



NEPAD

A PROGRAMME OF THE AFRICAN UNION

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Transition from the NEPAD Secretariat to the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency



**WORKING FOR
AFRICA'S
PROSPERITY**

The New Partnership for
Africa's Development
Planning and Coordinating
Agency (NEPAD Agency)

1 June, 2010



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FOREWORD

On behalf of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, allow me to present an abridged version of our Annual Report for the period January – December 2009. The report highlights our plans, programmes and activities during the period under review.

The report is presented within the context of some challenging times for the African continent, for national governments and for the regional institutional structures that are mandated to implement the policy decisions around issues of development in Africa.

However, the good news is that Africa is full of promise and resources, both intellectual and natural. Africa's transformation is on course as indicated, for instance, by the progressive and steady average economic growth of 4-5% in the past few years, though the global financial and economic crisis adversely affected Africa's growth trajectory. The challenge is that many of Africa's 900 million inhabitants are still living below the poverty line. With only five years left until the 2015 deadline to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), it is evident that many African countries will not meet that target. These structural concerns have been exacerbated by an ongoing financial crisis that started in late 2007 and which has had serious implications for Africa.

But the continent has soldiered on. It is within this spirit that the process to integrate the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) into the structures and processes of the African Union (AU) gained momentum in 2009. In this regard, the NEPAD Secretariat has been transformed into the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NEPAD Agency). The NEPAD Agency has continued to benefit from the strong support and cooperation for the NEPAD agenda and processes, from the AU/NEPAD governance structures, national governments, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), partner institutions including the UN agencies and civil society organisations. With the AU/NEPAD integration drawing to a logical conclusion, it is my hope and expectation that we will continue to receive the all-important partnership support from Africa's friends under the new NEPAD Agency.

As the Chief Executive Officer, I have continued to count on the strategic guidance and support of the Chairpersons of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee and the AU Commission as well as the Co-Chairs of the NEPAD the Steering Committee, and together, the final determination of the mandate, profile and structure of the successor entity to the NEPAD Secretariat – the NEPAD Agency would be actualized in 2010.

As is evident in this 2009 NEPAD Secretariat Annual Report, you will observe that the Secretariat carried on with its support to continental, regional, as well as national efforts to deepen regional integration in support of Africa's development.

Due to the inter-related socio-economic and political factors concerning Africa's development needs, in 2009 NEPAD placed particular focus on supporting Africa in achieving the MDGs – through concrete delivery on our sector programmes. I am glad to state that 2009 provided a good foundation for our continued collective efforts to do what we must for Africa and its people.

Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki
Chief Executive Officer
NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency



In February 2010, the 14th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the AU held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, adopted the Decision (Assembly/AU/Dec.283 (XIV) on the integration of NEPAD into the structures and processes of the AU.



The NEPAD Secretariat played a key role in the deliberations at the special session of the Africa Partnership Forum (APF) on Africa and climate change. September 2009, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Introduction

INTRODUCTION

While the integration of NEPAD into the structures and processes of the African Union was the main theme of 2009 and continues to take up a lot of planning and coordination time, the Secretariat has continued to offer intellectual leadership and technical and policy support in the priority programme areas for which it was set up. There were significant milestones in the areas of agriculture and food security, good governance, capacity development, gender, infrastructure development, education and health, science and technology, trade and markets access; environment and climate change, which NEPAD was at the centre of.

CONTEXTUALISING NEPAD

In 2001, Africa adopted the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as an African Union (AU) strategic framework for pan-African socio-economic development. NEPAD is both a vision and a policy framework for Africa in the 21st Century. NEPAD is a radically new intervention, spearheaded by African leaders to address critical challenges facing the continent: poverty, development and Africa's marginalisation internationally.

NEPAD provides unique opportunities for African countries to take full control of their development agenda, to work more closely together, and to cooperate more effectively with international partners.

This report provides a snapshot of the main activities and work of the NEPAD Secretariat in 2009. As readers will notice, the major theme for 2009 was the integra-

tion of NEPAD into the structures and processes of the African Union. However, the report also has highlights of the year under review, including the NEPAD Secretariat's leadership in the specific priority sectors as defined in the NEPAD base framework.

Major Activities and Highlights

JANUARY – MARCH 2009

The first quarter of the year was kick-started with the 12th African Union Summit 31 January—3 February in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Summit ratified the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC)'s recommendation on the need to maintain the corporate brand identity of NEPAD within the African Union. The summit reiterated that from inception, the NEPAD vision and programme had remained an intrinsic part of the AU.

The 12th AU Summit also endorsed the appointment of Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki as the new Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD Secretariat based on the recommendation of the NEPAD HSGIC Summit and the Chairperson of the AUC.

This first quarter also witnessed the NEPAD Steering Committee's endorsement of the key outcomes of the NEPAD SADC stakeholders' engagement held in Midrand, South in December 2008. Through this process, NEPAD Secretariat subsequently renewed its engagement with non-state actors in Africa, particularly

INTEGRATING NEPAD INTO THE AU STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES

The major story in 2009 was the continued efforts to finalize the integration of NEPAD into the structures and processes of the AU as is laid out in the Maputo 2003 2nd AU Summit Decision aligning the work of NEPAD towards the AU.

Given their joint work towards the upliftment of the African people it is imperative to integrate the work of NEPAD into the AU and thereby enhance and strengthen its mandate and delivery processes.

NEPAD was formally adopted as an integrated socio-economic development framework for Africa by the 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the then Organisation of African Unity (OAU) held in Lusaka, Zambia, in July 2001. The endorsement of NEPAD epitomised the commitment of African leaders and people to pursue new priorities and approaches to socio-economic transformation and development of the continent. Following many discussions at national, regional and the continental level, the NEPAD agenda was further guided by the recommendations of the 21st and 22nd NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC) on the integration of NEPAD into the structures and processes of the AU.

In February 2010, the 14th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the AU held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, adopted the Decision (Assembly/AU/Dec.283 (XIV) on the integration of NEPAD into the structures and processes of the AU. This included the establishment of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NEPAD Agency) as a technical body of the AU to replace the NEPAD Secretariat. There has been a strategic shift from the NEPAD Secretariat sector-based approach – whereby focus was on priority areas – to a functional approach that calls for inter-linkages. The structure of the Agency revolves around five key interlinked directorates that are overseen and driven by the CEO's Office. These include: strategy and knowledge management, policy alignment and programme development, programme implementation and coordination, partnerships, resource mobilisation and communication and corporate services.

The specific mandate for the new NEPAD Agency is defined as follows:

- Facilitate and coordinate the implementation of Africa's priority continental and regional programs/projects;
- Mobilise resources and partners in support of the implementation of Africa's priority programmes and projects;
- Conduct and coordinate research and knowledge management;
- Monitor and evaluate the implementation of programmes and projects; and
- Advocate on the AU and NEPAD vision, mission and core principles/values.

As the technical body of the AU, NEPAD's strategic orientation revolves around the AU Commission's Strategic Pillars. Essentially, NEPAD activities are guided by themes linked to these four pillars: i) Peace and Security; ii) Development, Integration and Cooperation; iii) Shared Values; and iv) Institution and Capacity Building. This enables NEPAD to clearly articulate its contributions towards achieving AU objectives.

The six themes that guide NEPAD sectoral work are identified as:

- Agriculture and food security;
- Climate change and natural resources management;
- Regional integration and infrastructure;
- Human development;
- Economic and corporate governance, and
- Cross-cutting issues

These themes are also aligned to emerging continental and global issues as well as recommendations of major AU and other international meetings. The thematic approach adopted by NEPAD is indicative of the shift from sector-based activity approach to programmatic and results based management. Accordingly, various sectors will work together to achieve thematic objectives. The NEPAD priority sectors remain the same as those identified in the original NEPAD strategic document, namely:

- Agriculture and food security;
- Environment and tourism;
- Infrastructure (transport, water and sanitation; energy; and Information and communication Technology - ICT);
- Education and health;
- Trade, market access, investment and private sector;
- Science and technology;
- Governance;
- Gender, and,
- Capacity development as a cross-cutting sector issue.

The major AU/NEPAD frameworks developed over the years with the support of African stakeholders and partners are being aligned with the five thematic areas defined above. These frameworks include: the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP); Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Action Plan (CPA); Environment Action Plan (EAP); and Sub-Regional Environment Action Plans (SREAPs); Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA); NEPAD Infrastructure Short Term Action Plan (STAP); NEPAD Spatial Development Programme (SPD) and the Capacity Development Strategic Framework (CDSF).



(L-R) His Excellency the Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Mr Meles Zenawi; the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Mr Jean Ping; and the CEO of the NEPAD Agency, Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, in attendance at a NEPAD HSGIC.

media, tertiary and research institutions – in recognition of the importance for inclusive partnerships towards the implementation of NEPAD.

APRIL – JUNE 2009

By April, Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki assumed duties and formally took over as CEO at the NEPAD Secretariat in, Midrand, South Africa, replacing Ambassador Stephen Olukorede Willoughby, who had been acting CEO from January 2008.

In May, Dr. Mayaki reported on activities of the NEPAD Secretariat at the 37th meeting of the NEPAD Steering Committee in Midrand, South Africa, his first presentation to the Committee.

The NEPAD Secretariat, in June was engaged with the 12th meeting of the Africa Partnership Forum (APF) in Rome, Italy on 10 June. The Forum discussed the effects and responses to the global financial and economic crisis; security; climate change; and the future of the APF as a forum for dialogue between Africa and its development partners. The APF reforms were adopted at the Rome APF

During the 21st Summit of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC), the African leaders officially welcomed Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki as NEPAD CEO. Dr Mayaki became the third substantive CEO of NEPAD, following in the footsteps of Professor Wiseman Nkuhlu of South Africa (2001–2005) and Mozambique's Professor Firmino Mucavele (2005–2008). The meeting also endorsed the recommendations by AUC/NEPAD for the G8-Africa Summit at L'Aquila, Italy.

Additionally, the 21st Summit of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC), formally recommended the establishment of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency to replace the NEPAD Secretariat.

The Secretariat also collaborated with UNECA and the OECD Support Unit on knowledge materials and tools on Climate Change and Carbon Finance, which

were presented to Africa Negotiators with a view to raising awareness and building their capacity for effective participation in Copenhagen and the preceding negotiation meetings. These included “Climate challenges to Africa: from Bali to Copenhagen” and “Financing Climate Change in Africa”, which were presented to African Negotiators and Ministers during the AMCEN Special Experts Session in May 2009.

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2009

Libyan Leader, Muammar Gaddafi as Chair of the African Union and Leaders of South Africa, Algeria, Angola, Egypt, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Senegal, including the AUC Chairperson, joined G8 counterparts for the July G8 Summit and G8/Africa Outreach in L'Aquila, Italy. The leaders discussed the global response to the impact of the global financial crisis on Africa, as well as issues of climate change, peace and security in Africa, and e-Government. The key outcome of the L'Aquila G8 Summit was the US\$20 billion L'Aquila Food Security Initiative (AFSI)

Also in July, consensus was reached on the final draft of the Capacity Development Strategic Framework (CDSF) by the Consultation Meeting on Continental Steering Group (CSG) meeting in Accra, Ghana. Stakeholders (including African universities and research institutions) recommended formalizing the CSG into an advisory body of NEPAD with the NEPAD CEO as the Chairperson. The CSG also recommended placing the CDSF on the agenda for the January 2010 HSGIC and NEPAD Steering Committee. These recommendations were adopted by the NEPAD CEO.

On 3 September, NEPAD, the AU Commission, the G8/OECD Support Unit, and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) organised a Special Session of the Africa Partnership Forum (APF) on Climate Change, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Session worked towards coalition building with partners around Africa's key concerns and expectations on climate change to ensure that these were adequately addressed in any new climate change agreement as expected to be reached at the Copenhagen Climate Change Summit later in December. Key messages from the Special Session were disseminated to relevant regional and global processes including later at Copenhagen.

On 7 September, 2009, NEPAD CEO Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki presented his credentials to South Africa's Deputy Minister for International Relations and Cooperation, Ebrahim Ismael Ebrahim. Dr. Mayaki was thus formally accredited as CEO of the NEPAD Secretariat and Head of the Interim African Union (AU) office in South Africa, and Principle Representative of the AU chairperson, Dr. Jean Ping to Pretoria. This is an outcome of the signing of the Host Agreement for NEPAD by the AU and the Government of the Republic of South Africa.

NEPAD successfully engaged the global processes on Aid Effectiveness, South-to-South Cooperation and Capacity Development through the Task Team and OECD/DAC Working Party on Aid Effectiveness. This process led to the NEPAD Secretariat being mandated as the

coordinator for the Africa region on AE/SSC/CD at the September 2009 meeting of TT-SSC in Washington DC, US.

Under the NEPAD ICT Programme, the NEPAD e-Schools Demo Project was completed in 10 out of the 16 African countries designated in partnership with relevant national governments, while the NEPAD ICT Broadband flagship Infrastructure Network projects – Uhuruset Submarine and Umojanet terrestrial gained traction.

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2009

As part of progress towards AU/NEPAD integration, the AU Commission Deputy Chairperson Erastus Mwencha launched the AUC/NEPAD Work Programme Harmonisation on 3 November, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The process which involved senior management and programme heads of both AUC and the NEPAD Secretariat, defined work programme outline per sector programme based on the overarching principles of institutional ownership; alignment; delineation of roles and responsibilities; harmonisation; results based management; and mutual accountability. AU Commissioners and the NEPAD CEO took part in this first ever work programme harmonization session between the AUC and NEPAD Secretariat.

The NEPAD Secretariat, in collaboration with the AUC and the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN), provided technical support to African countries for the Copenhagen Climate Change in December 2010. Through the Copenhagen process, the Secretariat made significant contributions in developing the African Common Position for the Copenhagen Summit on Climate Change, where it participated as a core member of the official AU delegation. This was a follow up to the AU July 2009 Sirte AU Summit Decisions on Climate Change.



NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency CEO, Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, meets with students from the University of Johannesburg.

Hosting arrangement for the nodal centre of the AU/NEPAD African Bio-safety Network of Expertise (ABNE) was finalized in consultation with the Government of Burkina Faso. The major goal of the NEPAD Regional Centre is to provide African regulators with access to most up-to-date training and science-based information on regulating biotechnology towards harnessing biotechnology for economic development while

protecting farmers, consumers and the environment

At the 4th annual meeting of the NEPAD-OECD Africa Investment Initiative, Johannesburg South Africa 11-12 November, the main theme was boosting private investment in African energy infrastructure. The two-part meeting had ministerial discussions (with ministers from Uganda, Malawi, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Cameroon) on mobilising financial resources in Africa against the global financial crisis; and an expert roundtable (with at least 250 representatives from business, government, international organisations and civil society).

More than 650 delegates attended the inaugural NEPAD Transport Summit in Johannesburg, 25-26, November. Delegates were from Angola; Botswana; Burundi; Cameroon; Chad; DRC; Ethiopia; Egypt; Ghana; Gambia; Gabon; Ivory Coast; Kenya; Libya; Malawi; Mauritius; Mozambique Namibia; Nigeria; Rwanda; Senegal; South Africa; Swaziland; Tanzania; Tunisia; Zambia; Zimbabwe as well as representatives from France, Brussels, Japan, India and Russia, as well as most of the major multilateral organisations (World Bank, UN and the EU Commission). The summit's main theme was movement towards breaking down intra-continental frontiers, standardisation of transport infrastructure development, and the use of multi-modal transport infrastructure planning to complement and not compete with one another.

By December, at least 14 African countries had signed the CAADP Compacts, signifying the strengthening of CAADP Implementation at country and regional levels. The CAADP (Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme) is the centre-piece policy blue-print for fighting rural poverty and boosting food security on the continent.

NEPAD also continued to strengthen partnerships towards food security in Africa through the signing of MoU with Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) in November 2009. The Abuja 5th CAADP Partnership Platform Meeting in the same month also had especially the recommendations on how Africa could effectively utilise the LAquila Food Security funds;

The Secretariat focused on the continued implementation of the 5-year MoU €50 million grant under the NEPAD/Spanish Fund in support of the African Women Empowerment and its Business Incubators for African Women Entrepreneurs (BIWAE) project with a number of RECs including ECOWAS and COMESA, following renewed commitment of the Government of Spain to the Fund.

Additional partnership support secured for NEPAD's work towards implementing the AU Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan, which is aimed at strengthening medicines registration harmonization on the continent. NEPAD co-ordinates the partnership consortium supporting the project including the World Health Organization; Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation



Focus Areas of the Sector Programmes

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

If we're going to make poverty history in Africa we have to improve food security, nutrition and incomes in Africa's largely agrarian economies. These are the inter-linked goals of the made-in-Africa Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) launched in 2003. Through CAADP, African governments are committed to raising agricultural productivity by investing at least 10 per cent of national budgets in agriculture.

In 2009, not only did more and more countries align their national strategies to the CAADP Agenda, but it must also be said that from the G8 Summit in LAquila to the G20 Summit in Pittsburgh and the UN General Assembly in New York, CAADP has received international support and recognition for its role in putting agriculture at the centre of the African development agenda. The G20 committed an additional US\$22 billion for agriculture and, at the 2009 World Summit on Food Security, global leaders stressed the need to support African agriculture and food security within the context of CAADP.

These solid steps forward are enormously encouraging. They serve to remind us of the strength in genuine partnerships and collaborations in our collective efforts towards food security in Africa and beyond.

The Ministers of Agriculture Conference in April and the African Union Summit in June 2009 were significant

milestones in setting the future of African agriculture. The global community is rallying around the CAADP Agenda, supporting post-Compact priorities and strategic areas. In more and more countries CAADP implementation plans for boosting agriculture and eradicating poverty are now underway and delivering excellent outcomes. Financing commitment through these CAADP compacts was significant in 2009 and went beyond US\$1 billion as part of the joint efforts of the AUC and NEPAD in mobilising resources to promote CAADP implementation at national and regional levels.

This is clearly a landmark year. Nine countries signed a CAADP Compact in 2009, highlighting not only Africa's commitment towards poverty eradication through agriculture, but also Africa's focus on the Maputo Declaration and the broader global agenda of food security.

In 2009, five years after CAADP was launched, the CAADP Review marked another important milestone. A key recommendation of the Review was to broaden the CAADP constituency to embrace, for example, African kings and chiefs who play an important role in ensuring that agricultural development supports the vulnerable. Rallying the skills and knowledge of the agricultural development community, these traditional leaders, civil society organisations and the private sector will gather a formidable force to tackle hunger and truly make poverty history in Africa.

Another notable achievement in 2009 is the NEPAD Secretariat's role in the TerrAfrica Partnership, under which a number of African countries advanced in Sustainable Land and Water Management (SLM), which is one of the pillars of CAADP. For instance, Malawi, Ghana, Nigeria, Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso received direct support from the Secretariat in developing their SLM investment frameworks. Ethiopia also held a conference in August 2009 on its SLM investment framework to mobilise support from partners. Through CAADP, Uganda embarked on an effort to mainstream SLM with the support of UNDP, the World Bank, NEPAD Secretariat, and COMESA. NEPAD also continued to strengthen partnerships against food insecurity by signing of an MoU with Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) in November 2009. The Abuja 5th CAADP Partnership Platform Meeting in the same month also had especially the recommendations on how Africa could effectively utilise the L'Aquila Food Security funds;

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The key issue here was the completion of the NEPAD Capacity Development Strategic Framework document at the end of 2009. In its foreword, CEO Dr Mayaki explained that that "the framework calls for a necessary paradigm shift in approaching capacity development." This document emphasises the need to foreground African resourcefulness, and solution and impact based innovation. It is built on the following the six strategic cornerstones:

- leadership transformation;
- citizen transformation;
- utilising African potentials;
- skills and resources for development;
- capacity of capacity builders;
- integrated approaches and continuous improvement processes; and
- knowledge-based and innovation-driven processes.

The Regional Economic Communities (RECs) have also taken leadership in creating educational opportunities for young men and women, nurses and midwives, the teaching of maths, science and technology, literacy campaigns and the creation of the regional Centres of Excellence in Education Programme. With the possible support of UNESCO and its own Reporting Africa Syllabus as well as the Centres of Excellence (COEs) and Centres of Reference (CORs), capacity building across the continent continues to gather momentum.

Through the CDSF NEPAD actively made inroads into the global processes on capacity development. NEPAD engaged the AE/SSC/CD processes – thereby establishing the CDSF as Africa's own defined agenda on CD. The NEPAD Secretariat also advocated the use of the CDSF by calling upon partners and CD institutions to make reference to CDSF in their work in the region. The NEPAD CEO participated at a global event with DAC on the issue of 'Southern Perspectives' on CD. These interventions worked to further raise the visibility

of the South in AE and SSC.

The NEPAD Secretariat further built partnerships with UNDP and ACBF on aligning CD in Africa.

The CDSF is to be endorsed in 2010 by the AU/NEPAD processes and will be operationalised through the support of development partners.

ENVIRONMENT

The disappointment of the inconclusive Copenhagen Summit on Climate Change in Denmark was perhaps most manifest in the walk-out by African countries on 14 December 2009. The African delegations were protesting the increasing concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere which have caused climate change that threatens the total collapse of agricultural production on the continent. South Africa joined Brazil, India, China, the United States in formulating the text that was eventually noted, recognising that climate change is one of the world's greatest challenges currently, and that action should be taken to limit any temperature increases to below 2°C. In 2009 the NEPAD Secretariat continued to operate under the Bali Action Plan that foregrounds mitigation, adaptation, technology development and transfer, as well as finance, to tackle climate change and environmental degradation. The AU Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat in partnership with the Economic Commission for Africa worked to refine Africa's positions in order to strengthen coordination and negotiation structures and mechanisms.

The NEPAD Secretariat made significant contributions in developing the African Common Position for the Copenhagen Summit on Climate Change in December 2009, where it participated as a core member (as well as providing intellectual leadership) of the official AU delegation. This was a follow up to the AU July 2009 Sirte Summit Decisions on Climate Change. Specifically, the Secretariat provided technical leadership in the development of the African Common Position for the Copenhagen Climate Change negotiations, in collaboration with the AUC and the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN).

The NEPAD Secretariat also collaborated with UNECA and the African Partnership Support Unit to prepare materials and tools on Climate Change and Carbon Finance. These materials and tools were shared with African Negotiators with a view to raising awareness and building their capacity for effective participation in Copenhagen and the preceding negotiation meetings. In addition, the NEPAD Secretariat prepared a paper titled "Climate challenges to Africa: from Bali to Copenhagen", which was presented to African Negotiators and Ministers during the AMCEN Special Experts Session in May 2009. This Paper was a useful tool for the negotiators and policy makers. Similarly, the Secretariat prepared a briefing paper on "Financing Climate Change in Africa".

Furthermore, and also in collaboration with the Secretariat of AMCEN, a framework for sub-regional Climate Change programmes was developed and endorsed by the AMCEN High Level Technical Panel on Climate Change. In addition, a calendar for the sub-regional

consultative meeting was approved by AMCEN and consultations were to begin in the first quarter of 2010.

Another achievement of the NEPAD Secretariat was the support provided to and facilitation of stakeholder dialogue on Climate Change. For instance, the Secretariat organised a meeting with the RECs and key partners, including AMCEN and WWF, to develop a partnership arrangement under its leadership. This was aimed at promoting complementarity and coherence in the implementation of climate change programmes.

In addition to its work on Climate Change, the NEPAD Secretariat was successful in preparing the Action Plan of the Environmental Initiative of NEPAD, which is organised in clusters of programmatic and project activities to be implemented over a period of 10 years. The implementation of the Action Plan, which is endorsed by AMCEN, covers the following priority sectors: combating land degradation; drought and desertification; wetlands; invasive species; marine and coastal resources; cross-border conservation and natural resources; climate change; and crosscutting issues.

Partnerships are key to implementing the continental Action Plan as well as those at the sub-regional level. To that end, the NEPAD Secretariat had fruitful engagements with several key partners including UNEP, FAO, UN Foundation, and DFID, among others. This resulted in agreements to provide financial and technical support to the Secretariat in delivering support to RECs and to member states. Overall, NEPAD authored several sub-regional environmental Actions Plans for ECCAS, ECOWAS, SADC, IGAD and UMA promote regional cooperation in natural resource management.



Liberian farmers perform during the country's round table process, which determined how to implement CAADP at a national level.

GENDER

The empowerment of women, education for girls, and gender mainstreaming continued to be a focus at the NEPAD Secretariat in 2009. Development partners (particularly those from Northern Europe) have continued to support the promotion of education for women, the creation of gender parity in employment, political representation, wealth creation and equal protection under the law (with a specific reference to gender-based violence such as spousal abuse, Female Genital Mutilation [FGM] and Reproductive Rights).

GENDER: CREATION OF A BIOTECHNOLOGICAL UNIT OF VETERINARY VACCINE PRODUCTION

A major achievement of the NEPAD Secretariat in the area of Gender is related to the Association of Scouts/Guides of Niger (AGEN), which received financial support from the NEPAD Spanish Fund for African Women Empowerment to implement a project titled "creation of a biotechnological unit of veterinary vaccine production". The project has a national coverage and its headquarters are in Niamey, Niger. The main objective of the two-year project is to support women in their livestock farming activities.

Within 13 months of execution, the project resulted in a functional biotechnological unit for the production of vaccines as well as a poultry farming house. As part of the project, two members of the association were trained in Bamako, Mali and obtained certificates after completing the training. Vaccines developed through the project are aimed at eradicating disease such as rabies. In addition, it is envisaged that the project will lead to the production of diagnostic kits. It is also envisaged that by the end of the project, 3,000,000 vaccine dosages would be produced, covering 40 percent of national territory. At least 1,005,000 dosages have already been produced.

The establishment of the poultry farmhouse aims at the production of Self Pathogen Factor (SPF) eggs that will allow the production of vaccines from embryonic eggs. This technology is mostly imported from Europe and is seldom available in most African countries. So far, the poultry farmhouse has been built, the laying hen ordered from France, a poultry farmer appointed for monitoring purposes, and 150 eggs are collected per day. The sale of vaccine and the poultry products will allow women to get involved in sustainable income generating activities which will have a positively effect on the livelihoods of the community. It will also boost their self esteem and bring about greater appreciation of their role as development agents. Overall, the outputs of this project will contribute to achieving the MDGs by promoting women economic empowerment and food security in Niger. Its potential for replication in other African countries will be documented and disseminated.

NEPAD and the AU Commission have also continued supporting the provision of training of women in entrepreneurial skills as well as community educators on HIV/Aids.

Accelerating the empowerment of women is one of the objectives of the NEPAD Programme. Accordingly, gender mainstreaming is a critical component of the Programme. NEPAD Secretariat's work on gender is associated with a number of success stories (see box above).



A health worker administers the polio vaccine to a child in Nairobi's Dandora Phase II area.

Photo: Jane Some/IRIN

GOVERNANCE

Governance continued to be a cornerstone of the NEPAD Secretariat's vision, mission and programme, with the Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) as the focal point. As of July 2009, 30 African countries (Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zambia), had agreed to be part of the APRM process. In January Ghana, Rwanda, Kenya, Algeria, South Africa and Benin presented progress reports on the implementation of their National Programmes of Action. Mali, Lesotho and Mozambique were successfully peer reviewed in June at the 11th APRM Forum Summit in Sirte, Libya. This brought to 12, the total number of countries that have completed the peer review process. At the current rate of progress, NEPAD estimates that the entire African continent will have joined the APRM by 2013; and completed the APRM process by 2020. NEPAD's annual APRM report continues to be one of the most widely read documents on good governance and respect for human rights in Africa. Together with the AU Commission, NEPAD has continued to mobilise resources for training parliamentarians and conducting regional and continent-wide dialogues on pressing issues such as diversity and xenophobia, elec-

tions, corruption and land resource management.

The NEPAD Secretariat regularly and actively participates in key forums on governance in Africa. A good example was the expert group meeting on "bridging the peace and development nexus: the role and capacities of African regional and sub regional organizations" on 15-16 December, 2009, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This meeting was also attended by OSAA, UNECA, AUC, UNDP, United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs, RECs, Peace Building Support Office, UN Department of Political Affairs, UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Peace Building Commission, European Union, and OCHA.

In order to avoid duplication with the AUC, the NEPAD Secretariat concentrated on the post-conflict reconstruction and development agenda. This provided more complementarity and greater added-value to development in Africa. It was also in line with the desire for clearly defined roles and comparative advantages among all development stakeholders on the continent. The Secretariat concentrated on Sierra Leone and Liberia where the UN system assistance is urgently needed especially with regard to capacity building.

HEALTH

NEPAD continued to emphasise the potential impact on health of the reduction in income for individuals and countries, globally and in Africa, as a consequence of

the global financial crisis; and provided a framework for action to mitigate against the threat. NEPAD determined that the financial crisis led to increased poverty, reduced household income, job losses and reduced remittances from abroad (notably Western Europe and North America). This affected the social determinants of health and on access to healthcare. Due to enormous cost implications, expenditure in many African countries remains below the critical minimum needed to fund essential basic health care, with African countries often not being in a position to bridge the gap between their needs and their budgets.

NEPAD's publication unit continued its advocacy, focusing especially on enhancing global health initiatives on specific diseases (like HIV/Aids). The Secretariat has also continued to champion the development of more effective technical support for health systems that enhance African capacity.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICTS)

The objective of this focus is to harness ICTs to improve the quality of teaching and learning in African schools and to provide ICT skills and knowledge to primary and secondary school students to enhance their functionality and confidence in the emerging Information Society and Knowledge Economy. This has continued to be done through the NEPAD e-Schools Demo project, which is

supported by ICT companies led in consortia by DEMO AMD, Cisco, HP, Microsoft and Oracle. The NEPAD e-Schools Group of Experts was formed during a workshop at the e-Learning conference in Dakar, Senegal, in May 2009. The focus was the professional development of teachers. Another workshop on the same theme was held in June, 2009 in Johannesburg. The NEPAD e-Africa Commission in partnership with the Intel Corporation convened this workshop to train 24 trainers from 13 African countries (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda).

A notable achievement in ICT is the NEPAD Broadband Network whose roll-out was set to begin in 2009/10. The objective of the project is to connect African countries to one other and the continent to the rest of the world through existing and planned submarine cable systems. When completed, the NEPAD network will integrate the continent and facilitate trade as well as social and cultural interactions. The manufacture of the submarine cable is about to begin and it is expected that the cable will be laid and ready for use in 21 months. Another achievement embedded in this project is the involvement the private sector, through companies such as Umojanet Corporation whose creation was inspired by NEPAD. This company is finalising a strategy to connect several African countries to existing submarine cables.



Alternative sources of energy such as solar power have the potential to increase the productivity and revenues of SMEs in Africa.

INFRASTRUCTURE, ENERGY, TRANSPORT AND WATER

The core objective of the AU Commission and NEPAD is to promote the development of regional infrastructure remains critical to energising and sustaining regional integration in Africa. In bridging the infrastructure gap, the two have been engaged with multilateral and bilateral partners to change the lagging coverage, poor maintenance, weak financing and inefficient management of infrastructure activities. Indeed, one of the themes of the 12th AU Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia was “Infrastructure Development in Africa”. Given the need for a comprehensive long-term infrastructural development plan, the AU Commission, NEPAD with the support of the African Development Bank initiated and continue to support the Infrastructure Development in Africa programme.

The infrastructure focus has included:

- Development of strategic policy frameworks and programmes for African Regional Infrastructure, namely the Short Term Action Plan (STAP), the Medium To Long Term Strategic Framework (MLTSF), which now forms an integral part of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA);
- Facilitation and monitoring the implementation of regional projects;
- Facilitation of resource mobilisation of resources for infrastructure projects;
- Assisting African countries in the creation of conducive environment for attracting investment to build and maintain Infrastructure;
- Being a catalyst for united (and concerted) action on regional cooperation in infrastructure through support to the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in areas such as capacity development; and
- Disseminating lessons learned among AU Member States, Partners, RECs and other stakeholders

Development partners have joined the AU Commission and NEPAD in the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA), which met in its annual meeting in March, 2009 in Rome. One of the more alarming figures presented was from a World Bank study that estimated that Africa needs a US\$ 80 billion annually to close the infrastructure gap. This funding can only be possible with the generous support of development partners.

The core objective of the AU Commission and NEPAD is to promote the development of regional infrastructure remains critical to energising and sustaining regional integration in Africa.

The AU Commission and NEPAD also continued to push the agenda in the energy sector as well as broadband infrastructure network.

Infrastructure is one of the NEPAD sectors that have been extensively reviewed. The second review of progress in the implementation of the NEPAD Infra-

structure Short-Term Action Plan (STAP) underscored the following achievements:

- NEPAD brand being fully established, well known and recognised within and outside Africa, with most major development initiatives for the continent now being contextualised with the NEPAD framework. This is as a result of the immense work undertaken by all the key stakeholders of NEPAD led by the Secretariat;
- Much greater understanding and appreciation of the roles and responsibilities associated with the delivery of the NEPAD infrastructure agenda throughout the continent amongst the key stakeholders and development partners;
- Some RECs have developed and are implementing capacity building plans, in recognition of their roles. This includes, enhancing their internal structures, technical and financial capacities and systems; and
- Establishment of Facilities such as the NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparatory Facility (IPPF) and the African Water Facility managed by the African Development Bank (AfDB) that involve the participation of development partners.

In the area of Energy, the NEPAD Secretariat was able to capture the present status of energy projects within the continent through desk research and field visits. This enabled the preparation of a list of priority NEPAD regional energy projects. The NEPAD Bio-energy Programme also had positive results, including being recognized as a multi-sectoral programme of the Secretariat that cuts across the energy, environment, agriculture, and Science & Technology sectors.

Another achievement in the energy sector is in the area of capacity building, where the NEPAD Secretariat has built partnerships with institutions such as the Power Institute for East and Southern Africa (PIESA). Similarly, within the framework of the NEPAD-OECD Initiative, a Public Private Partnership (PPP) capacity building programme was initiated in collaboration with the IPPF.

Advocacy and promoting the involvement of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in electricity business, especially in the use of renewable sources to fast track electrification of the continent was another major strategic achievement of Secretariat in the energy sector. The use of renewable energy was promoted in several high level meetings organized in collaboration with partners such as OECD, EU in the framework of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership, and AfDB, among others. These efforts resulted in the inclusion of renewable energy sources as a part of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA). Based on the engagement of the Secretariat with the different stakeholders in the continent and beyond, a foundation was laid for NEPAD's contribution in harnessing the potential of renewable energy as a source of economic growth including through equipment manufacturing.

The major achievements of the Secretariat in the transport sector include its contributions to developing

INAUGURAL NEPAD TRANSPORT SUMMIT

The inaugural NEPAD Transport Summit and African Expo 2009, the first of what is envisaged to be an annual continental event was held in November 2009 in Midrand, South Africa. More than 650 delegates from over 25 countries, and 20 international organizations attended the Summit. Over a hundred exhibitors also participated. The Summit was organized by the Transport Sector of the Infrastructure Unit of the NEPAD Secretariat, in collaboration with Cape Media, a leading Publisher of business magazines and an Event Management firm in Cape Town, South Africa. This Summit was a fully inclusive event that brought together African governments, the Private Sector, Financial Institutions, Development Partners, Transport Experts and transport infrastructure development agencies to discuss existing regional and continental transport infrastructure development plans, and develop new strategies based on previous successes gained through current government policies and plans.

During the Summit, the first NEPAD Transport Infrastructure Project of Excellence Awards was presented to two organizations and one State government. The recipients were; the Maputo Corridor Logistics Initiative (MCLI), Ethiopian Airlines, and the Government of Senegal. One of the major outcomes of this summit was the production by the NEPAD Transport Sector of a report that serves as a compendium of all the presentations made during the Summit. The report provides an overview of the transport infrastructure challenges covering all transport modes and their impact on regional integration and trade facilitation in Africa. It also provides a holistic view of the lessons learnt and some of the best practices in transport infrastructure planning and development in Africa. The report also provides valuable information that will contribute to the knowledge management efforts of the newly established NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA).

and monitoring the implementation of transport components of the NEPAD Infrastructure Programme and the development of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), which is ongoing. It also contributed in dialogue between African institutions and development partners to ensure coherence in their support to Africa's infrastructure development.

This was done through various platforms including the Africa Infrastructure Consortium. The concept of Spatial Development Initiatives, which links natural resources to transport development, is an area that the Secretariat championed and that became increasingly recognized as a viable development model. Facilitating dialogue on transport development is key for avoiding duplication of activities by key institutions and stakeholders and providing a platform for sharing information and for exchanging and for exchanging of view and best practices. The NEPAD inaugural Transport Summit, presented in the box above, illustrates our contribution in advancing dialogue on transport in Africa.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The NEPAD Science and Technology Sector has been implementing eight Programmes in response to the AU/NEPAD Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA) endorsed by the African Union Summit of Heads of State and Government in 2006. The focus, direction and implementation strategy of the eight programmes are derived from and anchored in the three pillars of the CPA—knowledge production, capacity building and technological innovation. The programme design is integrative (cross-cutting), with particular emphasis on addressing socio-economic challenges that the African citizenry is faced with. The implementation strategy of the different programmes is generally defined by the following generic scheme:

Initiatives → Programmes → Projects → Benefits (Outputs/outcomes)

Programme 1: AU/NEPAD African Biosciences Initiative (ABI)

NEPAD/ABI is a suite of programmes designed to conform to three CPA flagship programmes: Biotechnology, Biodiversity and Indigenous Knowledge Systems. To this end, five networks have been established on the continent, namely:

- Southern Africa Network for Biosciences (SANBio, 12 countries of SADC except the DRC and Tanzania, CSIR-SANBio Hub and 5 Nodes in different countries),
- Biosciences eastern and central Africa Network (BecANet, 17 countries the majority of which are members of COMESA, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)-BecANet Hub),
- West African Biosciences Network (WABNet, 15 countries of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Institut Sénégalais de Recherches Agricoles (ISRA)-WABNet Hub),
- North African Biosciences Network (NABNet, 6 countries in North Africa, National Research Centre of Egypt-NABNet Hub), and the
- African Biosafety Network of Expertise (ABNE, The Node is in Burkina Faso, All African countries and the focus is to coordinate bio-safety activities on crop biotechnology).

Research and Development Programmes carried out in each of the Networks

Within SANBio the highlight of the projects is the "Scientific Validation of Traditional Remedies HIV/AIDS". SF-2000, a herbal remedy used by a herbalist in Zambia for HIV/AIDS, has been formulated into capsules and the pre-clinical studies on anti-HIV-1 subtype C activity have led to the development of a Protocol for scheduled Phase I Clinical Trials in Zambia. Other research projects include mushroom farming and aquaculture technology transfer to local communities, especially women, using affordable local resources.

BecANet Hub is hosting 24 research projects on crops and livestock, among them three flagships and five competitive grant projects. The projects focused on banana, sorghum, livestock and human TB, tef, cassava, sweet potatoes, and tsetse-trypanosomiasis vector host interactions. A milestone of the research on trypanosomiasis is the discovery of a potential drug against sleeping sickness and a patent.

WABNet is implementing a flagship project on the "Inventory and Characterisation of West African Sorghum Genetic Resources". Using Ghana as a model, 245 accessions of sorghum were collected but a milestone for this project was the collection of 45 new accessions.

NABNet is implementing a flagship project on the production of biotic and abiotic stress tolerant (bio-fortified) North African barley varieties. Currently iron bio-fortified and drought tolerant transgenic plants are under green house tests. The network is also implementing other projects, notably genetic risk factors of type II diabetes (T₂D), the protection of date palms against major pathogens, and bio-insecticides for biological control. Since inception

The AU/NEPAD African Bio-safety Network of Expertise (ABNE) is a continent-wide service network managed by African staff with multidisciplinary expertise in bio-safety systems; including food safety, environmental safety, socio-economic impact, intellectual property and legal issues. ABNE, since its inception, has been providing up-to-date training and science-based information to African regulators of agricultural biotechnology to help countries make informed decisions. ABNE partners with existing organizations/initiatives and is linked to international bio-safety expertise for technical backstopping (University of Michigan). The network is funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation while the Government of Burkina Faso provides the international institution status support. ABNE has been providing up-to-date training and science-based information to African regulators of agricultural biotechnology to help countries make informed decisions on matters pertaining to genetically modified organisms.

With regard to human capacity building, the following has been achieved:

- i) NEPAD OST has supported and supervised four MSc and three PhD students
- ii) SANBio/Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) Node has sponsored six postgraduate students and the Bioinformatics Node has trained 40 participants
- iii) From 2007 to date, 38 graduate students (25 MSc and 13 PhD students), 16 short-term trainees and 13 visiting scientists have used the BecANet Hub facilities.
- iv) WABNet has six (four male and female) students registered under its project on inventory and characterisation of West African sorghum genetic resources.
- v) NABNet has 12 MSc and 24 PhD students working on different projects implemented in the region.

In terms of infrastructure capacity strengthening, the following has been achieved: (i) SANBio has established a Bioinformatics Core Facility at the University of Mau-

ritius and the IKS Centre at the North West University in South Africa (ii) the upgrading of laboratory facilities at the BecANet Hub (iii) the establishment of a biotechnology laboratory at the University of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso.

Programme 2: Strengthening Pharmaceutical Innovation in Africa

In response to the report entitled Strengthening Pharmaceutical Innovation in Africa, instituted by NEPAD and the Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED), NEPAD set out to improve and strengthen pharmaceutical innovation under the African Research for Health Initiative (ARHI). The initiative is focused on improving access to medicines (and research for alternative or improved products) and stimulating the production of medicines by African countries.

Programme 3: Mobilising Support for Harmonising Medicines Registration in Africa: Improving Access to Priority Medicines

The African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation (AMRH) Initiative was established to assist African countries and regions to respond to lack of access to medicines through medicines registration. The initiative, through existing structures such as the African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and National Medicines Regulatory Authorities (NMRAs), seeks to harmonise medicines registration.

Programme 4: AU/NEPAD African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators (ASTII)

In line with the overall goal of the ASTI Initiative (which is to contribute towards a better quality of science, technology and innovation policies at national, regional and continental levels), the implementation of initiative has proceeded in two phases. The first phase, with the support of a seed fund of US\$2.9 million from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and co-funding by participating countries, has been implemented in the following 19 African countries: Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. Three milestones are selected to mark current achievements: (a) Establishment of the ASTI survey framework; (b) Supporting and strengthening human and institutional capacities for developing and using R&D and Innovation indicators, and (c) Dissemination of the ASTII data and information.

In the first phase (2006-2008), R & D innovation indicators have been collected by ASTIII National Focal points through surveys. The report will be made available during quarter four of 2010.

Programme 5: Building a Sustainable Energy Base

The overall objective of the 'Building a Sustainable Energy Base' flagship programme is to enhance Africa's energy security through the generation and application of scientific knowledge and related technological innova-

tions. The specific goals of the programme are to:

- Increase rural and urban access to environmentally-sound energy sources and technologies;
- Improve energy efficiency; and
- Increase or enlarge the range of energy sources and technologies for household and commercial uses.

A framework has been developed in consultation with stakeholders. The policy will guide the development of the programme proposal.

Programme 6: Securing and Sustaining Water-Building an African Network of Centres of Excellence in Water Sciences and Development

The first African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology (AMCOST), held in Johannesburg in 2003, decided on Water Science and Technology (S&T) to constitute one of the main flagship programmes of NEPAD. The flagship programme, designed as a Network, aims to strengthen the continent's capabilities to harness and apply S&T in order to secure adequate clean water and manage the continent's water resources through national and regional cooperation.

A Southern African Network for Water Sciences with a Hub located at the University of Stellenbosch was established in March 2009 while the one for West Africa was established in November 2009 with a Hub at Anta Diop University.

Programme 7: African Laser Centre

The African Laser Centre (ALC) has been structured such that it is a virtual network which is open to all African research institutes who engage in laser based research. The CSIR National Laser Centre is the South African key node that drives South Africa's participation within the ALC. The ALC has a Board of Directors whose mandate is to provide an independent oversight on the management of this organization for the benefit of the stakeholders. The areas of research that are supported by the ALC are photonics based, and links to various research fields such as photo biology, electronics, semi conductor physics, fibre devices, photo sensors, opto-electronics, solid state physics, material science, femtosecond laser spectroscopy, non-linear optics, lasers and laser technology, and atmospheric remote sensing. These research fields have applications which are relevant to Africa's economic development.

The ALC Educational programme, aimed at improving and honing the skills of young researchers and technicians, is underway.

Programme 8: Establishment of an African Mathematical Institutes Network (AMI-Net)

The African Institute of Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) is a pan-African centre for postgraduate training and research located in Cape Town, South Africa. The goal of AMI-Net is to establish over the next five years, approximately 15 AIMS-like institutes all over Africa forming a connected network operating in a coordinated manner.

Over the past four years, AIMS has graduated 160

students from 29 African countries. Fifty three students are currently at AIMS from 20 different African countries.

Over the past three years, AIMS and its partners across Africa have developed a proposal AMI-Net. Following a call for proposals, a series of site visits have been held, with full business plans developed for AMI-Net nodes in Ghana, Madagascar, Sudan and Uganda. Nodes are also being explored in other countries, including Botswana, Egypt and Ethiopia.

TRADE AND MARKETS ACCESS

The NEPAD Secretariat has scaled up its work on promoting an investment-friendly continent under an initiative with the OECD, which aims to foster sustainable growth, employment creation and poverty reduction by advancing private sector development in African countries. African ownership drives the initiative, which is guided by a Steering Group, chaired by NEPAD's CEO with Vice-Chairs from South Africa and Japan. The Steering Group is composed of all major NEPAD actors, OECD countries and donors, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Investment Climate Facility, the World Bank, UNCTAD (the United Nations and other partner organisations).

The hosting of the 1st NEPAD Africa Day Celebrations, under the theme "Unifying Africa through Education and Culture" in May 2009 was a major achievement of the NEPAD Secretariat in the area human capacity development.



EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The hosting of the 1st NEPAD Africa Day Celebrations, under the theme "Unifying Africa through Education and Culture" in May 2009 was a major achievement of the NEPAD Secretariat in the area human capacity development. The event, organised in Pretoria, South Africa, was attended by more than 300 guests and its pinnacle was the adoption of a Legacy Project. The project focuses on the following, among others: indigenous musical and literacy arts and performance programmes that encourage research, documentation and publication of indigenous approaches to arts, literacy and development;

and Recognition Awards for development and excellence in research and innovation in African arts and culture.

Another major achievement of the NEPAD Secretariat was its human resources development project for Nurses and Midwives. In that regard, 8 students completed Master's degree programmes and acquired working experience in Malawi. The Chinese Government has also pledged a sum of U\$1.5 million for further training of Nurses at a Master's degree level in 3 countries within the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). The Training of Nurses and Midwives Project was recently awarded the Spirit of Philanthropy Award from "Sigma Theta ta International" in the United States of America (USA).



Conclusion and the year ahead

2009 was a year of great changes for the NEPAD agenda and process. The most challenging and exciting development has been the integration of NEPAD into the AU and the transition from the NEPAD Secretariat to the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, with a mandate to harness and manage the continent's intellectual resources in order to achieve sustainable development and promote wealth creation in the continent.

NEPAD continues to provide the necessary technical support for continent-wide policy discussions, knowledge generation, decision-making and communication. This has enabled Africa's political leaders to present a united and coherent front for the continent's development partners, such as the United Nations, G8, G20 and the Africa Partnership Forum, among other partnership mechanisms that Africa is involved in.

NEPAD's work is envisaged to promote "an inte-

grated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in global arena" as the African Union defined vision. NEPAD role is, essentially, to steer and accelerate the political and socio-economic transformation desired by African leaders and citizens. NEPAD's niche in the landscape of development institutions in Africa is its technical operational support capacity and proficiency to deliver on strategic knowledge management, programme development and implementation.

Several principles continue to guide NEPAD implementation as a framework for Africa's transformation and renewal and thereby attain the set continental and international development targets, including the MDGs. These principles include:

- a) good governance as a basic requirement for peace, security
- b) sustainable political and socio-economic development;
- c) African ownership and leadership, as well as broad and deep participation by all sectors of society;
- d) anchoring the development of Africa on its resources and resourcefulness of its people;
- e) partnership between and amongst African peoples;
- f) acceleration of regional and continental integration;
- g) building the competitiveness of African countries and the continent as a whole;
- h) forging a new international partnership that changes the unequal relationship between Africa and the developed world; and
- i) ensuring that all partnerships are linked to the attainment of the MDGs and other agreed development goals and targets.

The challenges of a global financial/economic crisis, compounded by the fuel and food crisis, and climate change have made the AU/NEPAD vision and mission even more compelling for Africa's development. These challenges conversely also provide opportunities for Africa to pool its resources, and harness intellectual leadership to create an effective common front for progressive action.

The core goal for 2010 and years ahead is to sustain these efforts so that NEPAD as the flagship development programme of the African Union, and the NEPAD Agency as the AU technical body would be well-positioned to deliver on the vision, mission and mandate with the support of traditional and emerging development partners.

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