AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

SUDAN

LONG-TERM STRATEGY CONSULTATION MEETING

March 28th, 2012
Summary Report on the LTS Sudan Consultation Meeting

Khartoum – March 28th, 2012

The summary below captures the main points that were discussed during the Sudan consultation meeting and is not intended to be a detailed set of minutes for the meeting. The comments have been summarized along the main thematic areas that were discussed.

1. Context and Drivers of Change

   - For Africa, the LTS should focus not only on green growth, but growth that creates jobs specifically in the agricultural and agro-industry sectors.

2. Vision for Africa for the next Decade

   - Need for broad consultation in policy making - Like most resource-based economies, the Sudanese government failed to invest oil proceeds into agricultural development especially in rain-fed agriculture, which makes significant contributions to the GDP. This can be attributed to the lack of broad consultation in policy formulation. Governments need to reverse such trends over the next decade.

   - Lack of access to modern energy is a major risk that hinders growth. Without energy, agriculture itself, the dominant economic activity in most of the RMCs is plagued by inefficiencies. Opportunities to be efficient at village level business processes and the opportunity to generate additional income will also be lost easily.

   - RMCs need prudent policies to promote investment and strong macroeconomic policies.

   - As Africa advances its production bases to compete both regionally and in global markets, it needs broad-based effective technical standards. We need to promote regional centers for standards and quality assurance that can in turn help promote standards in African products for markets internationally.

3. Operational Focus of the Bank

   - The Bank could try to interact more directly with civil society and not only through Governments. For Sudan this is specifically important because the national strategic planning is not inclusive, and has resulted in misguided strategic planning and policies. For instance, the Bank can engage other segments of society by holding separate LTS consultations sessions for civil society and NGOs, separately from government to get further/different perspectives.

   - The Bank could make a deliberate effort to forge partnerships with institutions in the peripheries, e.g. targeting infrastructure projects in neglected rural areas which will stimulate development in those areas. Intensive consultation of the right and targeted groups and stakeholders will lead to optimum utilization of resources.

   - The Bank could strengthen its niche in reinforcing public-private partnership and forge a mechanism to ensure that private sector lending continues even for countries under sanctions.
• The Bank’s ‘knowledge role’ needs to be strengthened with targeted direct support to national and regional think-tanks.

• The regional integration agenda continues to feature prominently in the Bank’s activities. The emphasis on regionalism while it has not yielded much gain can be tremendously beneficial in leveraging resources, and resolving regional conflicts, and support state-building.

4. Financing

• The Bank must scale up, and accelerate implementation of existing efficient models such as the African Green Fund and create similar models that target private sector development from the grassroots. These will be accompanied by prudent investment promotional acts but also strong macroeconomic policies by RMCs.

• Funding for climate change adaptation and mitigation needs to be mobilized and leveraged more in the next decade. In addition to this, agricultural insurance systems could be explored as a means of adaptation and mitigation in the face of climate change.

5. Institutional Transformation:

• Although the Bank sees itself as the African Bank, the African people see the Bank as the “Governments’ Bank” and not the “people’s Bank”. The Bank needs to demonstrate its “relevance to the people at the grassroots”. In spite of the incidence of conflicts on the continent, the Bank’s direct interaction with indigenous populations such as herders, pastoralists, and farmers must be encouraged.

• The Bank should intensify its analytical work in member countries. Un-strategic approaches in knowledge identification, development and targeted deployment have contributed to incessant economic challenges within the continent. The Bank should guide against fragmented research, and provide technical support to, and establish partnerships with credible local think tanks. The Bank must continue to dig deeper into the issues which are “hidden crises” but ever so prevalent and that which cripple the economic progress of RMCs. Economic and social progress is possible only if there is expertise and knowledge that provides deeper understanding and informed strategies for attaining sustainable solutions and prudent policies.