

**COALITION FOR DIALOGUE IN AFRICA (CoDA)**  
**28 & 29 NOVEMBER, 2009**  
**Tunis, Tunisia**

**Background to the launch of CoDA**

The Coalition for Dialogue on Africa (CoDa) is a joint venture between the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Union Commission (AUC) and the UN's Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). It was established as a successor forum to the Global Coalition for Africa (GCA), the Big Table (Africa – OECD) and the African Development Forum, which were policy forums established in the 1990s to promote dialogue on Africa's development.

CoDA was officially launched on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> 2009 in Addis Ababa by H.E. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. The launch ceremony was chaired by H.E. Mr. Festus Mogae, the former President of Botswana. A CoDA secretariat was established to provide support to the CoDa Board, and it is based at ECA.

The inaugural CoDA Advisory Meeting took place immediately after the launch ceremony under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Festus Mogae. Present were four members of the Board (The Right Honorable Mr. Paul Martin, former Prime Minister of Canada; Dr. Frene Ginwala, former Speaker of the South African National Assembly; Mr. Walter Fust, CEO/Director General, Global Humanitarian Forum; and Mr. Mo Ibrahim, Chair, Mo Ibrahim Foundation); three ex-officio members (AU, ECA and AfDB) and four invited guests (Madam Mary Chinery Hesse, Mr. Adebayo Olukoshi, Mr. Toga McIntosh, Mr. Omar Bakhet, and Prof. Tandeka Nkiwane).

The meeting decided that credibility, independence and inclusiveness would be the keynote qualities for CoDA. In that regard, it was agreed that civil society should be brought on board in addition to the AUC, AfDB and ECA. There was consensus on the need for CoDA should focus its on a specific and limited number of issues which may be problematic for various reasons for individual governments to discuss, and on issues where it could help generate new ideas and new thinking, plus areas where it could have a significant effect on the policy process.

In relation to the foregoing, the secretariat was requested to commission a *Mapping Initiative* designed to identify key ongoing intervention or 'cutting edge' issues, and establish what the levels for implementation should be. The mapping exercise should take into account the availability of resources and needs, identify existing gaps, and identify existing African service providers and their areas of expertise. Preferably, it should also include a SWOT analysis of REC – where that had not already been done - as well as an identification of mega-regional initiatives that could transform the continent or sub regions.

The CoDA meetings are scheduled to take place in Tunis on 28 and 29 November will focus on the global financial crisis and African regional integration. A Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue Forum will be organized on 28 November, and will bring together the CoDA Board, academia, the private and public sectors, civil society and African intelligentsia.