



Identify a clear, practical, and sustainable path towards stronger collaboration between CCAFRICA and CCNE

By

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Enhancing collaboration between CCAFRICA and CCNE

CCAFRICA and CCNE operate within different regional contexts and have developed valuable institutional experience, technical expertise, approaches, and lessons in responding to the priorities and challenges of their respective regions

There is therefore considerable potential to move beyond occasional exchanges and create a more systematic mechanism through which both regions can learn from one another, share practical experience, and jointly develop solutions of relevance to Member States

The objective is not simply to increase the number of meetings or exchanges between the two regions. Rather, the focus should be on identifying where collaboration can generate tangible added value: where experience from one region can help address a challenge in the other; where approaches can be adapted and replicated; where expertise and resources can be pooled; and where joint initiatives can strengthen the capacity of Member States.

I will focus on three interconnected questions:

- What lessons and experiences from CCAFRICA and CCNE could be of practical relevance to the other region?
- What concrete areas offer the greatest potential for sustained cooperation and joint action?
- How can such cooperation translate into measurable benefits for Member States and contribute to broader continental objectives?

- Addressing these questions would allow us to move from a general commitment to collaboration towards a more focused and results-oriented approach.
- It would also provide an opportunity to identify a small number of practical areas where cooperation can begin, establish appropriate mechanisms for follow-up, and gradually build a partnership based on mutual benefit and shared priorities.
- Ultimately, the ambition should be to establish a relationship in which knowledge, expertise, and experience flow in both directions, enabling CCAFRICA and CCNE not only to learn from each other, but also to collectively strengthen the institutions and Member States they serve.

Sharing lessons and experiences across regions

- Both regions have developed valuable experience in addressing their respective challenges, and there is significant potential to learn from approaches that have worked well in different contexts.
- Rather than seeking to replicate initiatives directly, the emphasis could be on identifying transferable principles, practices, tools, and approaches that can be adapted to the specific institutional and regional circumstances of each region.

Sharing lessons and experiences across regions could include:

- **Institutional and governance practices:** Sharing approaches to coordination, decision-making, stakeholder engagement, and the implementation of regional programmes.
- **Technical expertise and capacity development:** Identifying areas where one region has developed particular expertise that could support capacity building or knowledge transfer in the other.
- **Programme and project implementation:** Exchanging practical experience on what has worked, what has proved challenging, and how implementation can be made more effective and sustainable.
- **Data, information, and knowledge management:** Sharing methodologies, tools, and systems that can strengthen the collection, analysis, management, and use of information for decision-making.

Stakeholder and partner engagement:

- Comparing approaches to working with governments, institutions, technical partners, development organisations, and other relevant stakeholders
- Lessons from challenges and constraints: Creating space not only to showcase successful initiatives, but also to discuss difficulties encountered, adaptations made, and lessons learned. This can provide particularly valuable insights for both regions
- A useful approach could therefore be to establish a structured peer-learning mechanism, allowing CCAFRICA and CCNE colleagues to regularly share experiences around specific themes rather than relying solely on ad hoc exchanges

Identifying concrete opportunities for cooperation

In parallel, it would be important to translate this exchange of experience into a limited number of practical areas of joint work.

Cooperation would be most effective if it is focused on initiatives where there is a clear mutual benefit, identifiable counterparts in both regions, and a realistic opportunity to deliver tangible results

a. Joint knowledge-sharing and learning activities

The two regions could organise periodic joint workshops, technical sessions, webinars, or peer-learning events around agreed priority topics. These could bring together experts from both regions to present experiences, discuss common challenges, and identify approaches that could be adapted elsewhere.

b. Joint technical exchanges

- Where there is particular expertise or experience in one region, targeted technical exchanges could be organised to allow colleagues from the other region to engage directly with the relevant institutions, programmes, or experts. These exchanges could be virtual or involve short study visits where appropriate.

c. Development of shared guidance and tools

- CCAFRICA and CCNE could explore opportunities to jointly develop practical guidance, templates, methodologies, case studies, or other knowledge products. Such outputs would capture the experience of both regions while providing useful resources that can be applied more broadly.

d. Capacity-building initiatives

- The regions could identify areas where joint training or capacity development would add value. Rather than developing parallel initiatives independently, existing training resources and expertise could be pooled, allowing both regions to benefit from a wider range of knowledge and experience.

e. Joint projects or pilot initiatives

- Where there is sufficient commonality in priorities, the two regions could consider developing one or two small-scale joint pilots. These would provide an opportunity to test new approaches, demonstrate the value of collaboration, and generate evidence that could inform future cooperation.

f. Regular coordination and institutional dialogue

- For collaboration to become sustained rather than activity-based, it may be useful to establish a light but regular mechanism for coordination between CCAFRICA and CCNE. This could take the form of periodic focal-point meetings or an annual coordination session to review progress, identify emerging priorities, and agree on areas for future cooperation.

A practical way forward

1. Map existing expertise and ongoing initiatives in CCAFRICA and CCNE to identify areas of complementarity and avoid duplication.
2. Identify a small number of priority themes where there is both strong mutual interest and clear potential for knowledge exchange.
3. Match specific expertise and counterparts across the two regions around those themes.
4. Select a limited number of practical activities—for example, a technical exchange, joint workshop, capacity-building activity, or joint knowledge product—to serve as initial areas of cooperation.
5. Agree on focal points, timelines, and expected outputs so that responsibility and follow-up are clear.
6. Review progress periodically and use the lessons from the initial activities to determine whether and how the collaboration should be expanded.

Towards a mutually beneficial partnership

A sustained partnership could consequently be built around three principles: **mutual benefit, practical application, and continuity.**

Mutual benefit would ensure that cooperation responds to the interests and priorities of both regions; practical application would ensure that exchanges lead to tangible activities and outputs; and continuity would ensure that collaboration develops beyond individual meetings or events.

With this approach, the immediate objective could be to identify **two or three priority areas for initial cooperation**, agree on a small number of practical activities under each, and establish a simple mechanism for follow-up.

This would provide a realistic starting point while creating a foundation for a broader and more sustained CCAFRICA–CCNE partnership over time.

Expected benefits for Member States and the African continent

- The value of closer cooperation between CCAFRICA and CCNE should ultimately be measured by the benefits it generates for Member States and, more broadly, for the African continent.
- Stronger inter-regional collaboration can help ensure that expertise, lessons learned, technical resources, and successful approaches are shared more effectively and translated into practical improvements at the national and regional levels.

At the level of **Member States**, closer cooperation could provide several important benefits:

- **Access to a wider pool of expertise and experience:** Member States would have greater access to technical knowledge, practical experiences, tools, and lessons developed across both regions. This can help countries address common challenges without having to develop solutions independently from the beginning.
- **Stronger national capacity:** Joint training, technical exchanges, peer learning, and capacity-building activities could strengthen the skills and institutional capabilities of national authorities and relevant stakeholders

- . **More effective implementation:** Sharing practical lessons on programme design and implementation can help Member States identify approaches that have been tested in comparable contexts, while also learning from challenges and adaptations made elsewhere.
- . **Greater opportunities for peer-to-peer cooperation:** The partnership could create direct links between institutions and experts from different Member States, encouraging South-South cooperation and enabling countries to learn from one another based on practical experience.

- . **Better access to knowledge and tools:** Jointly developed guidance, methodologies, knowledge products, and other resources could provide Member States with practical materials that can be adapted to their own national circumstances.
- . **More efficient use of resources:** Where countries and regions face similar challenges, sharing expertise, training resources, methodologies, and lessons can reduce duplication and allow available resources to generate greater impact.

At the **continental level**, the benefits could be broader and more strategic.

First, stronger cooperation between CCAFRICA and CCNE could contribute to **greater coherence and exchange across Africa**. Instead of knowledge and innovation remaining concentrated within individual regions, successful approaches could be identified, adapted, and shared more widely.

Second, it could strengthen **Africa's collective technical capacity** by creating a larger network of institutions, experts, practitioners, and knowledge resources. Over time, this could contribute to a stronger continental knowledge base and greater ability to develop African solutions to African challenges.

Third, sustained collaboration could help promote **greater alignment and complementarity between regional initiatives**. Where Member States face common issues, closer coordination can help identify opportunities to work together, avoid unnecessary duplication, and build on existing regional expertise.

Fourth, the partnership could generate **evidence and lessons that inform continental-level policies and programmes**. Practical experiences from Member States and the two regions could be documented and shared more systematically, allowing successful approaches to inform wider African initiatives.

- Finally, stronger CCAFRICA–CCNE cooperation could contribute to a broader culture of **African peer learning and institutional solidarity**.
- The objective would not simply be to transfer knowledge from one region to another, but to establish a continuous mechanism through which African institutions learn from each other, adapt good practices to different contexts, and collectively strengthen the continent's capacity.

CCAFRICA–CCNE collaboration → knowledge and expertise sharing → stronger institutional and national capacity → better implementation and solutions in Member States → stronger regional cooperation → enhanced continental capacity and impact.

Thank You All for Listening

Merci à tous de votre écoute

**Obrigado a todos por
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شكرا لكم جميعا على الاستماع

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