



## NEPAD/NABNet Coordination Committee (CC) meeting

13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> July 2009, Tripoli, Libya

### Decisions and Recommendations

The NEPAD/NABNet Coordination Committee meeting was held during 13-14 July 2009 in Biotechnology Research Center (BTRC), in Tripoli, under the auspices of the National Authority of Scientific Research (NASR), Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. This meeting dealt with three major issues:

- Assess the progress of the NEPAD/NABNet program and identify the mechanisms to be followed for pursuing its implementation to the medium and long term.
- Consider the financial situation of the network and adopt a plan to mobilize resources
- Adopt an overall strategy of the network covering appropriate governance for management and evaluation, for capacity building and human resources development.

*After analysing the reports, documents and drafts provided by the secretariat to them*

#### **The participants to the CC meeting expressed their satisfaction regarding**

1. The adhesion of North African research organizations in the AU/NEPAD process and the progress achieved into ownership and implementation of the NABNet ongoing projects as part of the Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA) following the recommendations of the African Union's High Level Panel on Modern Biotechnology through the report entitled the Biotechnology in Africa's development or "Freedom to innovate".
2. The progress achieved in building NABNet as part of the AMCOST mechanism and at the same time involving the sectors of Agriculture and Health, and Regional Economic Communities (RECs).
3. The contribution of the Principal Investigators (PIs) in the regional research initiatives as basis of NABNet launching, and their efforts into involving young fellows, developing R&D groups and expanding them, adhering to international networks and mobilizing international support.
4. The efforts deployed by NEPAD Office of Science and Technology (NEPAD/OST) in establishing NABNet and supporting its activities, and providing guidance and advice for involving NABNet into African processes.
5. The progress achieved by the NABNet secretariat into management of the network and providing leadership to all its components.
6. The arrangements processed including contracts, ethical aspects, Material Transfer Agreements (MTAs), and reporting schemes.
7. The follow up procedures and policies of the projects including involvement of many countries in various initiatives, improvement of exchange between teams, training of young fellows, and draining advice through evaluation of the overall activity of the network by Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) composed by seniors scientists with high level expertise.
8. The support provided by the National Research Center (NRC) to the secretariat into all the activities of the network

9. The financial and logistical support of Centre de Biotechnology de Borj Cedria, Société Tunisienne de Microbiologie (STM) and BTRC into organizing NEPAD Biotechnologies Workshop (28-30 November 2008, Ezzahra, Tunisia) and Strategy and Governance Workshop (13-14 July, Tripoli, Libya).
10. The involvement of the network in and its contribution to continental initiatives developed under NEPAD African Bioscience Initiative (NEPAD/ABI) and NEPAD/OST and its efforts in networking Science and Technology in Africa
11. The backstopping from ministries of Science and Technology to the network expressed by signor officials attending its NEPAD Biotechnologies workshop (Tunisia Nov 09), encouraging the implementation of its program and inquiring about its progress, and emphasizing in the AMCOST meetings on the NABNet achievements.

#### **The participants to the CC meeting adopted**

12. The NABNet Business Plan and recommendations for its improvement. In particular the scope of the action plan should cover knowledge production for economic development, innovation, training and entrepreneurship, rural development and climatic change.
13. The concept of network establishment agreement and recommendations for its improvement, and a CC manual as guideline for the activity of this governance body.
14. The concept of establishing regional R&D consortia and recommendations for furthering involvement of PIs into developing concepts for long term projects and expanding the current groups and approaches
15. The concept of a capacity building and competency development program.

#### **The participants to the CC meeting decided that**

16. All the research organisations involved in the implementation of the NABNet projects can be partners in NABNet joint venture and be parties of the establishment agreement of the network.
17. Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) and CEN SAD as major RECs in the region can be parties of this venture.
18. NEPAD/OST as initiator, supporter and supervisor of NABNet is party of the network
19. All the organisations parties of this venture are members of the general assembly (GA) that will be held when possible to assess the general progress of the network and adopt long term strategies.
20. Be created a permanent CC as a major governing body to the network with a mission of advocacy and supervisory. This committee will replace the NABNet Interim Steering Committee (ISC) created in April 2005.
21. A Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) be approved by the CC to follow up with the implementation of the NABNet program and provide advice on the projects to be developed by the consortia and on the platforms to be launched as well as the management issues. The SAB be composed of experts based on their personal merit and expertise.
22. The CC will be composed by the founding organisations (ISC meeting, Borj Cedria, Tunisia April 2005) of the network and representatives of RECs. It will comprise research organisations supervised by ministries of S&T dealing with AMCOST mechanism from all the NABNet countries. It will comprise Research organisations from Agriculture and health sectors involved in the implementation of NABNet program.
23. The countries can be represented equally in the CC by two members involved in the implementation of NABNet program. The CC members from a country have to play a facilitating role in involving other organisations from the same country in the NABNet program.
24. The CC is elected for a period of two years after which its composition can be revised based on the performance of the organisations and the decision of the CC.
25. The CC can agree on the involvement of new participants to the NABNet program depending on their input. These can be parties of this venture by adhering to the establishment agreement.

26. Beyond their own funds dedicated to the ongoing projects, the NABNet organisations will raise complementary funds through already existing bilateral, regional and international mechanisms.
27. The CC should play a prominent role in fund raising regionally and internationally and set a marketing and outreach strategy for the Network.
28. The CC can invite to its meetings, on *ad hoc* basis, organisations among the network parties, or any other organisation relevant to the agenda of the meetings.
29. Three sub committees to be composed by the CC : (a)the programs committee to supervise thematic activities, capacity Building including human resources development, (b)the fund raising international collaboration and marketing committee, (c)the partnership development in the network including information, development of ownership and awareness, creating political leadership. The sub committees can invite to their meetings, on *ad hoc* basis, organisations among the network parties, or any other organisation relevant to the agenda of the meeting.
30. The Chairman of CC be elected by the CC for a period of two years. S/he will be elected based on rotation principle. He will chair the meetings of the CC and supervise its activities.
31. The network director (ND) is the secretary of the CC, he is appointed by NEPAD and works in close consultation with the CC Chairman and the CC members. He prepares to them drafts, proposals and suggestions in the various matters and will follow with supervising the day to day activities of the network.
32. The BTRC under the auspices of NASR be as chair of NABNet for a period of two years. This election was based on the facts that BTRC is since 2005 a center of excellence/node of NABNet and that it took continental leadership stated in Tripoli Declaration for competency development and capacity building in the domain of development and safe use of modern Biotechnologies.
33. Be adopted a closing statement of the CC meeting (scan attached, in Arabic, 3 pages).
34. Be sent a telegram by the CC to his excellence Mouammar Gaddafi leader of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and chairman of the African Union.

#### **The participants to the CC meeting recommended that**

35. The CC Meetings and others NABNet meetings and workshops be held in the various NABNet countries and the partners organizations participate in the organization of these events.
36. Beyond their current commitments, the parties of the network take lead in developing thematic programs and platforms under NABNet.
37. Sharing knowledge and benefits, and exchange of expertise be given a primary attention by the projects participants. For the moment the legal arrangements well conceived in the network have to be implemented timely including, reporting, Material Transfer agreement (MTAs) exchange, ethical aspects, common production of papers. Regarding the MTAs and ethical aspects NEPAD is a witness to the transparency of processes and preservation of good practices, but not owner of the results.
38. The basic concept of NABNet as an adding value body be reinforced and used to produce common knowledge and strengthen economic and social development in the region. Then NABNet can be exploited for saving time, targeting common concerns, cost effectiveness, developing successful regional solutions, optimizing use of resources, strengthening link with international bodies and improve the quality of partnership.

#### **Acknowledgements**

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