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## 2<sup>nd</sup> SECCCI Technical Committee Meeting Meeting minutes and Recommendations

Date: 11th August 2020 - Venue: Online (Zoom)

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## 1. Background and opening remarks

The second Technical Committee (TC) meeting for the EUTF co-funded project Support for Effective Cooperation and Coordination for Cross-border Initiative (SECCCI) was held virtually on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Camlus Omogo (Director of IGAD CEWARN) and Dr. Jide Okeke (UNDP Regional Programme Coordinator).

After thanking the SECCCI Team for convening the TC, Dr. Jide Okeke expressed words of gratitude towards the beneficiaries of the SECCCI project, namely the people and Governments of the partner countries Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, for their engagement in the project implementation. Dr. Okeke underlined the importance and relevance of a robust engagement in cross-border support in the HoA, that shall continue even beyond SECCCI's mandate. Appreciation was also expressed for the support of the European Union (EU) and the other EUTF-financed projects promoting peace and development in cross-border areas in the Horn of Africa. Dr. Okeke recalled the importance of the TC as a framework to provide advice and technical guidance on how to face the project's challenges, based on the roadmap drafted during the previous TC in October 2019.

Using this opportunity to review the progress made so far and to accelerate implementation, Dr. Okeke outlined the TC's two main objectives:

1. To discuss and define realistic ways forward for the remaining timeframe of implementation of SECCCI project activities until project's end in February 2021, by identifying which activities can be achieved and which should be accelerated;
2. To ensure SECCCI's sustainability ensuring that SECCCI, as an existing cross-border structure for development, can be scaled-up and replicated.
  - Based on the AU Borderlands Development Strategy where the mandate of the major stakeholder at different levels (AU, RECs, Member States, Local Communities, Private Sector, CSOs etc) are clearly defined.
  - In this respect, Mr. Okeke informed the participants that UNDP has recently established the African Borderlands Centre, a continental-wide hub that provides the knowledge base and coordination framework for addressing borderland and cross-border challenges in Africa. Given the strong consistency between the SECCCI mandate and the objectives of the UNDP African Borderlands Hub, UNDP is already exploring options and solutions to align and integrate the SECCCI project within the African Borderlands Hub's vision.

On this point, Mr. Zeynu Ummer, Director of the UNDP Africa Borderlands Programme, briefly explained the work of the Borderlands Hub, a multi-disciplinary facility established by UNDP and tasked with collecting necessary data and developing innovative tools and methodologies to support development efforts in Africa's Borderland Regions. As with the SECCCI project, the Hub's aim is precisely that of supporting initiatives of this kind, building upon synergies, opportunities and lessons learnt.

## 2. Meeting's key points

Following the presentation and adoption of the agenda by the Committee members, the recommendations of the previous Technical and Steering Committees and relevant actions taken were presented and suggestions from the Committee collected (Annex I).



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Subsequently, SECCCI's project status and achievements in year 2 were presented, followed by a presentation on the recently concluded Mid-Term Evaluation report and its recommendations (Annexes II and III).

After a short break, the meeting continued with a presentation of the project's implementation plan for the period July to February 2020 (Annex IV), followed by a presentation providing updates on SECCCI's coordination and collaboration with other implementing partners at Cluster level (Annex V).

The last section addressed the question of the future of the SECCCI project through a presentation outlining the project's exit strategy (Annex V).

### 3. Recommendations

Following the SECCCI project Technical Committee meeting held on August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the following recommendations were formulated and jointly adopted:

#### 3.1 Technical recommendations to the implementing partners

1. To address coordination issues and make sure that Member States, at both local and national levels, are involved in all project activities and operations regarding sustainable development of borderlands, such as peace building and conflict management, setting up Cluster offices, as well as water data systems and assessments; ensure that experts from central and local authorities of the participating States, especially Somalia, are properly involved in all stages of the project implementation.
2. To finalize the procurement of furniture and supply as well as comply with the security arrangements for SECCCI's field office in Cluster III.
3. To identify solutions in order to ensure that Cluster offices continue being operational after the project's end by considering creating a linkage with permanent regional and national cross-border structures.
4. To further incorporate gender and human rights parameters when possible in future planning for SECCCI;
5. To ensure the sustainability of the Knowledge Management Platform (KMP) beyond SECCCI's lifecycle as well as ensuring linkage with other national and regional cross-border KMPs.
6. To enhance the communication and visibility workstream of the project by improving the effectiveness of the communication strategy and the coherent dissemination and visibility of SECCCI's achievements, best practices/lessons learnt; to ensure that the project's achievements are effectively captured and that the project activities' impacts on the ground is properly measured by involving beneficiaries at local, national and regional levels.
7. To evaluate the project's contribution to the security, development and peace nexus in the region/project areas by involving beneficiaries at local, national and regional levels.
8. To define an adaptive and effective implementation strategy considering the current context of the Covid-19 pandemic by giving priority to the most important remaining activities as seen from the beneficiaries' point of view at local, national and regional levels.
9. To ensure that SECCCI's workplan is not implemented in isolation of other partners working in the same Clusters, by leveraging on the existing partnerships to ease the implementation process on the ground;
10. To ensure that the implementation of the workplan is strongly accelerated for the planned activities to be effectively and realistically implemented in the remaining timeframe, and to identify practical



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efficiency measures to improve delivery and implementation processes, also taking into account and planning ahead for Human Resources needs. Implementing partners should increase their implementation capacity immediately.

### 3.2 Recommendation to the Steering Committee

11. To ensure sustainability of the SECCCI achievements, the exit strategy should consider linking SECCCI achievements to existing regional, national and local development plans.
12. To consider the possibility of a project's no-cost extension, to be discussed at a higher-level including Member States and to be based on the successful and accelerated implementation of a realistic and achievable work plan within the current timeframe of the project (February 2021).
13. To ensure the continuation and future sustainability of cross-border interventions through a new configuration of the current implementing partners and/or through new partnerships beyond February 2021.
14. Future cross-border interventions under EUTF should be established by utilizing existing permanent Coordination Platform / mechanisms where common activities could be discussed and developed jointly (e.g. guidelines, cross-border policies, etc) to avoid duplication of resources.

By signing below, we, Co-chairs of this meeting, hereby certify that the above points were recommended by the Technical Committee to the implementing partners as well as to the Steering Committee.

Jide Okeke  
Regional Programme Coordinator  
UNDP RSCA

Camlus Omogo  
Director  
CEWARN



Date: .....



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#### 4. Annexes

Annex I - Presentation 1\_Recommendations of the previous Technical Committee meeting and relevant actions taken

Annex II - Presentation 2a\_Project key achievements in Year 2

Annex III - Presentation 2b\_Mid-Term Evaluation report and recommendations

Annex IV - Presentation 3\_SECCCI Implementation Plan\_July 2020\_February 2021

Annex V - Presentation 4\_Updates on coordination and collaboration with cluster level implementing partners

Annex VI - Presentation 5\_The future of the SECCCI project Exit Strategy

Annex VII – Attendance sheet