UNESCO participates in the 17th Session of Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa

A UNESCO delegation led by Mr. Engida Getachew, The Deputy Director General of UNESCO, participated in the 17th Session of Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa (RCM-Africa) held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 2-3 April 2016 at the margins of the Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development at UNECA. The theme for this year’s session is “United Nations Support to the AU for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development Goals”.

The years 2015 and 2016 are unique in that several agreements around which RCM-Africa operates have come to an end or are coming to an end. These include the Millennium Development Goals which ended in 2015 and the UN Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme for the AU which will end in 2016. As a result, the African continent through a consultative process has established its own development agenda called Agenda 2063, whilst globally the Millennium Development Goals have been replaced by the Sustainable Development Goals also known as the 2030 Agenda for Development.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Engida Getachew, noted with regret that RCM recommendations have omitted the topic of Culture in the clusters realignment. He argued that culture is the greatest resource and driver of development. He warned that any development strategies that do not include culture are doomed to fail. He emphasized that the SDGs and Agenda 2063 recognized the role of culture in development. As one major successful outcome of the meeting for UNESCO, culture was reinserted in the cluster system.

Therefore, the newly, approved clusters of the RCM-Africa are:

1. Sustainable and inclusive economic growth, industry, trade and regional integration
2. Infrastructure development
3. Human capital development, health, science, technology and innovation
4. Labour, employment creation, social protection, migration and mobility
5. Women and gender equality and youth empowerment
6. Humanitarian matters
7. Environment, urbanization and population
8. Advocacy, information, communications and Culture

What is RCM? [http://www.uneca.org/]

RCM-Africa, is a platform for the UN system to support the African Union (AU) and its organs in the implementation of appropriate policies to promote Africa’s development in accordance with the purpose and principles of the Constitutive Act of the AU and its NEPAD Programme. Furthermore, through the mechanism, the UN supports the AU and its member States in building the capacity to implement global, and continental development goals.