



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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AUC's Deputy Chair visits refugee camp

During a mission in the Horn of Africa from the 22nd to 24th July 2011, the Deputy Chairperson, Mr. Erastus Mwencha, visited Dadaab, the refugee camp situated in Kenya close to the Somalia border, in order to assess the situation of the humanitarian crisis on the ground. With 400,000 people, Dadaab is the biggest refugee camp in the world and is currently witnessing "unprecedented influx due to the drought in the Horn of Africa", according to UNHCR which administers the camp.

"It is terrible to see people in such a state of weakness and very sad to hear the stories of mothers forced to abandon children on the way because they could not make it to the camp. I would like to thank the gov-

ernments of Kenya and Ethiopia for their efforts in providing shelter to the refugees while also taking care of their own populations badly affected by this drought. We now need to step up all efforts to deal with this crisis. Yet, we also need to view sustainable solutions and create the mechanisms that will address root causes of such calamity by creating resiliency systems and political stability," declared the Deputy Chairperson.

In this respect, the Deputy Chairperson met, amongst others, Mrs. Josette Sheeran, the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, Dr. Jacques Diouf, the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation, Mr. Bruno Le Maire, the French minister of Agriculture represent-

Continued on page 2

AUC meets Obasanjo: Alternative financing for the AU

In what could be described as a major boost to the Commission's quest to secure adequate, reliable and predictable financing for the activities of the African Union, the Commissioner for Economic Affairs, Dr. Maxwell M. Mkwezalamba, met with Mr. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, at his residence in Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria, on Tuesday, 5 July 2011. The Commissioner travelled to Nigeria as a special envoy of Dr. Jean Ping, Chairperson

of the AU Commission, to present a letter appointing former President Obasanjo as Chairperson of the High Level Panel on Alternative Sources of Financing the African Union.

It will be recalled that the Executive Council, at its Ordinary Session held in January 2011, endorsed the proposal by the Commission to support the consultations on alternative sources of funding through a high level panel of eminent personalities

Continued on page 2

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Continued from page 1

AUC's Deputy...

ing the G20, high level representatives of the Kenyan Government, as well as local and international organizations active on the ground and the private sector. He also visited Wajir, in Kenya, witnessing the effects of the drought on the local pastoralists population and the resiliency systems that are in place as well as the collective efforts put in place by the Kenyan Government and the international organizations to reduce the negative impact on the local populations.

Further to the appeal issued by the Chairperson to Member states, the African Union is organizing a donors' conference on the 10th August in Addis Ababa, in order to support the collective international efforts to

Continued from page 1

AUC meets ...

with a view to engaging with Member States and coming up with definitive proposals for this long standing issue. During the recently concluded Malabo African Union Summit, the Assembly reiterated the decision and requested that the Panel completes its work and submit a report to the next Ordinary Session of the Assembly scheduled for January 2012 in Addis Ababa. The appointment of former President Obasanjo was one step towards the fulfillment of the requirements of the aforementioned decisions. H.E. Obasanjo welcomed the appointment and pledged his full support to the Union's efforts.

The Commissioner had also met with H.E. Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, former Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity, at his residence in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on 23 May 2011 for the same reason. H.E. Dr. Luisa Dias Diogo, former Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of

raise adequate funding to address this pressing crisis. A dedicated bank account is in the process of being opened. To date, USD 500,000 have been donated to UNHCR by the AU and the PRC Sub-Committee on the Special Emergency Assistance Fund for Drought and Famine.

According to reports by international agencies, 11 million people are currently affected by the drought in the Horn of Africa and are in need of food assistance. The situation is deemed critical in Somalia ,where 60% of the land and over 2.2 million people cannot be reached because of the highly unstable political situation in that country.

Source: <http://www.nepad.org/foodsecurity/news/2416/drought-horn-africa>

the Republic of Mozambique and Member of United Nations Secretary General's High Level Panel on Global Sustainability, and a Personal Representative of the President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and Chairperson of the African Union, H.E. Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, are also expected to serve as members of the Panel.

Following the completion of the appointments, the Panel is expected to hold its inaugural briefing session in Addis Ababa during the first week of August 2011.

For full story: www.nepad.org

Upcoming Event

- Africa Trade and Investment Expo
27 July 2011 Midrand, South Africa
- CAADP Country Teams Workshops: "Strengthening Implementation Capacities for CAADP" - Ghana (TBC)
27-29 July 2011, Ghana
- AU-NEPAD Agriculture Climate Change Mitigation Framework meeting
17-19 Aug 2011, Durban, South Africa

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