



JOINT CONCLUSIONS

from the consultations between

the Eastern Africa - Southern Africa – Indian Ocean (EA-SA-IO) regional organisations (COMESA, EAC, IGAD, IOC), their Member States, SADC Secretariat, and the European Union (EU)

14 November 2013, Ebene, Republic of Mauritius

We, the Representatives of the European Development Fund (EDF) National Authorising Officers (NAOs) , and of Ministries in charge of regional integration and cooperation, of the Member States of COMESA, EAC, IGAD,IOC, and SADC Secretariat, the Chief Executives of these Regional Organisations, hereafter termed “EA-SA-IO region”, and Representatives of the European Union, meeting in Ebene, Republic of Mauritius, on the 14 November 2013, on the 11th European Development Fund regional programming,

With regard to:

- (i) The EU’s intention, as per the presentations effected in the Meeting, to substantially increase the 11th EDF Regional Indicative programme (RIP) financial allocations so as to provide support not only to the Duly Mandated Regional Organisations (DMROs), but also to other national and regional bodies which could receive support through other instruments as in the past,
- (ii) The EU’s proposal to provide support for Eastern Africa- Southern Africa – Indian Ocean(EA-SA-IO) under one overall envelope, taking into account overlapping memberships and the commitment of the sub-regions to move ahead with the Tripartite Free Trade Area,
- (iii) The Letter dated 4 October 2013 from the Chair of the IRCC addressed to the High Representative Catherine Ashton and Commissioner AndrisPiebalgs of the European Union, conveying the formal comments of the Regional Organisations on the draft Programming Guidelines for regional 11th EDF programming and on the EU’s first analysis of the RIP for the EA-SA-IO region,
- (iv) The conclusions of the ACP NAO RAO Ministerial Meeting of April 2013 in Brussels

Make the following Joint Conclusions:

1. The EA-SA-IO region’s DMROs’ role under the regional 11th EDF will include their complete overview of the support provided for regional integration and cooperation, including financing of infrastructure development ,
2. Notwithstanding that a SADC Council decision is still awaited, the proposed financial architecture of the 11th EDF for the region is accepted by COMESA, EAC, IGAD and IOC , with an EA-SA-IO overall envelope as follows :

One overall envelope which will be divided in separate indicative envelopes with respective financial allocations:

- **One envelope per 'sub-region' including support to each RO secretariat, to NAOs and/or to other regional or international actors (indicative 30-50% of the overall envelope);**
 - **One envelope for financing infrastructure (indicative 40-50% of the overall envelope);**
 - **One envelope for cross-regional priorities, for example the stabilisation of the Great Lakes region, the implementation of on-going EPAs, initiatives for the protection of the river basins, a possible inter-ROs coordination mechanism (indicative 10-20% of the overall envelope).**
3. The parties are in broad agreement with the identified three sectors of support as expressed by the EU First Analysis on the 11th RIP for the EA-SA-IO region, namely: (i) Peace, security and regional stability; (ii) Regional economic integration; and (iii) Regional natural resources management. The choice of sector per sub-region shall be consistent with existing regional strategies in the EA-SA-IO region and with the Joint EU-Africa Strategy.
4. On the Sub regional envelopes:
- They will consist of programmed actions related to the specialised fields of action of the DMROs ('core mandate'),
 - The DMROs and the EU Regional Delegations will programme the sub-regional envelopes (sectors, priorities and implementing partners)
5. The programming of actions under the five sub-regional envelopes will be conducted by the five regional EU Delegations and the respective five DMROs, in line with EDF procedures and taking into account the decision making procedures applicable in the respective DMRO. They will identify the relevant implementing actors, either directly during the programming phase, or where this is not possible later on the basis of selection criteria identified in the overall envelope.

6. Regional Authorising Officers (RAOs) for the 11th EDF can be the DMROs themselves, their Member States or be identified from other international or regional actors. The potential RAOs propose actions on which the reference DMRO(s) is(are) consulted on a 'no objection' basis within agreed time limits with appropriate flexibility.
7. The Parties agree to give appropriate priority to Trade Related Assistance to Member States in the overall envelope.
8. The EU will decide the sub-regional allocations taking into account *inter alia* the following elements:
 - absorption capacity of the region based on 10th EDF commitments
 - total budget of ROs and relative weight of ROs' Member States contribution
 - ROs' Member States involvement and participation in the ROs' core activities
 - population
 - specific situations of fragility, vulnerability, isolation and insularity
9. On the envelope for financing Infrastructure, the preferred options include :
 - the use of existing or new blending facilities
 - projects concluded at national level with a regional relevance
 - additional innovative financing mechanisms (equity funds etc)
10. The matching financial resources for leveraging and blending for regional infrastructure financing may be open to the international and continental vehicles such as the Africa 50 Fund, as well as if appropriate to regional development banks and funds and other public and private resources including equity funds.
11. In any case, regarding the financing of infrastructures, the DMROs will be fully involved and/or consulted, on a "no objection" basis where relevant or more efficient, to establish the "infrastructure" project pipeline.

Soft infrastructure (border crossing, weight bridges, etc) and support for regulatory aspects can be financed outside blending operations.

12. On the “cross-regional” envelope :
- It will include activities considered as priority for the EA-SA-IO region which do not correspond to DMROs' geographic configuration
 - The actions will be programmed and identified with concerned regional organisations or implementing partners who will act as RAO.
 - The 'no objection' of the High Level Committee will be sought
 - The RAOs report to the EA-SA-IO High Level Committee on implementation.
13. The apex body overseeing the programming of the 11th EDF RIP and monitoring its implementation is the EA-SA-IO High Level Committee and to which the following will apply :
- Members of the Committee are the DMROs and the EU.
 - EU is co-chair of the Committee
 - DMROs co-chair the Committee on a rotating basis
 - EU and DMROs provide the secretariat to the Committee on a rotating basis
 - The working of the Committee will be conducted on the basis of jointly agreed Rules of Procedures.
14. The main role of the EA SA IO High Level Committee will be to :
- Discuss and agree on the priorities and modalities for the draft RIP
 - Endorse the RIP which will be submitted for decision by the EU Commission
 - Endorse the strategic orientations for the use of the cross-regional envelopes
 - Contribute to establish the infrastructure project pipeline
 - Considers challenges faced in relation to the various regional integration processes, and considers adjustments to the RIP
 - Take stock of the implementation of the overall envelope and of progress in regional integration as it impacts on the overall envelope
 - Undertake the Mid and End Term or ad-hoc reviews of the RIP
15. DMROs will assess the necessity for coordination among each other and are encouraged to fully appropriate their inter-regional coordination

process. Possible support to any light coordination system between DMROs will be considered in the context of the programming of the cross-regional envelope of the RIP

16. DMROs' Member States and other regional bodies, acting as RAOs :

- May be invited to the EA SA IO High Level Committee
- Programme priority actions which they will implement in line with the regional strategies of their reference DMRO, who will be consulted on a 'no objection' basis and within agreed time limits and appropriate flexibility;
- Identify and formulate projects and programmes which they will implement as Regional Authorising Officers;
- Are financially responsible for the projects and programmes they implement;
- Inform the High Level Committee about progress with the actions they implement.

A mechanism will be put in place to avoid the duplication of actions financed by different envelopes due to overlapping memberships.

17. Member States can benefit from the EA-SA-IO EDF envelope independently of their membership status to one or more of the regional organisations and provided that the programmes have followed the due diligence process through the High Level Committee including the application of the relevant mechanism to avoid duplication of actions arising from overlapping memberships.

And agree on the following Next Steps:

- The EU will finalise, on basis of above, the Regional Programming Orientations and a Document on the Governance of the EA-SA-IO overall envelope;
- 3-5 December 2013, Regional Programming Seminar in Brussels, with the participation of the EU Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs, and start of programming process;
- 1st Quarter 2014 :

- **EU-DMROs High level meeting to take stock of progress and discuss infrastructure priorities;**
- **SADC Council decision on configuration ;**
- **June 2014, draft RIP available;**
- **October 2014 RIP is endorsed by the High Level Committee and approved by the EDF Committee.**