



**AUDA-NEPAD**  
AFRICAN UNION DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

# NEPAD@20 Symposium REPORT



NEPAD@20 Symposium, 28 January 2021

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# Opening Session



## Welcome Address

### H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa

Chair of the African Union,  
President of the Republic of South Africa



*An impressive accomplishment of NEPAD has been the strengthening of partnerships with the rest of the world. NEPAD has engaged the G20, G8, OECD, FOCAC, TICAD and the UN system on a new development cooperation and aid architecture for Africa. Throughout these engagements, NEPAD has been steadfast on the principle of an Africa-led and Africa-owned development agenda.*

It is an honour for me to welcome you to this Symposium (on 28th January 2021) convened by the African Union Development Agency on the first 20 years of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The coronavirus pandemic has had a severe impact on African economies, on public health and indeed on the AU system itself. It has cost many lives and threatens many more. It has also served as a stark reminder of our global interconnectedness.

What impacts one, impacts all. It is therefore more critical than ever that we step up our collaboration on all fronts as we drive the global recovery effort. This is particularly important as the countries of the world undertake the massive task of procuring, distributing, and providing vaccines to their people.

We will continue to work through the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility – known as COVAX – to ensure equal access to the vaccine, and that the needs of poor countries are taken into account. At the same time, we will pursue our efforts through the African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team to complement the COVAX arrangements and to secure enough vaccine doses for our continent. As we battle to contain and eradicate COVID-19, we at the same time have to renew our focus on meeting our developmental aspirations as a continent.

Strengthening the work of the African Union Development Agency – or AUDA-NEPAD – is more important than ever.

I want to commend Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki for his excellent leadership of the Agency and for the service he has rendered towards the socio-economic upliftment of our Continent. At this milestone in the life of NEPAD, I wish to pay tribute to Presidents Abdelaziz Bouteflika, Thabo Mbeki, Hosni Mubarak, Olusegun Obasanjo and Abdoulaye Wade.

In 2001, they created this pan-African institution as a flagship to eradicate poverty, promote sustainable growth and development, integrate Africa into the world economy and accelerate the empowerment of women. Together with their fellow African leaders, they developed NEPAD as a new vision and programme of action for sustainable socio-economic development.

This aimed to enhance the capacity of African States and regional institutions to fulfil the collective vision of an integrated, peaceful, united, and prosperous Africa. Over its 20 years, NEPAD has promoted programmes in areas such as agriculture, health, education and training, the environment, information and communication technology and infrastructure development.

It has inspired the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative and prioritised the development of regional infrastructure in sectors such transport, energy, ICT and transboundary water. Significant progress has also been made in the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, which has the potential to facilitate continental integration in support of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

While it is entrusted with ensuring that Africa harnesses the benefits of new sciences, technologies and innovation, it also has to ensure that historical inequalities and inequities, including gender disparities, are addressed. I trust that this Symposium will reflect deeply on the successes and challenges experienced in implementing NEPAD over the past two decades.

And I trust that this reflection will help to guide the work of this flagship programme for African development well into the future.

*The transformation of NEPAD into the African Union Development Agency is an opportune time to reflect on the implementation of the NEPAD agenda. We need to strategically position the Agency to be even more responsive to the continent's development aspirations.*





## Message

### H.E. Paul Kagame

Chair of the AUDA-NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee,  
President of the Republic of Rwanda

This year marks 20 years since the foundation of African continental institutions. In May 2001, the African Union was founded to replace the Organisation for African Unity (OAU). A few months later in July 2001, NEPAD was created. NEPAD's mission was to eradicate poverty and integrate Africa into the global economy with a focus on good governance.

We pay tribute to the distinguished leaders who spearheaded the establishment of NEPAD from Algeria, Egypt, Nigeria, Senegal, and South Africa. Many other leaders rallied around the NEPAD cause in the following years.

I thank the partners who have supported NEPAD over the last two decades both in Africa and beyond. I call on Member States to continue supporting the multiple partnerships that AUDA-NEPAD has developed. AUDA-NEPAD's agreement with the new CFTA Secretariat is of particular importance. Honouring our statutory commitments as Member States is not only our duty it is good value for money. Doing so also facilitates resource mobilisation more broadly.

Dr Ibrahim Mayaki has led NEPAD with integrity and commitment for more than a decade. I wish to close by thanking him for his extraordinary service to our organisation and to our continent.

I thank you.

*NEPAD has remained true to its vision. NEPAD's values are part and parcel of the reform spirit we have seen in the African Union over the past several years with good results. It is therefore no accident that NEPAD officially became the African Union Development Agency in 2018. NEPAD's track record makes it the ideal institution to help lead implementation of Agenda 2063 on behalf of the African Union.*







## Message

### H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat

Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC)

Let me begin by wishing you sincere wishes for health and prosperity at the beginning of 2021; a year that brings hope for change and marks the beginning of a new, prosperous, and peaceful era for Africa and all of humanity.

Today we celebrate the 20th anniversary of NEPAD in the context of a new global and human enemy. Humanity as a whole has rallied around a common goal to fight COVID-19 – a crisis that is exacerbating every day. While the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic differ from one region of the world to another, it affects both the poorest and the richest countries the same. The pandemic proves to us that the interconnectedness of humanity is indeed a reality. The rapid and intense spread of the coronavirus has revealed to us that we are all affected by globalisation, which has accelerated since the end of the 20th century. Indeed, we have consistently advocated for closer and concerted efforts in terms of international and multilateral cooperation, with the knowledge that such a catastrophe on a global scale is possible.

In Africa, the main priority of the past two decades has been regional integration, cooperation, and collaboration among Member States to address the continent's development priorities, as outlined in the AU's Agenda 2063.

It is in this context that NEPAD was born. The successful transformation of NEPAD is evidence for its maturation. The Programme adjusted in line with Africa's changing economic and social context. Today, NEPAD is the development agency of the African Union, with the main aim to improve the operational effectiveness of the AU and bring the continent closer to Africa's new long-term vision - Agenda 2063.

Namely, to:

- Serve as the continent's technical interface with all of Africa's stakeholders and development partners;
- Provide knowledge-based advisory services and technical assistance to African Union Member States and Regional Economic Communities to strengthen their capacity;
- Act as the continent's technical interface on policy development recommendation and implementation with partners and stakeholders;
- Undertake the full range of resource mobilisation;
- Coordinate and execute priority regional and continental projects enshrined in Agenda 2063 with the aim of accelerating regional integration so as to achieve «The Africa we want».

*We are celebrating NEPAD today, as an instrument that allows us to face our challenges through Agenda 2063 in regional and continental development projects. Its transformation into AUDA-NEPAD is a reflection of its maturity, in responding to development needs on the Continent.*

With the launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) on 1 January 2021, the role of the African Union Development Agency has become more crucial and highlights the need to realise an integrated and prosperous Africa, as outlined in Agenda 2063. In this context, accelerating regional integration, infrastructure, productivity, and human capital development are the priorities for the development Agency. The week of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) just ended and highlighted some of NEPAD's achievements. There are many other successful NEPAD projects in the areas of agriculture, education, health, technological innovation, data, and knowledge management that have supported AU Member States.

*The presence of actors from all walks of life in this Symposium demonstrates the extent of the agency's competences, but above all, it reflects the AU's desire to strengthen its partnership with all stakeholders, African and international, as it is true that NEPAD cannot fulfil its promise without the ownership of the programme by all the stakeholders concerned.*

Indeed, there are many achievements of NEPAD, but so are the challenges. This anniversary comes at a time when the AU is implementing necessary political and institutional reforms to adjust to the difficult socio-economic realities facing the continent, but also and above all, ensuring that Africa is able to address its medium to long term challenges.

The NEPAD@20 Symposium is timely. It is important to take stock of the achievements and the challenges NEPAD has faced over the last two decades and assess the capacities needed for the Agency to fully carry out its mandate.

I cannot conclude my remarks without congratulating the CEO, Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, and his entire team for organising this event which I think will no doubt be a landmark event. Finally, let me pay tribute to Dr Mayaki as he prepares to leave our organisation after more than a decade of service to our continent. Dr Mayaki, NEPAD will forever be grateful for your leadership, this institution has undergone an unprecedented transformation and has positively impacted AU Member States and the citizens of this continent.

We are deeply grateful and wish you every success in your new ventures.



## Message

### H.E. Abdulaziz Jarad

Prime Minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria



I am very pleased to deliver this message as we celebrate the twentieth anniversary of NEPAD, which affords us with an opportunity to learn what has been achieved and identify ways of strengthening the role of this ambitious programme towards achieving the goals of economic development on our continent and States.

If I must recall at the outset, I would like to remind that the concept of NEPAD was based on our recognition of the need for African States to rely first and foremost on its energies and capacities in order to lifting the continent out of the spiral of underdevelopment, end marginalization and ensure its participation in international economic exchanges.

In this context, it was necessary to eliminate the structural problems resulting from a burdened colonial legacy and to reconsider national and regional policies, that often experienced from weakness of national facilitating capacities and the negative effects of the global economic environment.

It was also necessary to draw lessons on the failure of numerous development and poverty-fighting programs launched at that time by many regional bodies, that has proved difficult to be implemented in African countries, particularly in the light of its contents, which did not adequately reflect the reality of African countries and its real needs in the areas of development, which prompted our leaders to adopt a new approach for the development that would devote a pioneering role to Africa within the framework of an open partnership geared towards the concerns and needs of African countries.

*As one of the founding countries, we recognise the transformation of NEPAD into the African Union Development Agency, which allows it to face the challenges on our continent. This will allow us to move towards a new era of the enhancement of our continent.*

Mr. President

Following two decades of implementing the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as a programme of the African Union, my country as a founding State of NEPAD, taking note with satisfaction the positive results achieved in many areas.

One of the most important indicators of this progress is the transformation of the NEPAD programme into an African Union development agency with a broader mandate to deal with the challenges and stated objectives of development in the continent. We are fully convinced that the establishment of the Development Agency will allow our continent to start a new phase in the process of structural and economic transformation.

In this regard, in accordance with its new mandate, the Agency will have to mobilize the resources and other means of implementation necessary to fund its programmes and activities with donors, as it is important to emphasize that sustainable financing of the Agency is essential for the implementation of regional and continental ongoing projects and programmes.



The launching of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) as one of the most important pilot projects in the African Union's Agenda 2063 reflecting the full will of African States to strengthen their regional integrity and establish a common market that will allow the improvement of Africa's economic performance, particularly through the strengthening of the domestic market and the intensification of intra-African trade.

Mr. President

My country, on the basis of its firm conviction of the need to strengthen the continental path integration in Africa, has expedited to adopt a regional approach, both with regard to national infrastructure projects and regional projects, in order to support the integration and inclusiveness orientation of Africa effectively and concretely.

In this context, Algeria's participation is reflected regionally through the Trans-Saharan Road project between Algeria and Lagos (Nigeria) and doubled gas pipeline and fibre optic connection on the same route, and at national level, through many major infrastructure, particularly DJin DJin Port and El Hamdania Port in Cherchell, projects that will necessarily enhance continental infrastructure, double the logistical capabilities and stimulate intra-African trade.

Furthermore, my country, launched at the beginning of last year the Algerian Agency for International Cooperation for Solidarity and Development, intended to strengthen its African orientation and contribute to supporting continental integration and development efforts in its sister African States.

Mr. President

The development process in Africa, that we are all striving for, remains plagued by many serious difficulties, primarily the persistence of the causes of conflict and tension in our continent, which undermine our collective efforts to achieve development and economic growth, the current global health context affecting our continent, as in the rest of the world, has demonstrated the importance of strengthening cooperation and integration among our nations in order to address all threats at all levels, including, in particular, the challenges associated with the Corona pandemic and beyond and climate change.

We look forward that the African Union Development Agency, to fulfil the role incumbent upon it, particularly with regard to stimulating innovation and ensuring that major continental projects are funded in order to support this integration trend, strengthen cooperation among African States, enhance the economic functioning of our continent and uphold the principle of solidarity among our countries to face shared challenges.

The substantial accession to NEPAD, which has expanded to cover all regions of the continent and includes all regional economic communities, is nothing but conclusive evidence of the correctness of the vision that my country as a founding member and which is still defending NEPAD for achieving the goals of our continental agenda 2063.

Finally, I would like to renew my country's support for Africa's development efforts and for the role of the African Union Development Agency, particularly within the framework of the Committee of Heads of State and Government to guide the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to attaining our shared goals towards a stable, secure and prosperous continent.



## Message

### H.E. Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki

Chief Executive Officer,  
African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)

It has been a great opportunity, a unique privilege and distinct honour to serve the African Union as the Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD entity.

Building capable, dynamic, effective and resilient pan-African institutions to anchor and deliver on the continent's development agenda is a significant component of the African Union (AU) system.

The birth of NEPAD in 2001 was the first concrete manifestation of the will of African States to regain leadership on the continent's development issues. NEPAD was the first international institution to take a truly African perspective and represented a paradigm shift in development thinking and practice. This rejuvenation of Pan-Africanism was coupled with a pragmatic approach to Africans looking inwards for home-grown solutions and championing regional integration.

To drive this new and holistic development agenda inspired by the core principles of African ownership and leadership, AU Member States and organs, as well as the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), were the frontline actors. They were supported by development partners to ensure that the continent's marginalisation came to an end, and for Africa to claim its rightful place in the world economy. This contributed to promoting a more diversified, smarter, and intelligent partnership-base for the AU system.

With NEPAD undergoing inclusive reorganisation and transitional changes, the strengthening of the agency was championed by AU leaders in order to create the necessary impetus for the implementation of NEPAD as the African Union's socio-economic flagship programme. Progression to the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) of today cannot be separated from NEPAD's history of change. From the very start in the setting up of the NEPAD Secretariat in 2001 to the first continental development agency in 2018, NEPAD has remained agile, striving to remain fit-for-purpose.

The transformation of NEPAD into a fully-fledged development agency is a critical milestone as the Agency is charged primarily with the coordination and execution of priority regional and continental projects with the aim of accelerating regional integration, which will improve impact and operational efficiency in the implementation of Agenda 2063.

As we mark two decades of NEPAD, the vision and values of NEPAD remain relevant today and are enshrined in the continental vision of Agenda 2063 – The Africa we want. The journey of NEPAD is also an embodiment of the continent's development pathway. In looking forward, allow me to highlight three interrelated issues in this journey:

*The NEPAD journey so far, has been remarkable and memorable with institutional strides and programmatic landmarks reflecting the transformational history and performance of the NEPAD entity. The shared commitment and political will of the entire AU membership for the realisation of the "Africa We Want" in Agenda 2063 as the development vision and long-term plan, validates the birth and rebirth of NEPAD as an agent of renewal and transformation.*

1. Africa continues to grow in terms of assertiveness and fully taking charge and responsibility of the continent's socio-economic growth and development agenda. There is no alternative to local ownership and responsibility. This also remains a critical bedrock to success in our agenda 2063 goals.
2. The key value and importance of trans-national, regional solutions. Strong, evidence-based political and economic justification for regional and continental solutions remains clear. It is an inherent success factor for Africa – severally and collectively.
3. Harnessing knowledge, science and evidence towards systemic transformation. The then NEPAD Vision and current Agenda 2063 are clear on the continent's resolve on transformative change. This is about mind-set as much as it is about harnessing our human and natural resources.

As the African Union's primary development agency, AUDA-NEPAD will also be a catalyst for Africa's integration through the operationalisation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which is the exciting challenge in the coming years. And it will play a fundamental role in the implementation of other flagship projects of Agenda 2063.

I thank you.



The background is a dark brown color with various geometric patterns. At the top, there are several small squares in yellow, teal, and light blue, some with colored dots inside. A large white circle in the upper right contains the title. The bottom half of the page features large, intricate patterns: a yellow circle with a central dot and a ring of triangles, a teal circle with concentric rings and a central dot, and a red circle with a ring of triangles and a central dot. There are also scattered yellow and teal shapes and lines throughout the design.

# Executive Summary

## Highlights

African leaders and representatives from the development community, civil society and the private sector came together on 28 January at the NEPAD@20 Symposium to reflect upon the achievements and challenges of NEPAD since its inception in 2001. It also served as a platform for high-level policy discourse while providing forward-looking guidance and facilitating partnership building through a cross-section of African stakeholders and strategic partners in support of AUDA-NEPAD's new mandate.

- One of the greatest achievements of NEPAD is that it has put Africa on the global agenda and has galvanised international support for the continent, towards building the Africa We Want.
- An impressive accomplishment of NEPAD has been the strengthening of partnerships with the rest of the world. NEPAD has engaged the G20, G8, OECD, FOCAC, TICAD and the UN system on new development cooperation, aid architecture and strengthening a common African Voice.
- NEPAD has played a catalytic role as the pacesetter in promoting a new notion and practice of African partnerships for development, inspired by the key principles and shared values of African ownership, leadership, equity, mutual respect, accountability, and responsiveness.
- Africa's development agenda has been championed and accelerated through the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee by providing political leadership and strategic guidance.
- The implementation of NEPAD over a period of two decades resulted in concrete positive development results in several areas. NEPAD has spearheaded the design, development and implementation of continental development frameworks at regional and national levels, including the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Plan (CAADP) and Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), with impact on socio-economic growth and sustainable development.
- The current reforms at the AU are an affirmation by Member States of their commitment to AUDA-NEPAD as the Union's own instrument established to champion catalytic support to countries and regional bodies in advancing the implementation of Agenda 2063.
- The transformation of NEPAD into AUDA-NEPAD is a reflection of maturity in responding to development needs on the continent. The shared commitment and political will of the entire African Union membership for the realisation of the "The Africa we want" in Agenda 2063, NEPAD as an agent of renewal and transformation.

## Recommendations

The Symposium also reflected on the future priorities of the African Union Development Agency, and the responses needed to address the health, economic and social costs brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- To ensure that the next 20 years are equally significant, there is need to build on the strong foundations that NEPAD has created to tackle new emerging challenges. Leveraging and championing existing development frameworks and programmes, such as the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation (AMRH) Programme and the African Medicines



Agency could provide concrete solutions in responding to the health crisis and socio-economic impact of the pandemic. This could be achieved by strengthening health systems, simplifying regulatory frameworks and enabling access to effective, quality medicines.

- The role of strategic foresight to inform debate and decision-making needs to be at the centre in building a resilient future post COVID-19. The high level of uncertainty generated by the COVID-19 crisis means that decision makers must continue to prepare for a diverse range of scenarios in both the medium to the longer term.
- Despite the devastating effects of COVID-19 on African economies, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) which came into effect in January 2021, provides unique opportunities to establish robust supply and value chains for Africa as well as diversify the continent's productive capacity, particularly from the overreliance on the export of primary commodities. The Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) will aid the attainment of AfCFTA goals through facilitating the movement of goods, services, people and capital across the continent, as well as support the development of regional value chains.
- Capabilities to leverage innovation and technology to solve problems around access to healthcare, food, education, and finance will be critical in building more resilient economies.
- The pandemic has exposed and exacerbated existing structural injustices and created a far deeper social, economic and humanitarian threat. Empowering and encouraging women and youth to participate more fully in the public sphere is thus essential for the attainment of Agenda 2063.
- The new mandate gives AUDA-NEPAD a wider role in terms of providing knowledge-based advisory support to the AU Member States with regards to development strategies and capacity development. This allows the agency to fully manage and utilise Africa's knowledge capital and strengthen its role as a leading African think tank.
- NEPAD is globally recognised as the development arm of the African Union. The new AUDA-NEPAD should leverage on this international goodwill to strengthen partnerships and resource mobilisation for Africa's sustainable development, based on the core principles of African ownership and leadership.





**The  
NEPAD  
Journey  
2001 - 2021**

<b>2001</b>	<p>Millennium Africa Recovery Plan (MAP) and Omega Plan</p>	<p>Millennium Africa Recovery Plan (MAP) and Omega Plan for Africa combined give birth to the New African Initiative (NAI) which then led to the establishment of NEPAD in 2001. In 2001, these were reworked and expanded to provide a framework for all African states. Founding Member States of NEPAD included: South Africa, Nigeria, Algeria, Egypt and Senegal.</p>
<b>Jul. 2001</b>	<p>37th Session of the OAU Assembly</p>	<p>NEPAD is adopted by African Heads of State and Government at the 37th Ordinary Session of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Assembly in Lusaka, Zambia, in July 2001.</p>
<b>Jan. 2001</b>	<p>The African Union (AU)</p>	<p>The African Union (AU), the successor to the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), endorses the adoption of NEPAD as a programme of the AU at the AU Inaugural Summit in 2002. The NEPAD Secretariat is established to coordinate the implementation of NEPAD programmes and projects.</p>
<b>Feb. 2010</b>	<p>The NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency</p>	<p>The NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NEPAD Agency) is established in February 2010 as an outcome of the integration of NEPAD into AU structures and processes.</p>
<b>Jan. 2018</b>	<p>The African Union Development Agency-NEPAD</p>	<p>At the 31st Ordinary Session of the Assembly of African Union Heads of State and Government in Nouakchott, Mauritania, July 2018, a decision was taken to transform the NEPAD Agency into the first development agency of the African Union – AUDA-NEPAD.</p>





**High-Level  
Roundtable  
Highlights**

## Building on NEPAD's Success to Create the Africa We Need

### Dr K.Y. Amoako

Founder and President, African Center for Economic Transformation, and Former Executive Secretary, UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)



*We've just celebrated the 20th anniversary of NEPAD, a magnificent achievement that we can all be proud of. But to ensure that the next 20 years are equally significant (or probably more so), we must build on the strong foundations that NEPAD has created to tackle the new emerging crises and opportunities.*

The next 20 years will be a time of extraordinary change and challenge for Africa, to create jobs for our rapidly rising populations, to tackle the debilitating impacts of climate change, and to transform Africa by harnessing new technologies, open trade, and growing investment. At the same time, we must continue to improve governance and maintain our enduring fight against inequality, poverty, and illiteracy.

Since NEPAD was launched in Lusaka, Zambia, of course the world has changed dramatically. On the one hand there is much more African ownership of the development agenda as many countries move towards middle income status. Agenda 2063 and the SDGs guide the continent with clear and robust goals. At the same time, we are confronted with the devastating impact of COVID-19, both a human and economic toll, the extraordinarily complex challenges of global warming, and a waning of multilateralism.

That said, more than ever, Africa is up to the challenge. A lot is changing fast in terms of economic development and investment, and we have been proud of the Africa CDC's response to the pandemic. Moves by the African Union to establish the Africa Medical Supplies Platform has pointed to institutional strength and solidarity. These examples of progress give us hope. But as we look to the challenges of the next 20 year, we need to better position African institutions within the global development agenda and the global economy. Some institutions will need to mature quickly to meet their objectives; while in some cases we need to invest in, and revitalize, existing institutions.

Transformation cannot be achieved without strong institutions, inspiring leadership, and well thought out policies. In my recent book, *Know the Beginning Well*, I reflect on the evolution of Africa's development over the past 50 years and the leadership and institutions required to make them effective. Crucial for our future will be the success of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). To reap the benefits of the free trade agreement will require a highly capable AfCFTA Secretariat and national implementation teams; well-designed and coordinated policy across 54 nations; and leadership that is committed to finding compromise when needed to maintain effective implementation of the landmark pact over the medium term.

*As both Africa and the globe transforms, now is the time to invest in and reorient African institutions to play a stronger role with our global partners. We need strong Africa and international advocates to support our transformation through investment and growth. And we must move quickly to do so. If we do, then we will see "The Africa We Want."*



*The one thing that genuinely united the continent was the struggle for liberation. The area of focus was to end colonialism and apartheid. Following the struggles against colonialism and racist oppression, there was also the struggle against poverty and economic oppression, in order to have total liberation of the Continent - that's how NEPAD was born.*



**H.E. Thabo Mbeki**

Former President of the Republic of South Africa



*Any river that forgets its source, won't triumph. Let's not forget the history of NEPAD as we head towards The Africa We Want.*

*By the year 2001 we had a programme we could put forward and we launched it. In 2002 we and the other founding fathers of NEPAD met the G6 and for the first time Africa created its own political, social, and economic programme – one that was all encompassing and it was accepted.*

*What did we do next? In order to peer review ourselves, the idea of the African Peer Review Mechanism was born. Ever since, NEPAD and APRM have become the key drivers of Agenda 2063.*



**H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo**

Former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria



*The African Development Agency has directly contributed to making tangible progress towards achieving the priority goals on the African continent to eradicate poverty, achieve food security, promote sustainable development, empower women, integrate the African economy into the global economy, and cooperate with development partners while maintaining Africa's leadership and ownership of development programmes.*

*The position that AUDA-NEPAD occupies at the continental and regional levels makes us all proud, as it has become a distinctive sign of joint and serious African work within the framework of the vision for the continent's future, which is agreed in Agenda 2063.*

*Egypt played an important role in the establishment of NEPAD and will continue to support and strengthen the Agency in realising the aspirations of the African people for a better future.*



**H.E. Hamdi Sanad Loza**

Deputy Foreign Minister for African Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt



## Dr Akinwumi Adesina

President, African Development Bank (AfDB)

NEPAD, in my view, has achieved a lot for Africa – thanks to the visionary leadership of our founders: President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, former President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, former President Abdou Wade of Senegal, and late Hosni Mubarak, former President of Egypt, and late Abdelaziz Bouteflika, the former President of Algeria.

*Africa has benefited a lot from NEPAD, such as from continental programmes like the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme, the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, the African Peer Review Mechanism, and the Accelerated Industrial Development Programme.*

NEPAD has put Africa's agenda on the global scene, playing a critical role in the decisions of the G8 countries to invite African leaders to participate in G8 Summits and subsequently at G20 Summits.

The African Development Bank is proud to have been a lead financier and implementation partner of NEPAD over the years. Over the past 20 years, the Bank's strategies have been designed with NEPAD in mind. The Bank's support has spanned many areas, including regional integration, agriculture, trade, infrastructure, education, knowledge, and environment. To help support the infrastructure development in Africa, the Bank and NEPAD jointly coordinated the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) since its inception. The Bank and NEPAD spearheaded the development of PIDA's first Priority Action Plan, which consists of a complex set of 51 programmes broken down into 434 action projects in transport, ICT, energy, and trans-boundary water.

In support of implementing the PIDA Priority Action Plan, the Bank provided \$9 million to the PIDA Capacity Building Project for technical assistance to the African Union Commission, to NEPAD, and to the eight Regional Economic Committees for pre-investment work, projects' bankability and to bring them to financial close and for implementation. The Bank is currently preparing a new financing of \$9 million for PIDA Capacity Building Phase 2 to support a comprehensive resource mobilisation strategy for AUDA-NEPAD, which is scheduled for our board approval in early 2021. The Bank has been financing the NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparations Facility, called NEPAD IPPF, which we created as a special fund within the bank. The Bank's NEPAD IPPF has helped to galvanise and catalyse regional infrastructural investments worth \$24 billion.

The African Development Bank stands ready to continue provide strong support and mobilise resources for NEPAD and the African Union Commission. Together, we will achieve the Africa We Want - better and much faster.

*The power of NEPAD is the power of ideas and solutions it brings to the table. NEPAD and ECA have been working together closely on the MoveAfrica border system to harmonise systems, processes, and regulations in support of implementation of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area. NEPAD has also been at the forefront to ensure that the single African transport market can take hold. It is time for Africa to have its own development institution.*

### **Dr Vera Songwe**

United Nations Under Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)



### **Ms Cristina Duarte**

United Nations Under Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa to the United Nations Secretary-General (UNOSAA)

There are two areas where COVID-19 disruptions could be leveraged in particular: health and education. The pandemic has shown the critical importance of enhanced production capacities for medicines, vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics. Africa's pharmaceutical manufacturing sector contributes only 25% - 30% of the continent's total needs, thus resulting in over 70 percent of Africa's pharmaceutical needs being met through importation. Building Africa's resilience post COVID-19 means prioritising the implementation of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa and the establishment of the African Medicine Agency. This needs political commitment to prioritise investment for regulatory capacity development, pursue convergence and harmonisation of medical products regulation, and allocating adequate resources.

The pandemic has also transformed the traditional schooling model globally. This is one area where the pandemic has shown the great digital divide between Africa and the rest of the world, with some 250 million African children left out of school, despite various efforts made by governments. Only massive investments in ICT infrastructures and massive adoption of ICT solutions in the education sector in Africa will enable the continent to shift toward the future of learning, teaching, curriculum design and assessments with a growing integration of digital technologies.

In order to leverage the disruptions in the health and education sectors, there is one factor that is a game changer: the rebooting of African policy making. Since the 1970s, policymaking in Africa has equated development with the management of poverty. The COVID-19 creates an opportunity to shift the focus to retaining and creating wealth, better managing Africa's own resources and fostering inclusiveness. This is a significant challenge. However, if properly addressed, it will mobilise the funding needed to prioritise Africa's most valuable resource: its human capital. It is high time to put human capital at the centre of policymaking in Africa.

*In a normal situation and within a framework of routines, it is almost impossible to generate disruptions as deep as those generated by the COVID-19. Grasping the opportunities that all crises very subtly conceal is extremely difficult. But the opportunities brought for Africa by the COVID-19 crises have to be seized. We Africans have been systematically missing those structural opportunities brought by crises. This is no longer an option. This time is different.*

*Twenty years after the launching of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, it is only fair that we acknowledge NEPAD's role in the prioritisation of these issues and that we join forces to support AUDA-NEPAD's efforts in promoting Africa's sustainable development.*





**Where are  
we?  
Where are  
we going?**

**AUDA-  
NEPAD and  
Regional  
Experience  
Sharing**

## Lessons Learned from the Reform and Implementation of AUDA-NEPAD

### Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki

Chief Executive Officer, AUDA-NEPAD



The lessons learned from the implementation of NEPAD to the organisational benchmarks in the build-up to the new AUDA-NEPAD point in essence to a resilient Pan-African institution. NEPAD is the first African development policy initiative which has been institutionalised at the AU level for two decades. This demonstrates its wider appeal, acceptability, and sustainability as the flagship programme of the African Union.

From the NEPAD Secretariat (2001-2010) to the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (2010-2018) and presently the AUDA-NEPAD, the transitional trajectory has resulted in laying a solid foundation for AUDA as a learning Pan-African institution and the spur for regional integration and capacity strengthening on the continent.

The institutional strength of the AUDA arises from its 20-year experience and lessons learned of what works and what has not worked from the three transitional phases and the consistency in strongly promoting transparency and accountability as value addition towards organisational excellence.

The political capital and uniqueness evident in the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) is the greatest asset of AUDA. It represents the highest-level support and commitment of Member States to the NEPAD mandate. This strategic leadership, guidance and orientation have greatly contributed to the institutional credibility, reputation, stability, and strength of NEPAD. With the supervisory authority of the AUC Chairperson and the valuable policy support by the NEPAD Steering Committee, the visibility of the NEPAD agenda has been sustained.

At the programmatic level, consistency in the strategic guidance of the HSGOC to dismantle obstacles to NEPAD transboundary projects is most critical for the success of AUDA-NEPAD. The innate capacity of Africa's first development agency is serving as the incubator of innovative programmes and projects to spur regional integration.

Partnerships and resource mobilisation serve as the conveyor of programme delivery in the operations of the NEPAD institution. In effect, the accomplishment of NEPAD in strengthening partnerships guided by the core principles of an Africa-led and owned development agenda, equality, mutual accountability and respect have contributed immensely to the realisation of the AU development goals.

20  
Years

Flagship  
Programmes

African  
Core  
Principles

## Impactful Footprints

## Partnerships

Direct funding and sustainable financing of AUDA-NEPAD programme implementation from the AU annual budget and Member States remains critical, to ensure African ownership and leadership under the AU institutional reform and the 2015 AU Assembly Decision.

Inclusivity of African stakeholders to input and own the continent's development agenda and programmes is of fundamental importance. Thus, African stakeholders such as youth, women, academia must not be left behind in the programme planning, design and execution by AUDA and partners.

Most impressive is the versatility and the high motivation of African professionals who serve in the AUDA-NEPAD. Collectively, the technical experts based on the policy direction of the AU Leaders, are working diligently to deliver on the AUDA-NEPAD in a resource-strained environment. I would therefore like to commend the most valuable asset of AUDA-NEPAD: its staff. The high-level technical competence, professionalism and commitment has led AUDA-NEPAD to where it is now. Particularly, gender parity achieved by the agency in staffing positions ahead of other AU Organs/bodies reflects the commitment of AUDA to women empowerment in the African workplace.

Overall, lessons learned from the successful NEPAD programmes, projects and initiatives with visible footprints and track records of impact in African countries were based on: policy approval and championing by AU Leaders, adequate project preparation, AUC and NEPAD synergy and collaboration, buy-in by African stakeholders and co-funding with development partners.

Continuation and scaling up of programmes with continent-wide impact are thus imperative.

## Lessons Learned from the Implementation of APRM

### Prof Eddy Maloka

Chief Executive Officer, African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Continental Secretariat



*I am humbled to be part of this 20-year journey of the birth, growth and maturation of NEPAD. As the APRM, we owe our existence to NEPAD. At this moment, 18 years later, we can walk and partake actively in the affairs of our continent, thanks to NEPAD.*

On the occasion of NEPAD's 20th anniversary, we congratulate Dr Ibrahim Mayaki and recognise the sterling role he played in turning NEPAD around and putting it where it is currently. When he arrived around 2009, NEPAD was going through its own transition part of which was linked to its integration into the AU as per relevant Assembly decisions. Upon his arrival not only did Dr Mayaki steer it through the process of integration through his dedication and tenacity, he concluded this integration, stabilised and consolidated NEPAD's institutional machinery, including its Secretariat. Furthermore, he secured a sustainable budget and unleashed a wide array of NEPAD initiatives across the continent.

As we forge ahead into the next 20 years and the future of NEPAD,

I would like to use this 20th anniversary celebration to share my thoughts on conceptual and strategic considerations or what I call the NEPAD foundation paradigm (4 pillars) as follows;

- The idea of the African Renaissance - in the context of post-Cold War Afro-optimism – and of a new leadership corps driving this Renaissance after decades of governance challenges on the continent;

- The triangular, dialectical interplay underpinning the idea of NEPAD, namely, development, peace and democracy, and good governance;
- African solutions for and to African problems, that is the idea that Africans were now going to be in charge of their problems and destiny; and
- The belief that there existed a bucket of resources available for Africa that needed to be accessed through NEPAD as a partnership programme.

Over the 20 years many lessons have since been learnt when NEPAD was conceived as an omnibus of solutions for and to ALL Africa's core problems. Since then however, the regional/continental institutional landscape has drastically changed. NEPAD was born parallel to the transformation of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to the African Union (AU). Except for the financial institutions, the AU and its organs are now up and running, with staff, budget and programmes. In the second instance NEPAD was born before the creation of the AUC, which has now grown into a massive organisational machinery, covering a broad array of the work of the AU.

We now have a wide portfolio of specialised agencies and organs on the continent, some of which were created with mandates falling within the historical territory of the mandate of NEPAD. For example, AfCFTA and its secretariat in Accra, Ghana, has taken away the Africa-intra-trade promotion agenda in the original mandate of NEPAD. Agenda 2063 and the SDGs also incorporates NEPAD's original ideas and ideals, and with both having their regional/global follow up mechanisms. The two programmes now occupy the space that was occupied by NEPAD 20 years ago. We now refer to the two programmes in our speeches where in the past such reference would have been reserved for NEPAD.

The North-South partnership (this bag full of G7 resources for Africa) that informed the base ideas of the original NEPAD has not materialised in a transformational sense. Post-COVID, all projections suggest that Africa has to be self-reliant if it is to realise its Renaissance. We have to return to the source, the Lagos Plan of Action of the 1980s, and think of an African Renaissance that is predicated, premised, on Self-Reliance. We could use South-South cooperation (post BAPA+40) with the rise of China, of BRICS as an opportunity Africa can take full advantage of in line with our own strategic considerations and collective interests as a continent. We should not take lightly the phenomenon of isolationism, protectionism, as a new form of nationalism and anti-globalism unfolding in parts of the North.

NEPAD should build on its achievements in institutional, outreach, legitimacy, and programme to; i) consolidate its niche, and ii) to focus on its relevance and impact. Regional / cross-border projects remain an area where NEPAD has an uncontested niche and can make impact on our continent henceforth. NEPAD has the ability to mobilise key stakeholders required for the execution of our regional projects such as public and private sectors, development finance, communities/states, and regional actors like the RECs.

In conclusion, I wish to I say Happy Birthday to NEPAD and Congratulations to Dr Mayaki while in the same spirit paying my due and well deserved homage to our leaders who had the foresight to create NEPAD and transform the OAU into the AU.

## On the role AUDA-NEPAD can play in supporting COVID-19 regional economic recovery plans

*The IGAD subregion is currently facing a myriad of challenges including geopolitics, locust migration, early marriages, child protection and the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the region has reported quite a low number of Covid-19 cases as compared to other regions in Africa. Member countries have reallocated most of their resources towards fighting COVID-19 pandemic, thus leaving other programmes like malaria underfunded in the sub region. The subregion has recorded low economic growth. Strategies to overcome these challenges need to focus on deploying a holistic approach for IGAD Member States, including the formulation of short and medium-term response strategies and reforms as post-recovery measures from Covid-19, and amplifying advocacy for African states to access Covid-19 vaccine, debt moratorium, resources mobilisation and institutional capacity building.*



### Amb Mohamed Ali Guyo

IGAD Special Envoy to the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and Somalia



## Experience Sharing NEPAD Kenya Country Office

### Amb Dr Samori Okwiya

Chief Executive Officer,  
NEPAD/Kenya Secretariat

The African Union has focused on Africa's sustainable development as a priority through the Aspirations of Agenda 2063. The African Union Development Agency – NEPAD has been instrumental in re-engineering Africa's development.

This is being realised through the implementation of various programmes and projects across the continent and is manifested in the upward trajectory in Africa's growth and development. The NEPAD/APRM Kenya Secretariat being an affiliate national institution of AUDA-NEPAD, subscribes to the ideals of the continental development framework. The NEPAD/APRM Kenya Secretariat continues to support the AUDA-NEPAD initiatives in Kenya and the greater Eastern Africa region. This has been augmented with the establishment of the AUDA-NEPAD Regional Office in Nairobi, which has already started carrying out sensitisation of BT cotton in Kenya, through the African Biosafety Network of Expertise (ABNE).

The Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and Malabo Declaration in Kenya will ensure food and nutrition security and move the majority of people out of abject poverty. The Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) and Programme for Infrastructure Champion Initiative (PICI) are envisaged to open up country boundaries to facilitate trade, human capital transfer and enhance manufacturing through the production of cheap and reliable power. The construction of cross-border roads with One-Stop-

*The African Union has focused on Africa's sustainable development as a priority through the Aspirations of Agenda 2063. The African Union Development Agency – NEPAD has been instrumental in re-engineering Africa's development.*

Border-Posts and the Lamu Port South Sudan Ethiopia Transport Corridor (LAPPSET) are not only critical in expanding the business arena for entrepreneurs but will also promote peace and security across the continent.

On human capital development, Kenya has prioritised women and youth empowerment and has allocated a significant budget towards enhancing capacity building and promoting the development of SMEs to increase their employability and income. This resonates well with the AUDA-NEPAD Skill initiative for Africa (SIFA) and the recent launch of the Micro Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Academy among others. The NEPAD/APRM Kenya Secretariat is alive to the fact that resources are limited, among others and will continue to partner with strategic partners to support its activities as in the case of training of nurses/midwives on new childbirth and baby-mother-family-care in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Moi University. Furthermore, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) has also been a tremendous partner supporting NEPAD/APRM Kenya.

The implementation of the well thought out programmes by AUDA-NEPAD and its affiliate institutions across the continent will by and large necessitate Africa to refocus on the optimum utilisation of its resources for the benefit of her people and to reduce the reliance on exploitive external support. Africa requires technological transfer in order to tap into its wealthy diversity in the exploitation of resources.

## NEPAD Milestones for the Last Decade: Towards the Africa We Want

### Amb Bankole Adeoye

African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security



#### Continued Relevance of NEPAD Vision and Brand (20 years+)

##### Milestone #1

The NEPAD vision and mission has remained legitimately and consistently relevant today since its founding in 2001. This is because it has galvanised the ambition of an African renewal through regional economic integration and is now firmly incorporated into the AU Agenda 2063. Premised on the two phases of institutional change, NEPAD operates as an intrinsic constituent of the AU development system, serving as its hub for African transformation through AU leaders' policy direction for regional programme formulation and implementation.

#### HSGOC as greatest asset/political capital - AU leadership

##### Milestone #2

The exclusive and inbuilt leadership configuration of NEPAD from inception ensured that AU Heads of State and Government themselves were on top of the regular monitoring of programme implementation undertakings of the NEPAD entity, and its orientation. Specifically, through the AU Assembly and NEPAD HSGOC, the continent's leaders successfully provided strategic guidance and capable leadership to the NEPAD institution. Particularly from the inception of NEPAD to about 2015/2016, the AU leaders were fully engaged in unblocking political and socio-economic obstacles for the Agency's regional programmes and projects.

### Two-phased transitions for Institutional Strengthening and Stability

#### Milestone #3

Implementation of NEPAD programmes and projects is the heartbeat of this AU flagship initiative and its modest impact is evident in the African development arena. The NEPAD entity, being the implementing vehicle at the continental level supervised by the CEO, contributed by fostering the AU regional integration agenda and African cooperation in priority sectors. The organisation has strengthened its operational frameworks, systems and process to ensure they are fit-for-purpose to deliver its new mandate.

### NEPAD Programmatic Implementation + RECs (CAADP, PIDA)

#### Milestone #4

The Agency has increased momentum with CAADP and PIDA, in particular. The implementation of both frameworks was strengthened and given the top priority status in accordance with the twin pillars of the NEPAD regional integration strategy. CAADP received a huge boost in that a total of 47 AU Member States signed the CAADP Compact by 2020. In addition, public expenditure by African governments for the agriculture sector increased on average to 7% annually in line with the AU Assembly Maputo Decision. The NPCA was a lead advocate for this benchmark to be attained, in collaboration with the AUC.

### Epic Partnership Arrangements & Global Outreach (G7/G20)

#### Milestone #5

The Agency under the leadership of Dr Mayaki witnessed renewed partnership activities with zeal and passion. His experience as a Former Minister of African Integration and a Former Minister of Foreign Affairs in Niger, impacted on the leadership style and engagements strategy he deployed to this end. Guided by the pronouncements of the NEPAD HSGOC and the AU Assembly, the role of the Agency's CEO as the mobiliser-in-chief for the institution was handled with élan, clarity and commitment. From Nairobi to New York, Addis Ababa to Accra, Beijing to Berlin to Banjul, Dr Mayaki canvassed relentlessly for more resources for the Agency with African and partner governments.

### Innovative Resource Mobilisation (AU Member States programme funding)

#### Milestone #6

In the early years of NEPAD to the mid-2010s, the NEPAD entity rightly commanded a reputation for being a great mobiliser of resources for Africa's development at the institutional level. Indeed, the transitions from the NEPAD Secretariat to the AUDA under the aegis of Dr Mayaki, consistently fundraised and expanded its partnership base to advance many programmes and projects. The CEO served as the powerful solicitor for private sector investment in Africa's regional infrastructure, based on PIDA/PICI priority projects, at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). The resources were classified into financial, human, and knowledge, for programme implementation for AU Member States and RECs.

### Evolving NEPAD think-tank / KM function /Strategic Planning

#### Milestone #7

As the continental development agency, AUDA-NEPAD is uniquely positioned within a complex landscape of AU structures, national governments and development players, to become the premier knowledge institution for sustainable development and transformation in Africa. The Agency is thus strengthening its role as a knowledge broker, catalyst and convener, by driving excellence in knowledge, research, innovation management and accountability, while promoting learning in the context of national, continental and global development.

**What's  
Next?**

**Resilience  
Building  
in the Post  
COVID-19  
Era**







## Building Back Better Economies - Priorities for the Next Decade to Come

### H.E. Albert Muchanga

African Union Commissioner,  
Trade and Industry

The first priority is economic and social stabilisation anchored on achieving debt sustainability, social protection and creation of decent jobs. Social protection and job creation require resources, and this calls for the expansion of fiscal space.

Recovery requires increased investments. In this respect, there is need to mobilise the private sector to bring these much-needed investments. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) offers an attractive platform for increased investments across our continent by rolling out a large market space of 1.3 billion people, expected to rise to 1.7 billion people by 2030. African governments will also need to align their policies with those of the AfCFTA to maximise benefits from this market.

Transforming Africa's production systems should also be a priority. Dependency on commodity production and export seems to be reaching its limits. Key to this transformation is the mobilisation of the private sector, both small scale and large scale. We have, at the African Union, in this connection, rolled out a Small-Scale Enterprise Strategy. Small-scale enterprises will play a key role in the development of regional value chains by supplying inter-mediate products to large scale enterprises. We have also encouraged the African private sector to create a Pan-African Manufacturers Association and African Business Council as platforms for networking and business to business transactions.

Transforming production systems also requires investments in Research and Development as well as industrial design. African countries must in this connection increase expenditures in these areas. At the same time, African governments would also need to increase expenditures in the development of research universities as part of the ecosystem of promoting research and development.

The African private sector must, in this respect, establish complementarities with governments and academia as well as transform their engineering processes to be able to commercialise results of research and development. With sustained movement towards innovation, African manufacturing companies should be in a position to come up with uniquely African brands and become more competitive at home and abroad.

Quality infrastructure is equally key to the transformation of production systems across Africa. We have in this connection finalised work on a draft African Quality Policy, now awaiting consideration by the Specialised Technical Committee of Ministers of Trade, Industry and Mining and ultimately the Assembly of the African Union Heads of State and Government.

Once the African Quality Policy Framework is adopted, we shall then move towards developing a Made in Africa standard which will greatly facilitate intra-African trade by removing technical barriers to trade.

*AUDA-NEPAD is clocking twenty years of existence and progress in a complex environment. A key feature is that the on-going COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted families and communities as well as health and economic systems. It has brought about widespread economic costs and great misery for the people across the globe. Against this background, it is important for Africa to develop clear priorities for building back stronger economies, which will be resilient in this new normal. AUDA-NEPAD can greatly contribute in all of these.*

To build stronger economies in the post COVID-19 era, Africa must therefore invest in internal capabilities to spur inclusive sustainable development. The AfCFTA offers a vital platform for harnessing collective self-reliance among African countries while re-affirming our commitment to the multilateral trading system.

There is one other area that will always require international cooperation. This is the fight against climate change. It is impossible to develop strong and resilient economies without mitigating and adapting to climate change. Africa must remain committed to international cooperation in this vital issue which can become an existential threat for humankind.

In conclusion, it is vital to note that inter-agency collaboration is critical in facilitating transformation of Africa's production systems by leveraging complementarity as well as policy and programme coherence.

## Defining Africa's Future by Leapfrogging the 4th Industrial Revolution and Making the Most of Emerging Technologies

### Prof Wim de Villiers

Vice-Chancellor, Stellenbosch University



The world is in turmoil. The COVID-19 pandemic has widened some of the cracks in society, and the African continent has not been spared. Although Africa has limited infrastructure and certain vulnerabilities – environmental, social, economic – we also have some advantages in our favour, so let me highlight three.

Firstly, our continent has previous experience in dealing with pandemics and epidemics, such as Ebola. Secondly, we have a habit of “leapfrogging” to the latest technologies and approaches to not only catch up with the rest of the world, but even take the lead. Lastly, the fact that there is already a good degree of collaboration taking place on our continent – both on the geopolitical level and within sectors.

So what does Africa require to harness innovation and emerging technologies in the Fourth Industrial Revolution? The simplest answer is political will. Governments have to prioritise societal needs.

Combine the two concepts, and you find that we already have a foundation to build on in Africa. For instance, the five Centres of Excellence (CoEs) established by the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) specialise in different interconnecting themes: Climate Resilience; Rural Resources and Food Systems; Science, Technology and Innovation (STI); Human Capital and Institutions; and Supply Chain and Logistics.

*The sociologist David Cooper uses the concept of a “quadruple helix” to identify the partners needed to address societal challenges: the state, higher-education institutions and other civil society structures, and industry or businesses. We have to collaborate. This goes hand in hand with political will.*

The CoE for Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) is taking shape in South Africa as a collaborative effort between AUDA-NEPAD, Stellenbosch University (SU), South Africa's Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), as well as the UN office for Africa.

*Developmental challenges are what the author John Kao calls "wicked problems" – highly complex challenges comprised of interwoven issues whose potential solutions require creative, interdisciplinary thinking.*

Although being new, the CoE in STI is looking at how to implement real-world change, especially in regard to healthcare and the current COVID-19 pandemic.

At SU we strive to be relevant to the people of our country, continent and the rest of the world, making meaningful contributions that will take humanity forward. And part of that entails translating our theoretical research into tangible, positive outcomes. We have a dedicated company for that at SU: Innovus. They are responsible for technology transfer at the University, entrepreneurial support, and the commercialisation of our intellectual property.

Ideally the processes at Innovus would dovetail with what the CoE in STI is doing, with "technology translation" funding being made available for the innovations channelled through the CoE.

The Centre has already identified over 40 knowledge-based innovations which could potentially be packaged for scaling-up implementation. These represent widely tested and proven technologies or practices which are essentially ready to be taken to the next level.

Africa should be driving its own agenda, converting our enormous potential into actual products and services making a positive difference to the lives of people on our continent.

\* Professor Wim de Villiers is Rector and Vice-Chancellor of Stellenbosch University. He also serves as Vice-Chair of Universities South Africa and is active in the African Research University Alliance. This op-ed is based on his input at a NEPAD@20 Symposium on 21 January 2021, where he was a speaker in a session on "Resilience building in the Post-COVID-19 era".



# The Critical Role of Women and Youth in Building a Resilient Post-COVID-19 Future

**Prof Thuli Madonsela**

Law Trust Chair in Social Justice and Law Professor,  
Stellenbosch University



Renowned Scottish economist Adam Smith once said, “Justice ... is the main pillar that upholds the whole edifice. If it is removed, the great, the immense fabric of human society ... must in a moment crumble into atoms.”

*Reflections on NEPAD at 20 is coincidentally timed with our reflections and resetting to position our countries, continent and the world for rebuilding better together as we combat and emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. Placing the economic empowerment of women and young people at the centre of Africa’s sustainable development is an uncontestably imperative.*

The 6th aspiration of Agenda 2063 adopted in 2015 envisages “an Africa where development is people driven, unleashing the potential of women and youth”. Economic Empowerment of women and young people are a human right and sustainable development imperative, which are both essential for sustainable democracy and the rule of law. Women and youth economic empowerment accordingly transcend social justice and go to the heart of speedy and sustainable development, democracy preservation and peace. Reflections on NEPAD at 20 is coincidentally timed with our reflections and resetting to position our countries, continent and the world for rebuilding better together as we combat and emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. Placing the economic empowerment of women and young people at the centre of Africa’s sustainable development is an uncontestably imperative.

This is why as Stellenbosch SJC and Hub, we align ourselves with the NEPAD objectives. Socio-economic development of women reflects fidelity to promises in the AU Charter of Human and People’s Rights while ensuring recognition, representation and restitution. It is not indifferent to difference and disadvantage and, accordingly, advances human rights and democracy while anchoring sustainable development.

The African Charter, in part affirms commitment to the values of “...freedom, equality, justice and dignity are essential objectives for the achievement of the legitimate aspirations of the African peoples”... and pledge “to eradicate all forms of colonialism from Africa, to coordinate and intensify their cooperation and efforts to achieve a better life for the peoples of Africa”, which were commitments in the original OAU charter.

Specific inclusive development and related social justice provisions are pervasive in the charter, examples being the universal right to development in article 22, right to peace article 23 and equality related rights.

# The Present and Future of African Development

## Dr Jonathan D Moyer

Director Frederick S Pardee Center,  
University of Denver



The future of human development and continental integration is shaped by the decisions that leaders take today, and quantitative tools can provide context and guidance. The unfolding global pandemic has created a need to better understand how resulting mortality and economic downturns are impacting all aspects of human development and continental integration. Conversations that bring an increasingly broad set of stakeholders together are required to evaluate how data and changing understandings of development dynamics can inform policymaking.

COVID-19 is affecting human development across the continent with significant impacts on health and government capacity. It will also likely lead to lost economic opportunities – cumulatively, more than \$2 trillion in reduced GDP over the next two decades. This economic restriction will further negatively impact various aspects of human development, such as the number of people in poverty, which we forecast to increase by tens of millions of people. Other systems will be negatively impacted, including malnutrition, inequality, and state fragility.

These COVID-driven changes are occurring within a global development context that is evolving as well with the African footprint growing rapidly. Even with the economic downturn caused by COVID-19, the share of the African economy within the global economy is set to grow from around 3% today to over 10% by the fulfilment of Agenda 2063. These changes are being driven by large structural pressures, such as demographic change and improvements in human development. We project that Africa will increase its share of the global population from less than 10% in 1963 and 18% in 2020 to 26% by 2063. The average level of formal education across the continent is also poised to grow from 5.8 years today to over 8.5 years by 2063.

*The unfolding global pandemic has created a need to better understand how resulting mortality and economic downturns are impacting all aspects of human development and continental integration.*

While the future of human development is significantly the product of structural factors and long-term development dynamics, it is not cast in stone. The trajectory is being, and will continue to be, shaped by the choices of African leaders and citizens. In our previous work with AUDA-NEPAD, we explored the effects of changing policies in relation to improving government capacity and found that they had a significant long-term effect on improving human development across multiple dimensions. While the effects of improving the quality of governance were hard to see through 2030, improvements in the transparency and effectiveness of government policymaking significantly improved long-term patterns of human development by 2040 and beyond.

Choosing a desirable development trajectory requires formally representing how patterns of development are unfolding and the choices we have today to improve these patterns over the long run. Quantitative tools can make significant contributions in this pursuit. I invite you to collaborate with us as we continue to build and maintain large quantitative tools that are free to use and open source in their model code. The Frederick S. Pardee Center for International Futures at the University of Denver's Josef Korbel School of International Studies is committed to supporting ongoing collaborative research relationships through the use of the International Futures modelling platform. Join us!

## Promise of Progress

### Iman Rappetti

Award-Winning Broadcaster, Author, Media Leader and CEO of Rappetticom



Marking the two-decade anniversary of NEPAD is cause for both celebration and critique. Though virtual, conversations flowed with experts and stakeholders trading insights with the mission of designing 'The Africa We Want'. The parts I heard made my tympanic membranes dance madly with the music of promise and progress. It made me reflect fleetingly on the ancient sages, who pioneered in medicine, science, philosophy and business, seeding progress for our continent.

They created knowledge systems that were stolen or made invisible by the various caravans of colonialism or appropriation that gouged wounds across the thirty million square kilometres of our geographical skin. Upon hearing how the architecture for our economic integration and success is becoming more defined, the players more diverse, the investment more intentionally African and the profit more probable, I considered that perhaps this time we are better situated than at any other in our history to become the manifestation of the dream that is us, an African economic powerhouse.

*This is the house of Africa, and we are its people. In order to strengthen it, we have to strengthen it together. To do so, we have to share the knowledge and the opportunities presented through integrated, intra-trade and cooperation. I believe that AUDA-NEPAD is ideally poised to do just that.*

That in this time, we could identify, support and scale the inventors, the innovators, the dreamers and the thinkers that are rising up in villages and towns across the continent tinkering with, and defining the solutions to our challenges. And by doing so, bringing to peace the unrequited spirits of our pioneering ancestors who would witness the economic benefits made manifest on the soil of their final resting places.

Then I realised that I had but glimpsed the hem of the garment of promise, because veiled still to many thousands of potentially new players, this conversation and engagement was within the limited purview of those who know. We need to spread the gospel about investment opportunity, skills support and development. And we need to loosen entangled, systemic bureaucracies that make it impossible to move with speed.

Will the ACFTA be that solution? We have yet to see how well we do on integrating systems and allowing people to move and trade freely. To wit, a PIDA PAP II document extract beckons the following: '... the economic activities supported by robust trade through the AfCFTA will result in the economies of scale and economic development necessary to make investment in key infrastructure viable and bankable'.

But in order to do this, we have to bring more entrepreneurs around the fire and capacitate them with the tools many speakers highlighted are necessary to get their businesses beyond the obstacles of feasibility studies and the writing of business plans and into the players' circle. Then we have to connect them to credible financing that is in it for the long game with realistic, non-crippling repayment terms.

The African Development Bank (ADB) tells us that we have 'the highest entrepreneurship rate in the world. Twenty-two percent of Africa's working-age population are starting businesses. Our

female entrepreneurship rate is also the highest in the world. Small and Medium Enterprises are now the biggest formal employers in Sub-Saharan Africa and will undoubtedly be key in creating the 54 million jobs that Africa is expected to create by 2022.'

But then the clouds encircle the sun. The ADB says we need 122 million jobs by then. And Sub-Saharan Africa also has the highest small business discontinuance rate of 8.4%.

We have our work cut out for us. These realities are part of both the 'what now', and 'what next' conversations. We have to muscularise the existing players in manufacturing, agriculture, construction and other key sectors. This is so that when we audit who wins contracts and delivers the big projects, we can say that the weighting is shifting from international companies and service providers to African ones. That African networks of business co-operation are scoring windfalls in real project investment and supply chain development.

We have to rewrite the investment script so that global financiers and companies participate in a context of proper local beneficiation and measurable skills transfer to domestic communities and businesses.

We have to transition from trumpeting our vast human resources and youth population advantage, our mineral wealth and myriad opportunities to transitioning ownership into majority black-owned enterprises with a focus on female ownership.

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*One of the greatest achievements of NEPAD is that it has put Africa on the global agenda and has also galvanised international support for the region towards building The Africa We Want."*

*The creation of NEPAD in 2001 was seen as new hope towards attaining development in Africa. One of the greatest achievements of NEPAD is that it has put Africa on the global agenda and has also galvanised international support for the region towards building The Africa We Want.*

### **Yvonne Chaka Chaka**

AUDA-NEPAD Goodwill Ambassador for TB & Nutrition,  
The Princess of Africa



**Partnerships  
for Impact  
in a Post-  
COVID-19  
world**



## Innovating with African Homegrown Solutions

### Toshiyuki Nakamura

Senior Vice President,  
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)



Congratulations on the 20th Anniversary of NEPAD and the great accomplishments of the organisation over the past 20 years. In particular, I would like to commend Dr Mayaki for his strong leadership and contributions for over a decade, which successfully led to the transformation of NEPAD into AUDA-NEPAD, the first ever development implementation agency for the Continent.

Since the first dispatch of a JICA advisor to NEPAD in 2005, JICA has worked closely with NEPAD to address various challenges facing the continent.

Our main areas of collaboration currently involve the following initiatives:

- Facilitation of PIDA implementation, particularly planning, management, and monitoring/evaluation of regional infrastructure projects centering on corridor development and One-Stop Border Posts (OSBP);
- Promotion of KAIZEN, a Japanese management approach of continuous improvement to achieve enhanced quality and productivity, for accelerating Africa's industrialization through co-chairing Africa Kaizen Initiative (AKI); and
- Acceleration of the implementation of food and nutrition security policies by establishing a framework for collaboration among African governments through the Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa (IFNA).

*JICA has enjoyed a special relationship with AUDA-NEPAD during the period of NEPAD's establishment and evolution. At the occasion of TICAD3 in 2003, the Government of Japan welcomed the establishment of NEPAD as a powerful vehicle to accelerate African development and pledged to support NEPAD and Africa's ownership*

All of the above are the priority areas for both institutions, as they all occupy a prominent part in achieving the aspirations of Agenda 2063, as well as the SDGs. JICA appreciates its close partnership and mutual understanding with AUDA-NEPAD in achieving steady action toward achieving the global and continental goals. During these particularly challenging times, we re-affirm our collaboration and solidarity towards Africa's socio-economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2020, AUDA-NEPAD launched the Home-Grown Solution Accelerator Programme as a response to COVID-19 and in support of enhancing African-born solutions against pandemics, JICA expanded its range of cooperation to include this initiative. This programme is now in a pilot phase of testing the establishment of an accelerator, which will provide tailored acceleration support for African companies that are contributing meaningfully to strengthening pandemic resilience. JICA considers it as a symbolic collaboration between two institutions against COVID-19. As an indication of this ongoing commitment and in preparation for TICAD8 in 2022, JICA has undertaken to support AUDA-NEPAD to support the full-scale operation and expansion of the accelerator and expect to highlight its results at TICAD8.

JICA remains true to its mission to realise human security in Africa, and its cooperation is based on the two foundational principles of the TICAD process: African ownership of its development and partnership with the international community.

I firmly believe that we can take a significant step towards the realisation of the Agenda 2063 aspirations and the 2030 SDGs by strengthening our bonds to implement highly impactful initiatives and by joining forces with a wide diversity of stakeholders, from Member States and RECs, to other partners, including the private sector, non-governmental organisations, international institutions and civil society.

## Financing of Continental and Cross-Border Infrastructure during and after COVID-19

### Dr Lufeyo Banda

Chief Operating Officer,  
Regional Ingegration, African Development Bank



Cross-border infrastructure is essential for connectivity. The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted our reliance on such infrastructure – whether for transportation, energy, water or information and communications. Yet, infrastructure projects that traverse national borders present unique complexities in planning, management, finance, and execution.

*Cross-border infrastructure is essential for connectivity. The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted our reliance on such infrastructure – whether for transportation, energy, water or information and communications. Yet, infrastructure projects that traverse national borders present unique complexities in planning, management, finance, and execution.*

For instance, since the outbreak of the pandemic, many African countries may not be able to service their debt, fight the pandemic, invest in recovery, and at the same time finance cross boarder infrastructure projects. For this reason, AfDB and other MDBs should continue to play a counter-cyclical lending role during and after the crisis. The AUDA-NEPAD and RECs should also ensure that cross-border infrastructure projects under PIDA PAP II are well aligned with those of the Bank plans to maximise resource allocation of projects.

With respect to project preparation and finance, while AfDB is already playing a critical role in supporting project preparation of PIDA projects through NEPAD IPPF, which is hosted by the Bank, we need to learn from PIDA PAP I and ensure that under PIDA PAP II, resource allocation for project preparation from NEPAD IPPF should be based on cost recovery basis. We also need to consolidate a number of project preparation facilities that are currently operating in Africa into one facility called the Fund of Fund instrument – under NEPAD IPPF. In addition to this, African countries also need to fully own NEPAD IPPF and make a small contribution for the 0.2% import levy. The Bank will also continue to work with other development partners and private sector to leverage resources for PIDA projects. The Bank will do this partly through the Africa Investment Forum (AIF).

Thus, challenges of meeting cross-border infrastructure financing during and after COVID-19, which is currently estimated at US\$270 billion for PIDA PAP II, will require roughly US\$27 billion for project preparation and US\$243 billion of investment all of which can easily be mobilised through innovative financing solutions from both domestic and international markets.



## Ensuring Access to Safe, Quality and Affordable Medical Products and Technologies

### Dr David Mukanga

Senior Programme Officer (African Regulatory Systems)  
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Africa's regulatory environment is not as fragmented as it was 10 years ago if one takes cognizance of the progress recorded by different regional harmonization initiatives, the work of AVAREF, the continental technical committees, and the emergence of AMA. This is a result of the hard work by NEPAD and many partners from within and outside of Africa.


Five key pillars of the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation (AMRH) programme, and our shared regulatory systems optimisation approach are: trust-building, collaboration, harmonisation/convergence, regionalisation, reliance, and re-engineering. AMRH has taught us that it takes time to nurture trust amongst the participating countries and partners, without which it is impossible to drive these regional and continental efforts. Without trust and a spirit of collaboration, each country will attempt to develop and locally produce its own medical products; while this makes economic and logistical sense for some products like intravenous fluids, oxygen supplementation, or sanitisers, it does not for others like ARVs or oncology treatments.

We need to assure that when we look to local manufacturing to help answer our public health and employment challenges, we are not settling for second quality products or products of unknown quality. Africa, like every other part of the world, deserves international quality-assured medical products, and definitely such products can be produced in Africa, but we need to assure we have the robust, effective regulatory systems in place. Not only is this right for public health, it is also the best policy for our economic health, as it helps assure that African made products are exportable and are able to compete well on the world pharmaceutical stage.

While Africa has as many as 55 countries, it is still relatively a small market that needs to work together and trade together, and with others. The lessons from joint reviews and assessments led by RECs are very much applicable to the assessment and authorisation of COVID vaccines; these are REC platforms that have been built for the last 10 years.

Indeed, we are aware, and have supported the Africa CDC to work with AUDA NEPAD and WHO's African Vaccine Regulatory Forum (AVAREF) to establish the Africa Regulatory Task Force for COVID 19 Vaccines to guide accelerated regulatory decisions. All of this work is built on the bedrock of trust and collaboration that undergird AMRH and AVAREF, especially with respect to emergencies. The COVID vaccine regulatory guidelines jointly issued by Africa CDC, AUDA-NEPAD and WHO AVAREF have drawn lessons from the continental technical committees of AMRH recognising that this is the most effective level to issue guidance that then cascades to the regions and countries.

*Africa's regulatory environment is not as fragmented as it was 10 years ago if one takes cognizance of the progress recorded by different regional harmonization initiatives, the work of AVAREF, the continental technical committees, and the emergence of AMA. This is a result of the hard work by NEPAD and many partners from within and outside of Africa.*



How can the AMRH programme in collaboration with partners respond to new health priorities emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic?

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, we are faced with two main buckets of health priorities – COVID, which many believe will still be an endemic, or at least a period disease, as well as the routine non-COVID health priorities. Both must be addressed to avert unnecessary morbidity and mortality, and adverse economic impacts. The AMRH programme and its partners need to contribute to addressing both priorities while recognising that we need new thinking around how to promote access to safe, effective, and quality medical products within resilient supply chains that can withstand global disruptions due to pandemics and other man-made or natural disasters. We cannot continue to think and operate in the pre-COVID mode, where Africa is the last to receive needed countermeasures. AMA and other continental platforms that offer Africa greater health security are more urgent today.

We also need a holistic health system approach that seeks to get regulatory and other parts of the R&D and health systems architecture to work together more closely. Neither can be successful without the other being successful. Some things we need to think about and engage with partners on are large more macro issues such as: (1) regional and continental approaches to product registration decisions (such as the centralised process in the EU); (2) a major focus on building our post-marketing oversight infrastructure so that we can safely use expedited assessment pathways, which often require special distribution controls and close monitoring once the product is authorised; (3) building a clinical trials infrastructure – technical, laboratory, regulatory and ethics committees – that attracts industry to conduct trials in Africa as part of the initial testing of products, so that Africa is fully integrated into the global clinical trials networks.

Concerns about “Africans not being used as guinea pigs” are important to address, and we must protect our populations against research malpractice and uphold the Helsinki declaration, but we must also enable Africa to be an attractive destination for clinical trials. We must educate and more importantly dialogue with our people about the need to be part of global efforts to develop effective vaccines, and other public health tools – these cannot simply continue to be developed elsewhere and brought to Africa; but if Africa is not welcoming of R&D then this will continue to happen. If every country and region of the world played the Guinea pig card, we would not have the medical advances we have recorded against human threats like HIV, TB, Cancer, and now the COVID vaccines. We must pull together to address these challenges. The good news is that several countries in Africa are very welcoming of good science and robust ethical research, have smart scientists, and a growing infrastructure.



## Developing the Skills for the Africa We Want

### Ernst Hustädt

Programme Manager Skills Initiative for Africa (SIFA),  
GIZ



*AUDA-NEPAD, supported by GIZ on behalf of Germany and the EU, has created the Skills Initiative for Africa (SIFA) to tackle the roots of the problem which is how to bring the world of education (government, TVET colleges) and the world of work (companies) closer together to improve the chances for employability of African young people*

2021 marks an important year for Africa: The Free Trade Area has finally been set in motion. Goods and services will be sold across African borders; increased trade will lead to higher production and more wealth for all Africans. However, what is missing is improved skills: We learned from the 22nd Global CEO survey that 45% of African business leaders are extremely concerned about the lack of skills, and 65% of African CEOs said the skills shortage was preventing them from innovating effectively. The majority confirmed that growth targets were missed because of inadequate skills. Business is sending a clear message: We need to act now.

AUDA-NEPAD, supported by GIZ on behalf of Germany and the EU, has created the Skills Initiative for Africa (SIFA) to tackle the roots of the problem which is how to bring the world of education (government, TVET colleges) and the world of work (companies) closer together to improve the chances for employability of African young people

In this way, the minimum 20 million young people that enter the job market every year may have a chance to actually get a decent job and earn a living. These worlds exist in parallel: Government and TVET colleges think they know what students should learn, and companies like to focus on the sometimes narrow skills set they need. Both sides have their points to make, but in the end, we all want to see young people leaving an institution with a certificate that has value. A certificate that gives them an entry point into the job market, a certificate that is the basis to start a family. And more often than not, this is not the case. Dialogue between both worlds is critical, and if the common ground between governments and business is growing, not only will both sides benefit, but make TVET more attractive for students. Forums like Africa Creates Jobs and Innovation Expo, where African start-ups presented excellent ideas, regional conferences that allow businesses to voice their demands were conducted and supported by SIFA. Many good examples of skills initiatives have been gathered and published on AUDA-NEPAD's ASPYEE portal to promote cross-border learning. Guidelines and handbooks on conducting job fairs at TVET colleges and open days at companies are being prepared as further response to the demand from stakeholders. Our work will support the SIFA financial facility's investments where – through a competitive process – TVET projects in 8 countries combining public and private actors selected by AUDA-NEPAD. In 2021 the "innovation window" will be launched to bring the skills revolution to its next level. Through this process, Africa will gain more knowledge on innovative and creative ways to skills development that can be studied, assessed, and transferred. The wheel does not have to be re-invented; it has just to be adjusted locally, all over Africa. In the meantime, we are working with our colleagues at the European Training Foundation on the framework for the African continental qualification framework, a basis that will allow business, government, and citizens to compare skills across Member States.



**Conclusion**

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) was established as a socio-economic flagship programme of the African Union (AU), adopted by African leaders at the 37th Summit of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) held in Lusaka, Zambia, in July 2001. NEPAD represented Africa's renewal agenda and the pan-African drive for unity, self-determination, freedom, progress and collective prosperity pursued under Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance, and was the first international institution to take a truly African perspective and present a paradigm shift in development thinking and practice. This rejuvenation of Pan-Africanism was coupled with a pragmatic approach to Africans looking inwards for home-grown solutions and championing regional integration.

The NEPAD programme had four primary objectives: to eradicate poverty; promote sustainable growth and development; integrate Africa in the world economy; and accelerate the empowerment of women. The implementation of the programme resulted in concrete positive development results in several socio-economic domains despite numerous challenges the continent faces at large. During the June/July 2018 African Union Summit held in Nouakchott, Mauritania, NEPAD was transformed into the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD) as the technical body of the AU. The Agency emerged as a key outcome of the African Union institutional reforms and renewed commitment by AU Member States to build strong and effective Pan-African institutions to achieve "The Africa We Want" as encapsulated in Africa's Agenda 2063. The AU is now endowed with a fully-fledged development agency to serve the continent in the lead role of a knowledge-creator for efficient coordination and execution of priority development programmes and projects.

The 20th anniversary of the formation of NEPAD in 2021 provided an opportunity for the African Union to reflect on the trajectory of Africa's development and renew its support for the ideals and core values of the initiative. Two decades on, the vision and values of NEPAD remain pertinent as always and are enshrined in the continental vision of Agenda 2063 – "The Africa We Want". The journey of NEPAD is an embodiment of the continent's development pathway to advance regional integration, inclusive growth and shared prosperity based on the pan-African values of "African ownership" and "mutual accountability".



