MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
FOR STRENGTHENING CO-OPERATION
BETWEEN

The NEPAD Planning and Co-ordinating Agency (“NEPAD Agency”) and

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (“OECD”) for the Sahel and West Africa Club (“SWAC”)

Annex 1 - Indicative Work Programme for 2014-16
1. FOOD SECURITY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

1.1. NEPAD Rural Futures Programme and SWAC analytical work on food security

The NEPAD Rural Futures Programme was launched in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in October 2010 during the Seventh African Development Forum (ADF VII). Its overarching purpose is to facilitate new thinking and broad agreement with respect to the vision, strategies and plans for rural economic development and reduction of rural poverty and inequality in Africa. The Programme is based on the understanding that the rural economy including agriculture is a vital and central component for structural change and transformation. The Programme focuses on issues linked to job creation and territorial development through a multisectorial and people centred approach. Intervention areas include: 1) Generate and build the knowledge base for rural transformation; 2) Facilitate dialogue on rural transformation; 3) Invest and promote innovative projects; and 4) Build partnerships and mechanisms for knowledge sharing.

The SWAC has worked extensively on the future of rural areas, settlement, market and food security, and on the transformation of the West African agriculture, focusing in particular on regional dimensions and implications for policy makers.

PROPOSED COLLABORATION:

- Participation of SWAC in the Task team of the Rural Futures Programme to contribute to the definition of the regional rural transformation strategy, through the West African Futures programme and other analytical work on the topic of food security. The indicative work programme of the Rural Future Programme will be shared with SWAC by the NEPAD Agency.

- NEPAD Agency will be associated with the scoping and realisation of SWAC analytical work on food security during the 2015-2016 work programme, including participating in expert groups and referee process of reports.

1.2. CAADP and AGIR

Agricultural development on the continent is driven through NEPAD Agency’s Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). This Programme brings together key players in agriculture – such as African leaders, policy makers, scientists, international development partners and agricultural producers – to unleash agricultural growth and sustainable development on the continent. CAADP’s objective is to raise agricultural productivity and sector growth to at least six percent annually to contribute to poverty alleviation and elimination of hunger in Africa.

The NEPAD Agency in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities amongst which the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), wishes to launch a review of national planning processes (PNIA – Programme nationaux d’investissement agricole) to promote a stronger inclusion of emerging issues such as nutrition, gender aspects, climate smart agriculture and agricultural and food security risk management. In particular and since 2011, the NEPAD Agency has initiated an Agriculture and Food Security Risk Management (AFSRM) initiative aimed at mainstreaming risk management strategies in CAADP investment plans through the design and formulation of tools and policy instruments that will enhance effective implementation of programs and projects in countries and at the regional level.

For the time being, the NEPAD Agency is supporting five countries in West Africa and is working closely with ECOWAS in this emerging subject matter. A joint regional workshop was organised between the two institutions in June 2013 in Ouagadougou, where the risk management initiative was presented.

The Global Alliance for Resilience (AGIR Sahel and West Africa), launched in December 2012 in Ouagadougou, is an Alliance aiming to “structurally and sustainably reduce food and nutritional vulnerability by supporting the implementation of Sahelian and West African policies”. The Alliance is placed under the political and technical leadership of ECOWAS, UEMOA and CISSS and is based on existing platforms and networks, in particular the RPCA. Building on the Zero Hunger target within the next 20 years, the core approach of the Alliance is to channel the efforts of regional and international stakeholders towards a common results framework. The SWAC has been selected as the international platform of AGIR.

The definition of National Resilience Priorities in the framework of AGIR (NPR-AGIR) aiming to enhance resilience and boost food and nutritional security in West African countries will produce relevant inputs to the continued implementation of CAADP in the West African region.

PROPOSED COLLABORATION:

- Co-ordination of the PNIA revision process (NEPAD Agency) and the formulation of NPR AGIR (SWAC) in applicable countries, through sharing working programmes and when/where possible the organisation of joint events and processes.

- Synergy and co-ordination between PNIA and NPR-AGIR will be strengthened by the participation of CAADP representative in SEG-AGIR meetings and to participate in in-country procedures for the definition of National Priorities; likewise, the SWAC will be invited to report on AGIR in CAADP planning instances.

- The NEPAD will share lessons learnt from AGIR process to the other Regional Economic Communities (REC).
2. SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT LINKS, AND CROSS-BORDER ISSUES

2.1. Food security and global security in the Sahel region

In 2011, the NEPAD Agency led the preparation of a project proposal on the linkages between Food Security and Global Security in the Sahel Region. The draft proposal came as an operational follow up to the Decision of the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council to look at an integrated solution to the Sahel situation. The need was expressed by the Sahel countries to have a coordinated, integrated approach and comprehensive plan of action to the issues of good governance, poverty, food insecurity, conflicts and vulnerability facing the region. In fact, the Sahel States had raised, on several occasions, the recurrent food insecurity situation in the region exacerbated by climate change and conflict – as a matter of grave concern. Even though empirical evidences and sound research findings have being emerging in the recent years on these close linkages, the latter have not sufficiently been taken into account in the CAADP processes and other initiatives in the region.

PROPOSED COLLABORATION:

⇒ The NEPAD Agency will participate in the SWAC Forum on innovative operational mechanism to implement and co-ordinate security and development, Lomé, December 2014 and will ensure that the African Union Border Programme (AUBP) also participate in said Forum.

⇒ Based on this first exchange, the NEPAD Agency and the SWAC, in partnership with other stakeholders, could lay out a blue print for strategic intervention in key areas, including: (i) establishment of risk management and monitoring platform, (ii) assessment of humanitarian risks; (iii) development of livelihood profile in the region; (iv) strengthening cooperation across the AU, RECs and Development Partners; and (v) facilitating information support and learning (VI) possible links with AGIR.

2.2. West African Futures “Cross-border co-operation in West Africa: a network approach”

West African Futures is a biannual analytical programme on emerging themes linked to West Africa’s development, led by SWAC. In 2015-2016, the programme will analyse the major challenges and opportunities of cross-border cooperation in West Africa, in particular under two dimensions: (1) How cross-border institutions match the spatial scale of socioeconomic activities; (2) How social actors engaged in cooperation schemes work across national borders.

Activities will include 1) a cycle of research and analysis of the match between the characteristics of cross-border areas and existing institutions for cross-border co-operation, with the goal of enhancing the effectiveness of cross-border co-operation policies, strategies and programmes; 2) discussions and policy dialogue regarding the conclusions of this analytical work; 3) an high level Forum end of 2016.

PROPOSED COLLABORATION:

⇒ The African Union Border Programme (AUBP) will be invited by SWAC to participate in the work process of the 2015-16 West African Futures, in particular to discuss the methodological aspects, review and referee processes, and expert meetings.

⇒ SWAC will participate to the forthcoming Euro-Africa Conference on Border co-operation organised by AUBP.
3. KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

The SWAC has acted as the Secretariat of the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA) since the Network’s creation in 1984. The Network has been recognised as a best practice for its capacity to convene a growing number of stakeholders to agree on diagnostics and recommendations for action regarding the food and nutritional situation in West Africa. This and other examples of network building and policy dialogue by SWAC, in line with the principles of the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, can be used as examples for replication for other African sub-regions or thematic priorities by NEPAD Agency.

The NEPAD Agency Risk Management Initiative includes a capacity development component on risk management tools and policies that will be hosted at the CILSS Regional Center Agrhymet. The capacity development modules are being developed under two formats including e-learning and face-to-face.

PROPOSED COLLABORATION:

→ Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA) is a successful example and instrument of strengthened governance of regional food and nutritional security issues. The NEPAD Agency and the African Union will be invited to examine opportunities to share the knowledge and experience of the RPCA and to replicate its model in other regions of the continent. This work will be led in collaboration with SWAC and the three involved regional organisations (CILSS, ECOWAS, UEMOA).

→ The Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management reinforces the effectiveness of food and nutritional security strategies and policies. The NEPAD Agency will be invited to opportunities to share the knowledge and experience of the Charter and to replicate its model in other regions of the continent, in particular based on the findings and lessons learnt of the Charter’s external evaluation.

→ The NEPAD Agency will take the lead to promote lessons learnt from these regional governance-strengthening mechanisms to the other AU’s REC.