



Economic Commission for Africa

A service of the UN system-wide support to the African Union and its NEPAD Programme

NEPAD TODAY

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Africa gears up for a common position on aid reforms

Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NEPAD Agency) said, “At the heart of these regional engagements is the urgent need for Africa to address the current aid architecture and its implications for Africa’s development,” at the opening of the third Africa regional meeting on development effectiveness. The meeting took place between the 28th and 30th of September 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

“From the first and second Africa regional meetings, through the launch of the Africa Platform for Development Effectiveness and

also through this third engagement, Africa has articulated its priorities resulting in the African consensus and position in the run up to the upcoming 4th High Level Forum on Aid effectiveness in Busan, South Korea,” said Mayaki.

The overall objective of this third regional meeting is to validate the common African position on development effectiveness with regard to shaping the post-Busan agenda focusing on aid reforms.

In his remarks, Mr. Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union

Continued on page 2

UN and African officials mark 10 years of the continent’s development plan

As NEPAD, the blueprint for the continent’s development commemorates its tenth anniversary, United Nations and African officials gather in New York to reflect on its achievements and debate its future course.

A series of high-level meetings and events designed to foster debates and generate suggestions for further improvements are slated to take place from 6 to 12 October in New York, both at the UN headquarters and elsewhere in the city.

The events will kick off on 7 October with a panel discussion at the UN, which will ponder the links between NEPAD and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Other events include briefings to UN member states, a commemorative public lecture at Columbia University, and press briefings by Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, the CEO of the NPCA, and other officials.

Shortly after its adoption by African leaders ten years ago, the NEPAD plan became the main UN vehicle in support of Africa. Over

Continued on page 2

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Continued from page 1

Africa gears...

Commission (AUC) insisted on “the unequivocal inclusion of the regional dimension in the new global partnership for development effectiveness.”

He went on to remind the participants at the meeting that aid should be seen as one source of development finance which should complement our efforts at achieving growth and wealth creation in Africa.

It is also in this regard that Jennifer Kagrobo, Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA) called upon the meeting to adopt the “development effectiveness framework as an approach to help minimise aid dependence and to prioritise the investments that strengthen the national capacities and build on alternative sources of development funding”.

In line with this appeal towards processes at the national level, Dalmas Otieno, Kenya’s Minister of State for Public Service emphasised that development effectiveness, aid effectiveness and any form of effectiveness must begin at the national level in order to ensure buy-in and broader success at the national and continental levels.

He also called upon the political leadership of the continent to collectively prioritise Africa’s needs and to get behind one vision as in the case of the African position on aid reforms.

Eugene Owusu, the UN Resident Coordinator and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative in Ethiopia reminded the gathering that in the process of building capacity for aid reform, Africa should “examine how support

goes towards nurturing and strengthening the capacity of nations to plan long-term while allowing them to respond in the short term in times of crisis”.

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Continued from page 1

UN and African...

the past decade, NEPAD has promoted bold and innovative approaches in various sectors, including agriculture, new technologies and governance. “Our initiatives are progressively bearing fruits on the grounds and we expect the plan’s impact to be stronger in coming years,” affirms Mr. Mayaki. “Already, it has changed the perception people have of Africa,” he adds.

In February 2010, NEPAD was officially incorporated into the African Union (AU) formal structures with the creation of the NPCA.

For Africa as a whole, the past ten years have been marked by significant progress: economic growth accelerated during most of the decade across the continent and democratically elected regimes became more common. Yet, endemic poverty and high unemployment rates persist.

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Upcoming Event

- ASTII Training Workshop
3 - 6 Oct 2011, Cameroon
- World Business Forum
5-6 Oct 2011, New York, United States
New York, United States
- NEPAD Week at the 66th UN General Assembly.
6 - 12 Oct 2011
New York, United States

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