

REPORT

1st Pan African Competitiveness Forum Addis Ababa, 14-16 April 2008

The Pan African Competitiveness Forum (PACF) is now successfully launched as a new continent-wide competence and action centre for an innovation and cluster based competitiveness approaches to national and regional economic development.

The 1st Pan African Competitiveness Forum was organized and hosted by African Union (AU) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) in collaboration with The Competitiveness Institute (TCI).

Attracting more than 130 stakeholders from 30 countries, the 1st Pan African Competitiveness Forum marked the beginning of learning and experience sharing on competitiveness approaches in across Africa.

Applauding the initiative, the participants raised expectations that PACF will support stakeholders in responding more effectively to the unique challenges and opportunities that Africa faces in global competition.

In particular PACF will enable African stakeholders to promote innovation, value addition and competitiveness initiatives.

Key findings, conclusions and decisions

The 1st Pan African Competitiveness Forum was organized over the course of three full days, including also a visit to the Ethiopian Leather Cluster.

Day one was dedicated mostly to a discussion of competitiveness foundations and imperatives – with a mix of interventions emphasizing on: 1) the importance of facilitating innovation and value addition in production if African countries are to benefit from globalization; and 2) lessons learned from on-going innovation and cluster based competitiveness initiatives in African countries pioneering such initiatives.

Also on Day 1, there was a discussion of existing platforms for competitiveness knowledge sharing and collaboration in Africa, including initiatives by USAID-AGCI, UNIDO and ATPS. It was widely agreed that PACF should benefit from and work with these exiting collaboration frameworks.

Day 2 and Day 3 were dedicated a discussion of key objectives, challenges, strategies and actions for Pan African collaboration on innovation, value addition in production and competitiveness.

The results of these discussions are summarized below. For more detailed information reference is made to attachments.

3-year Key Objectives for the PACF

The participants identified the following overall objectives for PACF and thereby for Pan African collaboration on "innovation and cluster based competitiveness initiatives" – from here forward referred to simply as "cluster initiatives":

- Because cluster initiatives provide an effective framework to facilitate reinforced industrialization; increased value addition in production; and competitiveness, PACF shall work towards promoting mainstreaming of cluster initiatives into national development agendas.
- On a cross country, regional and Pan African level, collaboration should be encouraged with a view to develop a joint knowledge resource that support competitiveness stakeholders (from governments, knowledge institutions and private sector) in developing and implementing regional, national and local cluster initiatives.

3-year Key Challenges for the PACF

The participants identified the following overall challenges for PACF:

- Absence of determination (mindset); trust; linkages; and joint stakeholder mobilization; often prevent cluster initiatives from being prioritized in national development agendas.
- Absence of existing structures and institutions for stakeholder collaboration on the development and implementation of cluster initiatives – at local, national, regional and Pan African level – furthermore often prevent immature cluster initiatives from taking root and becoming sustainable development interventions.

3-year Strategies for the PACF

As a response to the challenges the participants agreed on the following overall strategies for Pan African collaboration on competitiveness and facilitation of cluster initiatives:

- Knowledge and collaboration services shall be developed with a view to ensure that PACF is perceived by its stakeholders as an effective focal point for exchange of experience; learning; and development on cluster and competitiveness initiatives.
- An effective PACF collaboration structure shall be developed with a view to accommodate stakeholders' (PACF members') individual and joint objectives and activities.
- PACF shall support initiation of new cluster initiatives across the continent. A bold goal of establishing 1,000 clustering initiatives across Africa by 2010 was set.

- To carry out a Pan African Competition among cluster competitiveness initiatives around the continent with a view to reinforce existing initiatives and encourage new initiatives.
- To prepare, launch and implement an African-European Initiative for Climate Innovation – that will bring together excellence in climate innovation (European partners) and development excellence (African partners).

PACF action initiatives during the coming 6 months:

The participants decided to initiate the following actions over the coming 6 months with progress reports to be communicated at the 11th Annual Global Conference of The Competitiveness Institute in Cape Town, South Africa, 28-30 October 2008.

1. Establish the organizational structure for PACF

The participants endorsed the establishment – with effect from 16 April 2008 – of the following collaboration structure:

- A General Assembly (GA): for all members of PACF. The founding members are the participants of the 1st Pan African Competitiveness Forum, ref. attached list of participants.
- An Advisory Board (AB) with initial representation from the 16 African countries, the African Union and The Competitiveness Institute. The AB consists of: 1) a representative from each country; 2) a further 10 seats allocated by invitation to ensure Triple Helix balance and to include a representative from the African Union; and 3) an international pool of five experts linked to TCI. The Advisory Board is the main policy organ setting the strategic agenda for PACF. The initial AB list is attached.
- An Executive Board (EB) appointed by the AB with 7 members in total, representing African Union; government institutions; knowledge institutions; and private sector in North, East, West and Southern Africa. The initial Executive Board was appointed by the Advisory Board on 16 April 2008. The Executive Board is responsible for implementation and operational aspects. EB list is attached.
- Both the Advisory and Executive Board will sit for a period of two years.
- A Secretariat to support the activities of the Executive Board.

2. Establish a “PACF Southern Africa Regional Chapter” (PACF-SARC) among the participants and other stakeholders from Botswana, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia.

PACF-SARC will promote a dialogue on cluster initiatives in Southern Africa with a view to encourage governments to adopt national cluster programmes.

Also, the proponents will share best practice on cluster initiatives and facilitate alignment of value chains across countries i.e. linking and internationalizing local clusters.

PACF-SARC will be coordinated by The Provincial Government of Western Cape (South Africa) and work closely with other regional collaboration partners such as SADC.

3. **Establish a "PACF ECOWAS Chapter"** among the participants from the West African countries of Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal.

PACF ECOWAS Chapter will establish cluster initiative contact points throughout West African (starting with Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal and Gambia). To facilitate regional collaboration an acting chairman for PACF ECOWAS Chapter and vice chairman was appointed: respectively Mr. Ibrahima Wade (Senegal) and Prof. Femi Bamiro (Nigeria).

Within 3 months the proponents will map existing clusters and engage in dialogue with governments to promote cluster initiatives. By the end of July 2008 the proponents will organize a Regional Meeting in Ghana with 50–60 participants from all involved the countries. The proponents will source for funds to support their collaboration activities.

Proponents from Senegal will facilitate that the ECOWAS Chapter reaches into francophone West Africa. Also, proponents from Senegal will in May 2008 organize a national stakeholder meeting to encourage Competitiveness Initiatives.

4. **Support to sectorial national Competitiveness Pilot Initiatives in Sudan and Rwanda.** Proponents in both countries are currently engaged with encouraging a national agenda that supports initiation of cluster initiatives. On this background participants from the two countries decided to collaborate on developing more detailed national objectives and activities with PACF members from other countries

A first step in Rwanda will be to organize a national stakeholder meeting on cluster initiatives with participation by proponents of cluster initiatives from East Africa. Also, Rwanda will seek to join the on-going "Innovation Systems and Cluster Programme for Eastern Africa" under which Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda are currently implementing cluster initiatives.

5. To engage a wider group of stakeholders from government, knowledge institutions and private sector, a group of proponents decided to seek to initiate an exercise to **map cluster initiatives in Africa.**

The mapping shall be executed before the end of 2008 by dedicated members of PACF in collaboration with sector ministries, private sector, academia and development partners.

The mapping aims at establishing an overview of on-going cluster initiatives' activities – their challenges and opportunities – and proposes joint strategies for competitiveness development initiatives in Africa.

ATTACHMENT

General Assembly, Advisory Board and Executive Board

General Assembly:

The General Assembly is constituted by all members of PACF.

Initial Advisory Board:

Chairman

Nawangwe Barnabas, Uganda
nawangwe@tech.mak.ac.ug

1. Country representatives

Botswana:

Morongoe Ntloedibe-Disele
mdisele@hatab.bw

Ethiopia:

Teshome Kebede
teshome@fintrac.com

Gambia:

Saffie Jammeh
sjammeh@yahoo.com

Ghana:

George Owusu Essegbey
goessegbey@hotmail.com

Kenya:

Wahome Gakuru
wgakuru@yahoo.com

Mauritius:

Krishnalall Coonjan
natpro@intnet.mu

Mozambique:

Antonio Cumbane
antoniocumbane@tvcabo.co.mz

Namibia:

Stefanus Motinga
Montinga@mti.gov.na

Nigeria :

Femi Bamiro
oa.bamiro@mail.m.edu.ng

Rwanda:

Emmanuel Hategeka
emmanuelh@rpsf.org.rw

Senegal:

Ibrahima Wade
iba23145@yahoo.fr

South Africa:

Fikiswa Gumede
brijalall@kznded.gov.za

Sudan:

Mohammed Yousuf Ali
info@naife.org

Tanzania:

Burton Mwamila
mwamila@udsm.ac.tz

Uganda:

Yasin Naku Ziraba
ynziraba@tech.mak.ac.ug

Zambia

Chibwe Chisala
chisalachibwe@yahoo.com

2.Additional Representatives: (Maximum 10)

Hellen Acahm K. Elungat, Uganda
necpalira@yahoo.com

Peter Chisawillo, Tanzania
pchisawillo@intermech.biz

Ayoup Elrashdi, African Union
elrashdia@africa-union.org

Ruth B. Musoke, Uganda
rbmusoke@psfuganda.org.ug

Joseph Obua, ATPS, Uganda
obua@forest.mak.ac.ug

3. The Competitiveness Institute:
(Maximum 5)

Juan Manuel Esteban
juan-esteban@ej-gv.es

Franziska Blunck
fblunck@competitiveness.org

Lars Eklund
lars.eklund@vinnova.se

Thomas Winther
tw@innogate.net

Ifor Ffowcs Williams
e4@clusternavigators.com

Executive Board:

Chairman

Burton Mwamila, Tanzania
mwamila@udsm.ac.tz

Deputy Chairman

Femi Bamiro, Nigeria
oa.bamiro@mail.m.edu.ng

Treasurer and Secretary

Morongoe Ntloedibe-Disele, Botswana
mdisele@hatab.bw

Directors

Mohammed Yousuf Ali, Sudan
info@naife.org

Peter Chisawillo, Tanzania
pchisawillo@intermech.biz

Franziska Blunck, TCI
fblunck@competitiveness.org

Ayoub Elrashdi, African Union
elrashdia@africa-union.org