



Economic Commission for Africa

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

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The articles published in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of UNECA or NPCA

Stakeholders plan to improve NEPAD implementation in Africa

Chief of Section

Kwabia Boateng

Editor

Yinka Adeyemi

Assistant Editor

Meseret Arega

Production Assistant

Millicent Seganoe



Participants at the Regional Dialogue in Durban, South Africa

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in collaboration with NEPAD Agency held a two-day meeting in Durban, South Africa from 6-7 June 2012, with key stakeholders; representatives from the African Union, United Nations Agencies, the South African Government and the Private Sector to discuss ways to work together in the implementation of the NEPAD Programme.

The dialogue is a follow up to the recommendation of the 43rd NEPAD Steering Committee meeting in January, 2012 as a coordination and interactive platform to ac-

celerate the implementation of NEPAD. It focused among other things on the functioning of NEPAD's national offices in Africa and Regional Economic Communities role in supporting NEPAD's work.

The experts including NEPAD's CEO, Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, Ms Lindiwe Zulu, International Relations Advisor to the South Africa President, and senior representatives from the UN Economic Commission for Africa, SADC and the Common Markets for East and Southern Africa, (COMESA), as well other stakeholders, assessed ways of promot-

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

ing African ownership of NEPAD and how to bring the Agency's vision closer to the people.

The regional experience sharing event was declared open by the Ambassador (Ms) Lindiwe Zulu, Special Adviser on International Relations and Personal Representative of the President of South Africa to the NEPAD Steering Committee with keynote statements by Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer, NEPAD Agency and representatives of COMESA Secretary General and Minister of State for Planning and Development of Cote d'Ivoire.

Participation was drawn from representatives of NEPAD national and regional structures, the NEPAD Agency, African Union Commission, Regional Economic Communities, UN Agencies, Private Sector and partner institutions.

"NEPAD, as the main development framework of the Continent is an African public good; as such, the issues of partnership and ownership are critical for its success. We are here to listen to our stakeholders, RECs, UN institutions, the private sector, development partners and NEPAD national offices in order to integrate their recommendations for better delivery," said Dr Mayaki at the opening ceremony.



Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD Agency at the Regional Dialogue in Durban, South Africa



Ambassador (Ms) Lindiwe Zulu, Special Adviser on International Relations and Personal Representative of the President of South Africa at the Regional Dialogue in Durban, South Africa

Continued from page 2



Delegates at the Regional Dialogue in Durban, South Africa

Primarily, the dialogue examined key issues relating to fulfilling the NEPAD core mandate through facilitation and Coordination Africa's priority regional programmes and projects; Country and regional experiences in Coordinating NEPAD; Need to promote inter-linkages between national/regional structures; Renewed commitment to adequately resource NEPAD through domestic financing. Furthermore, the coordination of NEPAD implementation under the Afri-

can Union umbrella and UN system-wide Support through Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) and its Sub-Regional dimensions was underscored. In particular, participants considered appropriate strategic modalities to enhance the delivery of NEPAD Agency as the technical body of the African Union in line with the integration of NEPAD into the AU structures and processes

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3



Participants at the Regional Dialogue in Durban, South Africa

The regional dialogue was structured along working groups which discussed Guidelines on roles and responsibilities of NEPAD Structures/ Focal Points and Strengthening of the coordination mechanisms for improved results based NEPAD implementation.

In conclusion the key highlights and outcomes of the meeting are as follows:

- Expanding and strengthening the ownership base and buy-in for NEPAD implementation through an all-inclusive process
- Guidelines to support the implementation capacity of NEPAD structures and Focal Points
- Proposed set-up of an all-inclusive consultative forum for better coherence and coordination at technical and programmatic levels
- The capacity of NEPAD focal structures

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4



Delegates at the Regional Dialogue in Durban, South Africa

need to be developed for effective coordination.

- Sharing of Experiences and Lessons Learned in coordinating NEPAD.
- Guidelines on roles and responsibilities for NEPAD Focal Points need to be developed with the NPCA taking a lead role
- Mainstreaming NEPAD into national and regional policies is critical to implementation
- Communication and Advocacy: Success stories should be benchmarked, well documented and effectively communicated

And the next Steps will be:

- Development of an Action Plan to implement the key highlights and outcomes
- Collation of database of focal points
- Consultative processes at sub-regional using existing coordination mechanisms
- Guidelines on roles and responsibilities for NEPAD Focal Points to be developed with the NPCA taking a lead role

Special to ECA and NEPAD Agency

EAC railway project gets \$1.8 million in a boost to lower transport costs

The Indian Trust Fund and the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) have given East African Community (EAC) railway sector

enhancement project a total of \$1.8 grant aimed at lowering transport costs in the region.

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

EAC railway...

The total amount anticipated to be given to the EAC is \$1.8m but initially received \$428,000.

The grant agreements were signed on June 1 by EAC Secretary General Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera and the African Development Bank (AfDB) regional director for the East Africa Resource Centre (EARC) Gabriel Negatu.

This was one the side events to the just ended African Development Bank (AfDB) annual general meetings in Arusha, Tanzania.

Mr. Negatu said that the backbone of formal intra-EAC trade are two overland road and rail routes, the Northern and Central corridor starting from the ports of Mombasa and Dar es Salaam and reaching to the border of DR Congo.

This is along with a north-south road link through Namanga on the Kenya-Tanzania border.

"These corridors are critical for transit of EAC's imports from outside and its goods exports beyond the region," he said.

"The project will commence in June 2012 and end in June 2014 with the anticipated budget of \$1.8m which is composed of harmonization of the regulatory and legal framework, pre-feasibility and feasibility of missing railway links and the creation of a regional coordination unit," he explained. He said the study will allow member states of the EAC to develop and improve efficiency of the railway sector as the whole transportation sector is characterized by very high road transport costs of bulk goods by trucks

which impedes trade and inflate prices.

'Further we have seen serious adverse impacts in the form of deterioration of roads and air pollution, when the project is completed, it will enable a large scale shift of the transportation modalities of long-haul bulk goods from roads to the less costly railways," he said.

He added that lowering transportation costs and improving efficiency will significantly contribute to increased economic growth, enhanced trade and improved quality of life for the 133m people by reducing costs of goods and services.

Sezibera said the fund will help the secretariat to unpack the EA Railways master plan for priority projects to better coordinate with the Dar-Isaka-Kigali/Keza-Musongati railways project.

It will also help EAC to undertake a feasibility assessment towards the eventual establishment of the EAC Railways Authority. He said railways currently are contributing hardly 10% of the required transportation capacity for heavy and bulky freight despite attempts at concession the network.

"This situation is causing heavy stress and shortened lifespan for the EAC roads with implications on maintenance and faster reconstructions," he said.

Source: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201206111394.html>

Upcoming Events

- Committee on Fisheries (COFI)
9 -13 July 2012, Rome, Italy
- 16th Biennial International Institute of Fisheries Economics & (IIFET) Conference
16 -20 July 2012, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- Earth Summit (RIO+20)
20 -22 June 2012, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Please let us hear from you

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