



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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SPECIAL EDITION

ECA and NEPAD Agency: African leaders request landmark study on domestic resource mobilization

One of the key decisions from the last Summit of the African Union was one which calls for an in-depth study on mobilizing domestic resources in support of implementing prioritized national and NEPAD programmes and projects. The decision was based on the conclusion of the 26th Meeting of the NEPAD HSGOC.

Specifically, by the decision, African leaders requested the NEPAD Agency and ECA, in partnership with relevant institutions to explore strategies and viable modalities for improving the mobilization of domestic

It is expected that the study will creatively re-assess the predictable and sustainable funding options. Its outcomes will be submitted for the attention of NEPAD Heads of State and Government during the 19th AU Summit in Lilongwe, Malawi in June 2012.

The two institutions are now urgently searching for an experienced African Expert on domestic resource mobilization to assist with the exercise and work with a multi-Agency task team, coordinated by ECA and NEPAD Agency.

Source: Special to ECA

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Spotlight on NEPAD at Session of the Commission for Social Development

The 50th Session of the Commission for Social Development which convened at the UN Headquarters in New York undertook an exhaustive review of the social dimensions of NEPAD and came out with far-reaching recommendations on how to make the Agencies deliver better on social development concerns in Africa. It welcomed the full integration of NEPAD into the structures and processes of the African Union and the estab-

lishment of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NEPAD Agency) as a technical body of the AU to replace the NEPAD Secretariat. In this special edition, NEPAD Today highlights some of the recommendations.

On Good Governance, the session highlighted the progress made by African countries in fulfilling their commitments in the implementation of NEPAD to deepen

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

Spotlight on NEPAD...

democracy, human rights, good governance and sound economic management, and encourages African countries, with the participation of stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to intensify their efforts in this regard by developing and strengthening institutions for governance and creating an environment conducive to attracting foreign direct investment for the development of the region. It praised the progress made in implementing the African Peer Review Mechanism, as reflected in particular by the number of countries that have signed up to participate in the Mechanism, the completion of the peer review process in some countries and urged States that have not yet done so to join the Mechanism, as a matter of priority, and to strengthen the peer review process so as to ensure its efficient performance.

Social inclusion: It greeted conclusions of meetings held in Khartoum, Sudan from 21 to 25 November 2010 under the theme "Strengthening Social Policy Action Towards Social Inclusion", and recalled in this regard the African Common Position on Social Integration and the Social Policy Framework for Africa, both of which have been endorsed by Africa's Heads of State in February 2009.

Gender Perspective: Efforts made by African countries and regional and sub-regional organizations to mainstream a gender perspective and the empowerment of women and girls in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, including the implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa were most welcomed.

Implementation of NEPAD: It emphasized that the African Union and the regional eco-

nomie communities have critical role to play in the implementation of NEPAD.

Action Plan 2010-2015: It welcomed initiatives undertaken by Africa's development partners in recent years, and in this regard emphasizes the importance of coordination in such initiatives on Africa through ensuring the effective implementation of existing commitments, including through the African Union/New Partnership for Africa's Development African Action Plan 2010-2015 which remains at the centre of the continent's engagement with partners.

Regional Coordination Mechanism: It recognized the Regional Coordination Mechanism of United Nations agencies and

Continued on page 3

UN calls for stronger partnership for African development

The global food and energy crises and climate change, and coupled with the financial and economic crises, have eroded economic and social gains made in Africa over the past decade, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon warns in a new report, calling for a stronger partnership for Africa's development. In his report entitled Social Dimensions of NEPAD, the Secretary-General wrote that the adverse social consequences of these crises are likely to remain for much longer in Africa, even after the recovery gathers pace in advanced countries. "African economies will likely experience decelerated growth, high unemployment and poverty rates and diminished prospects for achieving NEPAD goals and other internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals," the Secretary-General wrote. To mitigate these effects, the Secretary-Gen-

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

UN calls for...

eral recommended that African countries bear the majority of responsibility for their own development by continuing to integrate and mainstream NEPAD priorities - such as infrastructure, agriculture and food security, science and technology, trade, and environment - into their national development plans. Governments concerned should also take advantage of North-South and South-South experiences and best practices. The report also called on Africa's development partners to continue to integrate NEPAD priorities, values and principles into their development assistance programmes.

In particular, the international community should assist African countries in addressing the challenge of climate change by raising the resources needed to support adaptation and mitigation actions. "For Africa to leapfrog dirty energy solutions, strengthen

Continued from page 2

Spotlight on NEPAD...

organizations working in Africa in support of the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development Programme of Action, as well as the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) which aims to ensure coordination and coherence in the delivery of support for greater effectiveness and impact through increased joint programming and joint implementation of activities.

UN Delivering as One: The session noted with satisfaction the growing collaboration among the entities of the United Nations system in support of NEPAD, and requests the Secretary-General to promote greater coherence in the work of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, on the basis of the agreed clusters.

its adaptive capacity and pursue sustainable low-carbon growth strategies, it will need financial assistance and technology transfers. The region will need not only additional funding but also timely and predictable delivery on existing ODA commitments," the Secretary-General wrote. The report noted that although African countries contribute the least to climate change and sea-level rise. Extreme weather phenomena results in a "growing numbers of climate refugees, social disintegration as a result of social and political instability and conflicts over land-based resources, and new health threats that emerge as a result of the changing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as floods and droughts." Adopted by African leaders in 2001, NEPAD lays out an agreed vision of social and economic development on the continent.

Source: Web newswire, February 12, 2012 Sunday

UN SG's support: The session requested the Secretary-General to continue to take measures to strengthen the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, and requests the Office to collaborate with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and to include the social dimensions of NEPAD in its comprehensive reports to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session.

It urged the inclusion, in cooperation with relevant UN bodies, of an overview of current processes related to the NEPAD, including recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of the work of United Nations bodies, while preserving the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development to the Commission for Social Development.

Source: Special to ECA

Ban urges stronger efforts to help Africa consolidate peace and development

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged the international community to step up efforts to help Africa attain its potential for peace and sustainable development, saying the continent continued to influence the global agenda by reminding the world of its responsibility to the most vulnerable. In his message to mark Africa Day, which commemorates the founding in 1963 of the Organization of African Unity, now known as the African Union (AU), Mr. Ban said the United Nations was a key partner of Africa, supporting the continent's efforts in various fields, including peace and security, social and economic development and regional integration. "The independence movement that swept Africa five decades ago brought many new members to the United Nations, resulting in a new focus on the continent's development needs and heightened emphasis on greater democracy in the management of international relations," the Secretary-General said. "By consistently reminding the international community of its responsibility to the most vulnerable, and affirming that we are all members of a global family of nations, Africa has helped to reshape the global agenda," he added. This year's anniversary has particular significance because it also marks 50 years of independence for several Francophone African States, as well as Nigeria, the continent's most populous nation. The UN has played a key role promulgating the fundamental values of the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights among the diverse nations of African, Mr. Ban said. "Our extensive presence on the ground in Africa encompasses peacekeeping, peace-

building, mediation and conflict prevention, and there is growing cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union Commission, exemplified by regular dialogue between the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council," he said. The September Summit on the Millennium Development Goals offered yet another venue for upholding UN's commitments to Africa and supporting the continent's efforts to implement its New Partnership for Africa's Development, the Secretary-General said.

As an economic programme of the African Union, NEPAD aims to provide a policy framework for accelerating economic cooperation and integration among African States. "Africa is poised to capitalize on its potential. On this Africa Day, let us rededicate ourselves to fruitful partnerships in pursuit of peace and sustainable progress for all the continent's people," he added.

Source: Web newswire, February 12, 2012 Sunday

Upcoming Events

- High level NEPAD Colloquium and Congress, 28 March 2012, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Young People, Farming & Food: The Future of the Agrifood Sector in Africa, 19 -21 March 2012, Ghana
- 5th Joint Annual Meetings of the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, 22-27 March 2012, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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