



Economic Commission for Africa

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

# NEPAD TODAY

Every Wednesday

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## Commission for Social Development calls for debt relief and market access to address poverty

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The Commission for Social Development wrapped up its forty-ninth session on 18 February 2011 by approving without a vote five draft resolutions calling for wide-ranging steps, from support for the NEPAD and the upcoming review of the action plan on ageing to improving the lot of youth, persons with disabilities and families.

Three of the five texts recommended specific action by the Economic and Social Council. By the terms of the resolution on the social dimensions of NEPAD, the Council, concerned that Africa is the only continent not on track to achieve any of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and deeply concerned how the recent economic, food and energy crises and climate

change may hinder Africa's social development objectives, would urge continued support of measures such as debt relief, improved market access, official development assistance (ODA) and technology transfer to address poverty eradication and sustainable development.

Further to that text, the Economic and Social Council would encourage all development partners to implement the principles of aid effectiveness and NEPAD into their development assistance programmes, and encourage the international community to support African countries in addressing climate change through financial and technological resources and capacity-building to support adaptation and mitigation. The Council would also encourage African

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## NEPAD Nigeria says action plan on track

The Special Adviser to President Goodluck Jonathan on NEPAD, Dr. Tunji Olagunju, said the Federal Government's National Programme of Action on NEPAD was 'relatively slow but on track'.

Olagunju told the News Agency of Nigeria

in Abuja that the programme would gradually pick up. The NPoA is a major deliverable from Nigeria's peer-review, derived from the recommendations made in the Country Self-Assessment Report of the African Peer Review Mechanism.

It seeks to address the shortcomings, weaknesses, challenges as well as strengths and best practices identified in the country self-assessment report and is designed to

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countries and their development partners to put people at the centre of Government development action and to secure core investment spending in health, education and social safety nets.

In a related provision, the Economic and Social Council would decide that the Commission should continue to give prominence to and raise awareness of NEPAD's social dimensions. It would ask the Secretary-General to submit a report on the matter for consideration during the Commission's fiftieth session, scheduled for 2012.

Speaking before adoption of the resolution, the representative of the United States said his country was committed to the negotiations that had led to this year's original draft, which included a plan for NEPAD that would have strengthened its engagement and reflected the latest developments occurring at the United Nations, in Africa and around the world. This morning, a move was made to return to the text approved last year by the Council. The United States would not block consensus on this resolution.

The representative of Argentina, speaking on behalf of the draft's sponsor - the Group of 77 developing countries and China - stressed that the resolution, while concerning NEPAD, was about Africa and the situation of developing countries as well as fundamental issues of development. The Group stood firmly behind it. It believed it was best for the Commission to take action on the proposal made this morning, which was similar to the resolution submitted last year. Failure to adopt it would create the impression that the Commission was not concerned about NEPAD and Africa.

Speaking after adoption, an observer for the Holy See said that the most developed countries had a responsibility to address the imbalances that affected Africa.

*For full story: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2011/soc4778.doc.htm>*

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## **NEPAD Nigeria...**

complement the extant annual budgetary systems of the three tiers of government.

"It is relatively slow but I believe we are getting there. What we require, which we have done, is to disaggregate who is doing what at the federal, state and local government levels," Olagunju said.

He said one of the major challenges the programme faced at the federal level was how to identify state projects, adding, "This is in order not to be seen as interfering in states' responsibilities."

He, however, stated that the programme had been able to make a report on the federal level but was yet to report on the level of work in the states.

"President Jonathan has had to go and report in Addis Ababa, at the AU, the progress we have made. So, we have been able to report on the federal aspect of the programme.

"We are yet to do that of the state level, and President Jonathan has directed that in the next report, which is in another one year, we must focus on the states," Olagunju said.

Source: <http://www.punchng.com/Articl.aspx?theartic=Art201102230413765>

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