



NEPAD NEWS

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Increasing domestic resources and reducing inequality to end TB

New York, September 25, 2018 - Tuberculosis kills more people than HIV/AIDS and malaria. In 2016, the disease claimed the lives of 1.7 million people worldwide, over 25% of these deaths occurred in Africa.

So how can the burden of this disease be addressed in Africa? Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, NEPAD Agency CEO has pointed out the urgent need to increase domestic resources to fund interventions to end TB in Africa. Dr Mayaki was speaking at the Africa side event on the margins of the first ever United Nations High Level Meeting on Ending TB (UNHLMTB) in New York, USA on 25 September 2018.

“The fight to end tuberculosis must be looked at in the broader context of inequality and our efforts must be repositioned in this perspective. Addressing the inequality gap will help to advance the fight to eliminate TB in Africa”, Dr Mayaki said.

The Africa side event was titled ‘United to end tuberculosis in Africa: a continental response’ with the aim to galvanise commitment by leaders at the highest level of government, private sector and civil society on innovative regional collaboration towards ending the burden TB in Africa.

African Union Commissioner for Social Affairs, H.E. Amira El Fadil indicated that political will to end TB in Africa exists as evidenced by the decision by African Union Member States to adopt the Common Africa Position (CAP) on ending tuberculosis. She echoed the words of Dr Mayaki on the need to increase domestic resources for sustainability purposes. H.E. Amira El Fadil reminded participants that despite positive progress, Africa still struggles with issues of affordability and accessibility of medicines, especially among vulnerable communities. - *continues on the next page*

Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, NEPAD Agency CEO has pointed out the urgent need to increase domestic resources to fund interventions to end TB in Africa

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Dr Chitalu Chilufya, Minister of Health of Zambia, said that calls to end the burden of TB in Africa must be matched with appropriate investment in strengthening health systems. He further said that, "There are a lot of missing TB cases in most African countries that we don't even know about. Hence, we cannot underestimate the urgency of escalating preventative measures, increasing awareness and sensitisation campaigns in the most vulnerable hard to reach areas, as well as investment in the right infrastructure to increase coverage so that we can strengthen TB screening, diagnosis and successfully treatment. It is time to go beyond rhetoric to invest in appropriate public health interventions that will bring us a lot of gains in the fight to eliminate the burden of TB in Africa," the Minister said.

The Africa side event was moderated by global musical icon and NEPAD Agency Goodwill Ambassador for tuberculosis and nutrition, Yvonne Chaka Chaka. She stated that now is the time to walk the talk on the fight to end TB in Africa. Yvonne Chaka Chaka moderated discussions focussing on the importance of multi-country collaboration on the fight against TB in Africa and the value in establishing strategic partnerships, financing and accountability. Yvonne Chaka Chaka closed the Africa side event in style with a beautiful rendition of her song whose words strike a nerve in every sphere of life and reflect on the values and principles of 'Ubuntu.'

Unrivalled blockchain potential for Africa's business growth

In the last decade, Africa has been described more and more in the global economy as the last frontier, owing to the fact that it has some of the world's biggest opportunities. Nonetheless, unlocking the continent's full potential for business growth and investment has over the years remained rather elusive, as trust in African markets is not always there. This is where blockchain comes in – with the potential to exponentially transform Africa in the world economy by providing the means through which issues of trust can be overcome.

To begin with, the use of cryptography is adding further security to Africa's digital assets, which is boosting investor confidence. Historically, African countries have been held back by inherited colonial systems and bureaucracies that have not always been suitable to local conditions. This is in addition to conflict in some countries, shaky democracies, natural disasters and other challenges that have led to risk averse investors shying away or only making half-hearted attempts at investing in the continent. However, the last number of years have demonstrated that Africa is a resilient business market, with those that chose to invest in the continent reaping rewards that often exceed expectations. In addition, in many countries around the continent, the blockchain ecosystem is breaking down barriers posed by the challenges listed above, by providing secure platforms for business transactions that are not confined to geographical and physical spaces.

Blockchain is already starting to make an impact on African markets and businesses. The continent is now seeing a number of emerging crypto and blockchain communities unlocking global access even more. Examples include Kenya's BitHub, which provides services for start-ups and advocates for conditions and regulations which will be favourable to crypto currencies.

The same can also be said for the South African environment with an example of the the Blockchain Academy in Cape Town that provides training on cryptocurrencies and blockchain technology to local startups and entrepreneurs and advises local businesses on how to best adopt blockchain technology into their business models.



What is more, Nigerian Blockchain startup SureRemit just raised the largest African ICO to date — \$8 million for its non-cash remittance platform.¹

Conversely, it can also be argued that due to the volatility of the domestic conditions across African countries, those willing and ready to tap into the last frontier with its wealth of resources should make use of blockchain. Since blockchain is secure, in that it underpins cryptocurrency transactions, it greatly increases security for conducting business transactions on the continent. In further lending itself as a means to overcoming a lack of trust in transactions, blockchain's huge potential has only just started to be scratched on the surface.

One of the major benefits of blockchain is that due to its decentralisation and transparency, fraud can be combatted. The technology instils further trust in financial transactions by organising transmittals and other payments in a streamlined way. An example can be seen in Ghana, where land fraud is being redressed by Bitland, that provides land registry services using Bitshares blockchain. The system allows people to seamlessly register property ownership, bypassing the bureaucratic red tape in local government authorities and systems that are prone to fraud. Furthermore, when it comes to mobile money solutions, which has a huge market in Africa, blockchain technology is already being used in countries such as Uganda and Zimbabwe.²

Earlier this year, the value of intra-African trade was recognised by the historical African Continental Free Trade Area agreement that was signed in Kigali, Rwanda's capital. While the aims of the African Continental Free Trade Area will not be realised overnight, blockchain can, and is, speeding things along when it comes to investment in African markets and growth of business confidence. In looking at Africa as the last frontier for business investment and growing markets, the World Economic Forum reports that since 2000, at least half of the world's fastest-growing economies have been in Africa. In addition, by 2030, the continent will be home to 1.7 billion people, whose combined consumer and business spending will total \$6.7 trillion.³

It is in this environment that tech savvy African entrepreneurs are looking for solutions that add to the ease with which business can be conducted. Blockchain offers just that - the potential to boost the growth of Africa's businesses.

¹ <https://venturebeat.com/2018/04/01/blockchains-big-potential-in-africa/>
² <https://blog.getwala.com/wala-launches-in-south-africa-zimbabwe-and-uganda-tackling-financial-exclusion-affecting-3-5-1316ed47880c?gi=7da8e315e776>
³ <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/03/capturing-africa-s-high-returns>

Contributed by Mwanja Ng'anjo, NEPAD Agency



Students mull over Agenda 2063

Johannesburg, September 28, 2018 - “The unborn generation and the youth will be in charge of taking over the transformation of the continent over the next 50 years. So, you as the youth, remain responsible for the implementation of the Agenda 2063 vision,” said Ms Lebogang Mawelela from the University of Johannesburg.

Ms Mawelela was addressing students during the Agenda 2063 dialogue and advocacy session organised by the NEPAD Agency’s Communication and Knowledge Management teams, with the University of Johannesburg School of Tourism and Hospitality.

As part of NEPAD Agency’s collaboration with the University of Johannesburg, the session was organised to orient students on Agenda 2063 and the work of the organisation in Africa. Close to 100 students had an opportunity to analyse Africa’s vision for transformation. They also expressed their own aspirations for ‘The Africa We Want.’

“In the past, NEPAD Agency has conducted study visits for students from the University of Witwatersrand, the University of Pretoria and the University of Johannesburg in South Africa. Our last engagement with the University of Johannesburg was at our Africa Day celebrations in May this year,” Mwanja Ng’anjo, from NEPAD Agency’s Communication Unit said in her introductory remarks.

Ms Ng’anjo spoke on the role of NEPAD Agency in implementing Agenda 2063, adding that the dialogue session will not only give opportunity for further engagement with the students, but also deepen the organisation’s communication outreach, advocacy and knowledge-sharing collaboration with the University.

Students were also reminded by the University of Johannesburg’s Head of Partnerships and Events, Ms Lebohang Mokhomatha, that the NEPAD Agency will continue to collaborate with the university on various initiatives in terms of broadening awareness of the continent’s transformation agenda for greater buy-in.

NEPAD Agency representatives from different programmes provided the students with more detailed information on the Agency’s role in the implementation of Agenda 2063 through its various programmes and interventions on the continent.

Abiola Shomang from the Knowledge Management unit gave an outline of Agenda 2063 (its aspirations, goals and flagship programmes), and illustrated how NEPAD Agency’s footprint in Africa delivers on the continent’s vision through tangible interventions and impact.

Dr Janet Byaruhanga, Senior Programme Officer for Public Health spoke on the different NEPAD Agency programmes that touch on health, including the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation, the African Science Technology and Innovation Indicators and the TB project. She also highlighted the various research initiatives that the organisation is involved in.

“Infrastructure development is a means that allows us to achieve the integration that is outlined in the Agenda 2063 Vision,” said Dr Towela Nyirenda-Jere, Principal Programme Officer in the Regional Integration, Infrastructure and Trade Programme. She further engaged the students on Africa’s progress towards integration.

Tourism adviser, Vincent Oparah’s talk on skills and tourism also appealed to the students, particularly those in the field of tourism and hospitality. Fruitful deliberations were held with regards the potential of the tourism industry in Africa as a catalyst to economic and social development. The students were also invited to apply for the “**Innovative ideas on Tourism in Africa**” competition.

The students acknowledged the crucial role that the Agenda 2063 vision plays in Africa’s integration.

“We also need the NEPAD Agency to do more on implementing the fifth aspiration of Agenda 2063, as the celebration of who we are as Africans continues to be a challenge within the continent, since we are still strangers with one another,” one student commented.

The session ended with all the students and staff holding hands and committing themselves to be part of those who promote African unity through Agenda 2063, by forming a ‘*Cape to Cairo chain for one Africa, one continent.*’

Future outreach collaborations between the University of Johannesburg and NEPAD Agency will include ‘connective conversation’ dialogues and various student public relations activities.



Without adequate and sustained investments in good nutrition, the goals in Agenda 2063 and the SDGs will not be realised

Advancing Africa's nutrition agenda

New York, September 26, 2018 - Advancing the nutrition agenda requires multi-sectoral action. NEPAD Agency is hence committed to ensuring that we break silos and create bridges that promote collaboration, joint efforts and multi-sectoral action as essential components in the nutrition agenda. These remarks were delivered by NEPAD Agency CEO, Dr Ibrahim Mayaki at the high-level panel discussion on Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Lead Group meeting at the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) headquarters in New York, USA on 26 September.

The meeting was convened to reflect on the preliminary findings of the mid-term review of the SUN Movement and this involved open discussions on progress to date, to see how the SUN Movement is doing against its targets and milestones.

The SUN Movement has made a significant contribution in illuminating the importance of nutrition as a universal development agenda – including elevating nutrition into the priority goals and targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2014 Malabo Declaration on Agriculture Transformation in Africa. According to the 2015 NEPAD Africa Nutrition Scorecard, Africa is making some progress on the global targets on maternal and child nutrition although slowly and unevenly. Africa is still struggling on adult overweight and diabetes and a lot of work needs to be done to advance this aspect.

In addition to embracing multi-sectorality, there is need to refocus financing strategies to supporting the most struggling countries.

UNICEF's Executive Director, Henriette H. Fore and Chair of the SUN Lead Group meeting said that there is a need to scale up political and financial investment in issues of nutrition, as well as bringing gender at the centre of the various interventions so that children and women, especially pregnant and breastfeeding women, can be prioritised.

NEPAD Agency has launched a flagship programme that focuses on integrating nutrition into regional and National Agriculture Investment Plans and aligning them to the National Development Plans. This is just one way of ensuring strategies are in place to encourage national governments to take ownership and lead.

Youth were also recognised as a key asset and resource that Africa has in transforming agriculture, nutrition and sustainable food systems through agribusiness/agro-processing to address hunger and malnutrition. Members of the SUN Lead Group meeting also identified the importance of continuing with efforts to increase private sector involvement in securing healthy lifestyles for mothers and children nutrition wellbeing. It was observed that the private sector also has a huge role to play to promote nutrition investments.

The purpose of the SUN Lead Group meeting is to bring together key partners and stakeholders to tackle nutrition and food security, share information and ideas, best practices and data/evidence to hunger and malnutrition in the world. The target is to reduce stunting in children by at least 40% through good nutrition.

Without adequate and sustained investments in good nutrition, the SDGs, Agenda 2063 – 'the Africa We Want' will not be realised. The ambition to 'End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture' is captured in SDG 2 on achieving zero hunger by 2030. Two thirds of the SDG and Malabo Declaration goals contain indicators that are highly relevant to nutrition.



Grow Africa tackles private sector investment with Permanent Secretaries

Addis Ababa, September 21, 2018 - The Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods consists of seven key commitments, one of which addresses the issue of enhancing investment finance in agriculture.

It was against this backdrop that Grow Africa, together with the NEPAD Agency's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) team, participated in the third CAADP leadership retreat of Permanent Secretaries / Director-Generals, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 19-21 September 2018. The team delivered a joint presentation on the theme of mobilising private sector investments into Africa's agricultural transformation.

The retreat serves as a peer exchange and learning platform of African Union Member States in implementing the CAADP agenda. The retreat was attended by Permanent Secretaries and Directors-Generals of AU Member States responsible for CAADP implementation. Also present were representatives from the Regional Economic Communities, the African Union Commission, NEPAD Agency, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa.

The Country Agribusiness Partnership Framework (CAP-F) – a CAADP country engagement and partnership tool developed to support the formation of agribusiness partnerships with the intent of unlocking private sector investment – was shared with stakeholders. The CAP framework was well received and generated rich discussions on private sector involvement in the agriculture sector in Africa.

Given that CAP-F is a tool aimed at assisting governments to better coordinate their actions to create a conducive environment for incoming private sector investment, the retreat provided an optimal platform to harness Member State views on CAP-F in particular, which will serve to strengthen the work of Grow Africa in implementing the Framework going forward.

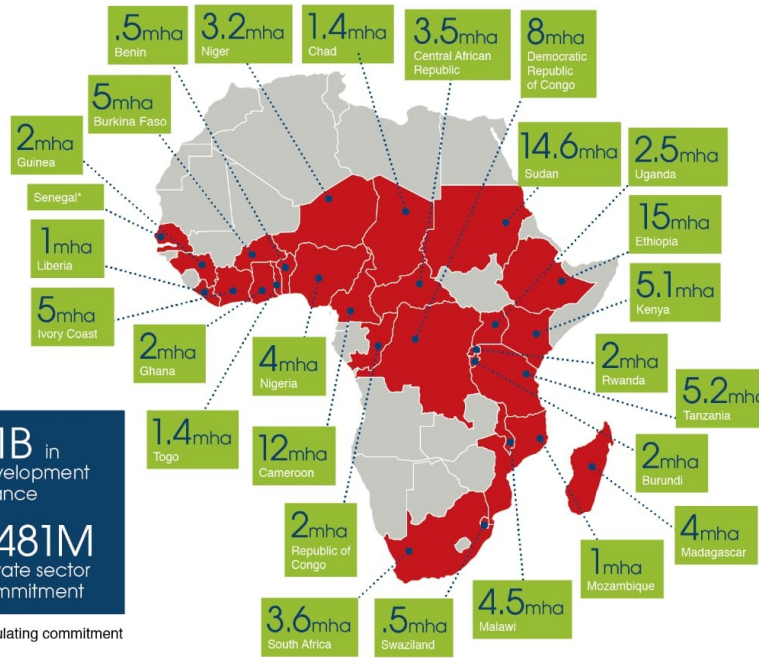
The Permanent Secretaries and Director-Generals showed a keen interest on the theme of private sector investment in African agriculture and emphasised several issues that have direct relevance to the work of Grow Africa.

The issues included the continuous and rigorous engagement of the international private sector; the inclusion of smallholder farmers in the establishment of multi-stakeholder platforms to ensure that they too are able to benefit from the development and strengthening of priority value chains. The value-addition of CAP-F in enhancing CAADP Mutual Accountability in terms of incorporating agribusiness data into the CAADP Biennial Review Report was welcomed.

Africa restoring 100 million hectares of deforested and degraded land by 2030

27 countries have committed to restore **111 mha**
AS OF SEPTEMBER 2018

\$1B in development finance
\$481M private sector commitment
*formulating commitment



27 countries across Africa have now committed to restore 111 million hectares of degraded land

African Landscape Forest Restoration 100 initiative celebrates 111 million hectares of land commitments

Johannesburg, October 1, 2018 - Twenty-seven nations across the continent have now committed to restore 111 million hectares of degraded land as part of the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) and the Bonn Challenge – exceeding the 100-million-hectare AFR100 target. In realising these commitments, countries will spur climate resilience, economic growth and more.

AFR100 was launched in 2015 in response to the African Union mandate to bring 100 million hectares of land into restoration by 2030. The initiative is led by the African Union’s NEPAD Agency in partnership with 27 participating countries, 27 technical and 12 financial partners. Founding partners include NEPAD, the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), World Resources Institute (WRI), GIZ, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the World Bank.

During the 3rd Annual AFR100 Partners Meeting in Nairobi this August, member country representatives, as well as technical and financial partners supporting implementation, reaffirmed that the initiative is a powerful lever to bring forest landscape restoration to scale.

“It is a testament to the continuing political will to restore landscapes across Africa that the AFR100 partnership has exceeded its 100-million-hectare target in commitments. We must sustain this momentum and move from pledges to implementation. There are already many examples of restoration success underway in African communities from which we can collectively learn, to realise these commitments,” said Wanjira Mathai, Senior Advisor, WRI and Co-Chair, Global Restoration Council.

Two countries pledged to restore a combined 19.6 million hectares of land towards the 100-million-hectare target: Burkina Faso (5 million hectares) and the Republic of Sudan (14.6 million hectares). These pledges follow commitments made by Togo (1.4 million hectares) and Tanzania (5.2 million hectares) in the weeks prior to the meeting.

Restoration is widely understood as a key pathway to meet climate change, desertification, biodiversity and sustainable development goals in Africa, and to secure vital food, water, and energy resources.

“In times of ever-increasing pressure on land, water, and biodiversity, the restoration of degraded forests and lands is more urgent than ever. Bringing back trees into the land offers multiple benefits for sustainable development, the fight against poverty and hunger, for conserving biodiversity and for adaptation to climate change. Restoration is spectacular in that every \$1 invested there is the potential for \$27-\$35 in return. Seeing communities who restore their land reap a share of their restoration proceeds, is an honour,” said Mamadou Diakhite, Sustainable Land and Water Management team leader at the NEPAD Agency, home to the AFR100 Secretariat.

“It was a great success that the Global Landscapes Forum conference in Nairobi took place back-to-back with the third annual AFR100 partners meeting at the end of August there. We have sent a strong signal for the integration of reforestation, restoration and sustainable rural development. The broad concept of landscape restoration provides us with strong ideas in the fight against hunger and poverty through implementing the entire Agenda 2030 – and mainly SDG2 (zero hunger) and SDG15 (life on land),” said Bernhard Worm, Senior Policy Officer at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Participants of the recent AFR100 meeting also endorsed the motion to have the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declare a UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, first proposed in March 2018 by El Salvador’s Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources – intended to increase the visibility of and resourcing for countries’ restoration efforts.

Upcoming Events

24 - 25 Oct 2018: *10th Africa Public Private Partnerships Conference and Showcase. Cape Town, South Africa*

19 - 21 Nov 2018: *1st AU-NEPAD Africa Pharma Conference 2018. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*

For more events visit: www.nepad.org/events

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Announcements



The Africa Landscape Forest Restoration 100 Initiative

An estimated 2.8 million hectares of forests are lost each year. Deforestation and land degradation remain significant challenges in Africa. The Africa Landscape Forest Restoration 100 Initiative, is a country-led effort to place 100 million hectares of deforested and degraded landscapes under restoration across Africa by 2030.

Mr Mamadou Diakhite, NEPAD Agency's team leader for Sustainable Land and Water Management was interviewed by Khwezi FM's Saziso Dlamini.

Click on the link below to listen to the podcast:

<http://www.nepad.org/resource/radio-interview-mamadou-diakhite-khwezi-fm>

Proverb

We live by hope, but a reed never becomes an Iroko tree by dreaming

~ Nigerian Proverb



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