



Chronic shortage of human and institutional capacity in Africa still presents a major constraint to economic growth, poverty reduction and sustainable development

Harare, Zimbabwe, September 3, 2009 (ACBF) – The African Capacity Building Foundation will on 18 -19 September hold its 18th Annual Board of Governors Meeting in Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire. The meeting will be attended by ACBF Member states, organizations and Observers. The meeting will be hosted by the Government of the Republic of Cote d’Ivoire.

ACBF has 47 full members comprising three sponsoring Agencies (AfDB, UNDP and the World Bank), the IMF and 43 African and non-African countries, namely, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo (DRC), Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Djibouti, Finland, France, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, India, Ireland, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, The Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Rwanda, Sao Tomé & Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Tanzania, Uganda, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The meeting is a platform for member countries, especially the African countries to shape the direction of the capacity development challenges that Africa is facing. It is also an opportunity for the members to shape ACBF into an African institution that is guided by excellence, placing emphasis of quality with strategic approach towards capacity development.

The chronic shortage of human and institutional capacity in Africa still presents a major constraint to economic growth, poverty reduction and sustainable development. In light of the emerging development challenges facing Africa, four guiding principles still remain at the core of ACBF, namely, centrality of capacity development to the development process in Africa; the critical role of a partnership approach in addressing the capacity problems; African ownership and leadership in the capacity development process; and a systematic, sequenced and coordinated approach to the capacity development process.

Total resources committed thus far by ACBF to various interventions in Cote d’Ivoire amount to USD513.6 million. Beneficiaries include support for the Network for Environment and Sustainable Development in Africa (NESDA); Association des Economistes de l’Afrique de l’Ouest (AEAO); and Economic Policy Analysis Project of the Ivorian Centre for Economic and Social Research (CAPEC). On the regional level, Cote d’Ivoire benefits from interventions that include, Gestion de Politique Economique (GPE Abidjan), Programme de Troisième Cycle Inter Universitaire (PTCI), West African Economic Monetary Union (WAEMU), Projet de Renforcement de l’Interface entre les Etats et les

Chambres d'Agriculture en Afrique de l'Ouest (PRIECA/AO), Programme de Renforcement des Capacites de l'Association des Femmes de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (PRC-AFAO) and the African Women Development Fund (AWDF).

The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) is an independent, capacity-building institution established on February 9, 1991 through the collaborative efforts of three multilateral institutions -the African Development Bank (AfDB), the World Bank, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)), African governments and bilateral donors. ACBF's mission is to build sustainable human and institutional capacity for poverty reduction in Africa. ACBF offices are located in Harare, Zimbabwe.