated approach with regard to peace, human security and governance.
- *Regional integration.* This support is concerned with the capacity of the AU to fully play its role as coordinator and facilitator of exchanges between the RECs and with the Member States in the perspective of a gradual continental integration in the different areas. It also deals with sectoral issues, most notably infrastructure, migration, and science and technology.
- *Shared vision.* The support aims at enhancing the understanding within Africa and Europe on the AU objectives and policies and on EU-AU cooperation. As such it includes support to twinning partnerships, the initiation of the Nyerere programme for student exchange and developing the information and communication capacities of the AU Commission.

4. Budget and implementation

To implement this support the following budget is foreseen:

<i>Budget lines</i>	<i>Percentage % (approx)</i>	<i>Amount (M€)</i>
1. Institutional transformation process	36.3	20
2. Peace, human security and governance	27.3	15
3. Regional integration	23.6	13
- Infrastructure		2
- Migration		2
- Science and Technology		2
- Other sectors		7
4. Shared vision	6.4	3,5
Programme Coordination	2.7	1,5
Short term TA, audits and evaluations		0.5
Contingencies	3.6	1.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>55</i>
[Short term TA, external audits, evaluations		0.5]

The period of execution of the programme shall commence on the day of signature of the contribution agreement and end on 31.12.2013.

The Support Programme will be implemented through a direct Contribution Agreement between the European Commission and the AU Commission.