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NEPAD Newsletter

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2015: From Vision to Action



By Sarah Lawan

Following three years of intergovernmental negotiations, 2015 is certain to go down in history as an unprecedented year for global development action. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, adopted in July at the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD) in the Ethiopian capital, addressed the ways and means to implement the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which is expected to be adopted at this year's General Assembly meeting in September in New York. The adoption of that global action-plan will be especially key to the UN Convention on Climate Change (COP21) gathering in Paris in December which is expected to effectively deal with the environmental constraints to sustainable development.

The Global Partnership Momentum:

Notwithstanding some concerns raised the FFD meeting in Addis, the outcome can be qualified as a success for Africa given that negotiators

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managed to include dedicated language on the African Union's Agenda 2063, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and several other important Africa-led initiatives. Importantly, it was decided to establish a Technology Facilitation Mechanism to be launched during the September Summit in order to support the Sustainable Development Goals. Other flagship measures agreed to were the creation of a Global Infrastructure Forum, the provision of a "social compact", as well as consensus that ODA should reach 0.2% of GNI to Least Developed Countries by 2030

A Strengthened African Voice:

Much of these achievements can be attributed to the buy-in of Africa's political leaders at a very early stage. In May 2013, a High Level Committee of Heads of State and Government (HLC) on the Post 2015 Development Agenda met in order to develop and agree to a Common African Position (CAP), which was consequently adopted by the HSG at the January 2014 AU Summit in Addis Ababa.

An African Group of Negotiators, led by the Permanent Representative of Tanzania and supported by lead coordinators for each segment of the Agenda, was set up in January 2015 to stand on the frontline of the last stage of the intergovernmental negotiations. The African Group also capitalized on continental nationals holding key positions in the process: African PGA, African Co-Facilitator, African Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General for Post-2015 Development Planning, African Chair of the G77+China, to name a few.

As a result of this collaborative effort, Africa managed to integrate the vision and programmes it had chosen for itself into the new Agenda. It also succeeded in having the sub-regional dimension and regional economic integration recognized.

The Common African Position reaffirmed poverty eradication as an overarching goal, and strongly emphasized the need for the structural transformation of Africa that is people-centered. As a result, Africa's number one objective is well reflected in the proposed Goal 1. The African call for productive capacities development was heard, too. Indeed, economic growth, jobs, energy, industrialization, and innovation, among others, were introduced to the MDG+ debate thereby complementing the human development and environmental agenda. It is self-explanatory in Goal 7 on energy; Goal 8 on growth and employment; and Goal 9 on infrastructure, industrialization, and innovation. To a lesser extent, the SDGs also reflect the agri-business dimension in Goal 2 on agriculture; the relevance of trans-boundary water management in Goal 6 on water; and the value addition potential of the fisheries in Goal 14 on marine resources.



The time for action:

Overall, these intergovernmental negotiations confirmed the emergence of a strong and articulated African voice, which the NEPAD Agency played a critical strategic advisory role in articulating. Besides the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social, environmental), the new agenda is clear that local problems often call for global solutions in our interconnected world. A solid multilateral and multi-stakeholder consensus was reached, which is a good omen for the domestication of the global and aspirational SDGs. The global indicator framework to be developed by March 2016 and the expected data revolution should trigger the follow up and review phase.

The SDGs can be an excellent foundation for long-term sustainable solutions if the continent maintains the coherence and alignment of the new agenda with the vision outlined in the AU Agenda 2063. As synergies should be sought and built upon: it is now the time to roll up our collective sleeves to implement.

“Freedom cannot be achieved unless women have been emancipated from all forms of oppression..... Our endeavours must be about the liberation of the woman, the emancipation of the man and the liberty of the child.”



**First State of the Nation
Address by President
Nelson Mandela to the first
democratically elected
Parliament in 1994.**

Every year on 9th August the NEPAD Agency joins our host country, South Africa, in commemorating Women’s Day and Women’s month that pays tribute to the great women who helped mould South Africa, and the trailblazing women who continue to lead the country forward. Thus as South Africa marks Women’s Month, the NEPAD Agency is inspired by all the patriotic women who took up the fight for gender equality and freedom.

The promotion of gender equality and women’s empowerment is central to the NEPAD Agency’s efforts to combat poverty and stimulate sustainable development and inclusive growth. The Agency implements projects at continental, regional, national and community levels across the continent. One of the issues that has emerged most strongly through engagements in the field is the need to tackle inequalities and structural discrimination, especially gender inequality and gender-based

discrimination which was identified as underpinning and reinforcing all other forms of inequality. Hence, the Agency’s Strategic Plan adopts a transformative approach that addresses rising inequality and that brings about real change in people’s lives.

Indeed, there could not be a more opportune time to put gender equality front and center. Simply put, the realization of women’s rights and empowerment is a very important end in itself. But it also has synergistic impact on other development goals. Countries with a higher level of gender equality and women’s empowerment tend to also do better on many other indicators of overall development.

However if we are to make women’s rights and empowerment a reality, we have to address the structural inequalities and gender-based discrimination that perpetuate gender inequalities. This means tackling deep-seated and persistent stereotypes about what it means to be a woman or a man in a given society or culture. It means addressing the unequal power relations between women and men, and the attitudes and behaviours that perpetuate

women’s subordination. It means addressing the epidemic of violence. And it means reducing the burden of unpaid care work on women and girls so that they can participate equally in economic, social and political life.

That is why the African Union is advocating for gender equality and women’s empowerment to be at the heart of Agenda 2063, through a standalone goal on gender equality and women’s empowerment and robust integration of gender issues into all other goals and targets that have been developed.

As we acknowledge the inspiring examples of the bravery of the group of women who dared to be different forty years ago, let us all join hands, in response to the call of the women, for unity, peace and development. This requires the collective effort of all of us, in partnership: individuals, governments, civil society, business and the international community.

Happy Women’s Month to All

NEPAD Agency contributes to revision of Africa Health Strategy



A technical team set up to oversee and provide guidance on the revision of the Africa Health Strategy 2007-2015, met in Durban, South Africa on 11-12 August. Led by the African Union Commission (AUC) and comprised of the NEPAD Agency, WHO, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNICEF and the South Africa Department of Health, the team's main task during the meeting was to revise the Africa Health Strategy due to expire at the end of 2015.

recent Ebola epidemic and the lessons learnt from its response underscores the need to strengthen national health systems as well as the disease surveillance and response systems at continental level.

“Being fully aware of the numerous interventions being put in place to address health issues in the post MDG era including efforts to revise the AU health policy instruments such as

the building blocks for strengthening health systems and improving health research. These included: leadership and governance issues; health financing; service delivery; human resources for health; medical products, vaccines and technologies; health information systems and research for health.

“Innovation and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms should also be prioritized,” she noted.

The team was tasked with ensuring that the input made into the strategy takes into consideration lessons learned, opportunities, gaps and emerging issues, such as the recent Ebola outbreak and other communicable and non-communicable diseases that have threatened the health of the African people. The Strategy should also serve as a framework for dealing with existing health challenges and provide a broader post-2015 health policy direction.



Representatives from AUC, NEPAD Agency, WHO, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNICEF and the South Africa Department of Health

Speaking at the opening of the meeting, the AUC Director of Social Affairs, Amb Olawale Maiyegun highlighted that the

Maputo Plan of Action, African Regional Nutrition Strategy and Abuja Call among others; I can now confidently say - the time is ripe to revise the African Health Strategy,” said Maiyegun.

Presenting the input from the NEPAD Agency, Margareth Ndomondo-Sigonda, emphasized that the strategy should focus on

The Africa Health Strategy will provide strategic direction to Africa's efforts in creating better health for all and recognizes that Member States, regions and the continent have set health goals that they have committed to. It explores some

challenges that militate against the continent decreasing the burden of disease and improving development and also draws on existing opportunities. It highlights strategic directions that can be helpful if approached in a multi-sectoral fashion, adequately resourced, implemented and monitored.

Ongoing need to share best practices on Sustainable Land and Water Management across the continent and at country level

As a lethargic bell echoes through the vast grounds of a rural village of South Kinangop in Central Kenya, a group of farmers carrying various farming tools gathers for an assembly in somewhat military-looking procession. It is a regular Friday at the village, although today there are visitors from a seminar organized by TerrAfrica. A captivating scene of predominantly women farmers carrying their farming tools and produce are accompanied by children. Most of these women farmers are up at the crack of dawn to till their land for hours, at times on empty stomachs.

In Kenya, TerrAfrica has partnered with the Kenyan authorities through the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries on the Kenya Agriculture Productivity Program (KAPP) on the Sustainable Land and Water Management project. TerrAfrica visited two areas where rainwater harvesting/watershed management and the range and pasture management are being practiced and have been adopted since 2011.

Mr. David Mukundi used to have 12 hectares of land but has had to give seven hectares to his sons and one hectare to his local church due to the high cost of inputs and the poor quality of seeds. However, he has recently adopted the watershed management technique to curb his fertile land from eroding into Sasumwa Dam. He dug cut-off drains to harvest erratic floodwater for high value crops such as potato and cabbage on his land. He also plants Napier grass that helps protect the cut-off embankment against



soil erosion which also acts as animal feed. His neighbors at Kagiya farm plant snow peas and Aureus flowers to export internationally. One of the neighbours Sara Njuguna is an early adopted of bee keeping and strawberry farming. All these farmers spoke volumes about the wealth of information that the KAPP extension officers have shared with them courtesy of TerrAfrica. TerrAfrica also donated 10 beehives and a single honey wax extractor to the farmers.

TerrAfrica held a four day Information and Communication Seminar for government Communication experts on Sustainable Land and Water Management at the African Institute for Capacity Development (AICAD) at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology. The seminar was for the 10 TerrAfrica Anglophone member countries (Ethiopia, Eritrea, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda) and the two Regional Economic Commissions, COMESA and ECOWAS.

The seminar sought to draw public attention to the issues surrounding Sustainable Land and Water Management in various countries by raising awareness at the national level about the goals of SLWM, increasing the media coverage on drought, land and water degradation and desertification issues. Additionally, it was ensured that high-impact stories about the local SLWM success stories/champions are published in a variety of media to promote the continued coverage of TerrAfrica activities and SLWM issues on a regular basis as well as increase the number of local journalists covering SLWM issues.

Ongoing engagement with Regional Economic Communities strengthens PIDA implementation



As part of its ongoing engagement with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), representatives from the NEPAD Agency in August embarked on a series of joint work planning sessions ahead of the roll-out of the PIDA Capacity Building project.

In his opening remarks at a two-day meeting in with officials from the East African Community Secretariat's (EAC) Directorate of Infrastructure and representatives of the Central Corridor Transport Transit Facilitation Agency (CCTTFA), NEPAD Senior Advisor on Infrastructure, Mr. Adama Deen noted that the joint session strengthened the coordination among partners in PIDA PAP implementation.

Principal Civil Engineer in the Infrastructure Division of EAC Secretariat Hosea Nyangweso highlighted that the PIDA Capacity Building Project was an opportunity for the RECs to gain practical experience and develop capacity. Among the PIDA projects that fall within the EAC region is the Northern Multimodal Corridor, which includes railways, roads, border posts, in-land ports and waterway components.

Executive Secretary of the CCTTFA Rukia Shamte noted during meeting that the Central Corridor Programme had been selected by the World Economic Forum Business Working Group as the pilot project for acceleration.

The Central Corridor is a multi-modal trade and transport corridor within the East African region with a combination of road and railway networks linking the port of Dar es Salaam to Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda. It has been the most cost effective corridor in the region due to its geographical location and its abundant investment opportunities.

In Accra, Ghana, the NEPAD Agency engaged over a two-day meeting in late August with representatives of the Infrastructure Directorate of the ECOWAS Commission and the Project Preparations Development Unit (PPDU) to develop a work-plan for implementation of the PIDA Capacity Building Project. In his statement to participants, Mr Deen thanked ECOWAS for co-hosting the meeting, which paved the way for the roll out of the

project in the region. Mr Chris Appiah, representing the Commissioner, expressed great anticipation at the meeting following the discussion of the project with stakeholders earlier in the year during the PIDA Steering Committee Meeting in March.

The planning session between the NEPAD Agency and ECOWAS ushers in the start of implementation activities of the PIDA Capacity Building project in West Africa. One of the PIDA flagship projects in this region is the Dakar-Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Highway Development Project. The project will entail modernization and upgrading of the West African Corridor comprising the construction of four one-stop border posts (OSBPs); extensive Transport/ Trade facilitation & Corridor Management; Construction of a 6-Lane (2x3) dual-carriage highway from Abidjan to Lagos (where feasible); Spatial Development Initiatives scoping and diagnostics and Food Security and related community development . The most travelled West African corridor is the Abidjan-Lagos Coastal Corridor. The more efficient transport system and border posts will ease border crossings, helping to increase regional trade and facilitate regional integration among ECOWAS countries.

ECOWAS will under the PIDA Capacity Building Project focus on interventions to implement the Dakar-Abidjan Lagos Corridor including capacity building activities and targeted stakeholder engagement for accelerating implementation.

The series of meeting in August concludes successive workshops among members of the tripartite (COMESA, SADC and EAC) which began in late July.

Another milestone for NEPAD-led initiative to improve advanced nursing and midwifery skills in Africa

In yet another important milestone in the history of nursing in Mozambique, a second group of eight Master of Nursing candidates graduated in June 2015 from the Instituto Superior de Ciências de Saúde (ISCISA) located in the country's capital, Maputo. The newly-minted cohort brings the number of qualified postgraduate nurses to 11. Last year the first batch of students graduated from ISCISA, which is the first higher education institution in the southern African country to commence postgraduate training for registered nurses.

The graduate students were part of a NEPAD-led project on Nursing and Midwifery Education in Africa, the goal of which was to improve human resource capacity in order to reduce mortality and morbidity through the provision of essential health care services, particularly in the poorly resourced settings. The project has been implemented in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda and Tanzania with the aim of producing quality graduate nurses that will improve the level of clinical competence in specific areas of nursing and health care.

Nurse academics from the South African University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) who steered the initiative included Professor. Judith Bruce, Dr. Shelley Schmollgruber, Ms. Agnes Huiskamp, Mr. David Mphuti, Dr. Gayle Langley and Dr Joan Dippenaar who offered the Maternal and Neonatal Health modules.

The top graduate award in Maternal and Neonatal Health was awarded to Lenia Siteo who was congratulated at the ceremony by the project leader, Professor Bruce. Continuing their journey of scholarship, three graduates Norgia Machava, Maria Suzana Manguela and Lenia Siteo were selected to



Professor Bruce and the graduates

present their research at the 15th Annual Tau Lambda at-Large Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa in August 2015. This organization is an Africa-wide Honour Society of Nursing that recognizes nursing excellence and which promotes health and advances nurses and nursing, specifically on the African continent. These graduates were also nominated to be inducted as nurse leaders into the Honour Society during an induction ceremony, which took place on 12 August in Johannesburg.

Simultaneous training in leadership, educational theory and pedagogy, have equipped the graduates with the necessary knowledge and skills to continue with the Doctoral programme into the future. While not all will follow a career in academia others will take on clinical leadership roles in particular to assist with the roll-out of mobile health services in Maputo, as part of NEPAD's resource mobilization strategy.

This Project is a response to a declaration made by the Heads of State and Government of the Africa Union (2010) that,

“We, the Heads of state and Government of the African Union, meeting at our Fifteenth Ordinary Session in Kampala, Republic of Uganda, from 25 to 27 July 2010, following our debate on “Promoting Maternal, Infant and Child Health and Development in Africa”... and remaining deeply concerned that Africa still has a disproportionately high level of maternal, newborn and child morbidity and mortality due largely to preventable causes... thus we re-dedicate ourselves and commit our countries to accelerate efforts to improve the state of health of Africa's women and children... (Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XI)).”

Upcoming events

25 – 27 September 2015: NEPAD at the 2015 UN Summit on the Sustainable Development Goals, New York, United States

5 – 9 October 2015: Inaugural Conference of the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment, Addis Ababa , Ethiopia

12 – 16 October 2015: Africa Week at the UN General Assembly, New York, United States

22 – 23 October 2015: Africa Global Partnership Platform Inauguration Meeting, Dakar, Senegal

28 – 30 October 2015: 6th Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security, Kampala, Uganda

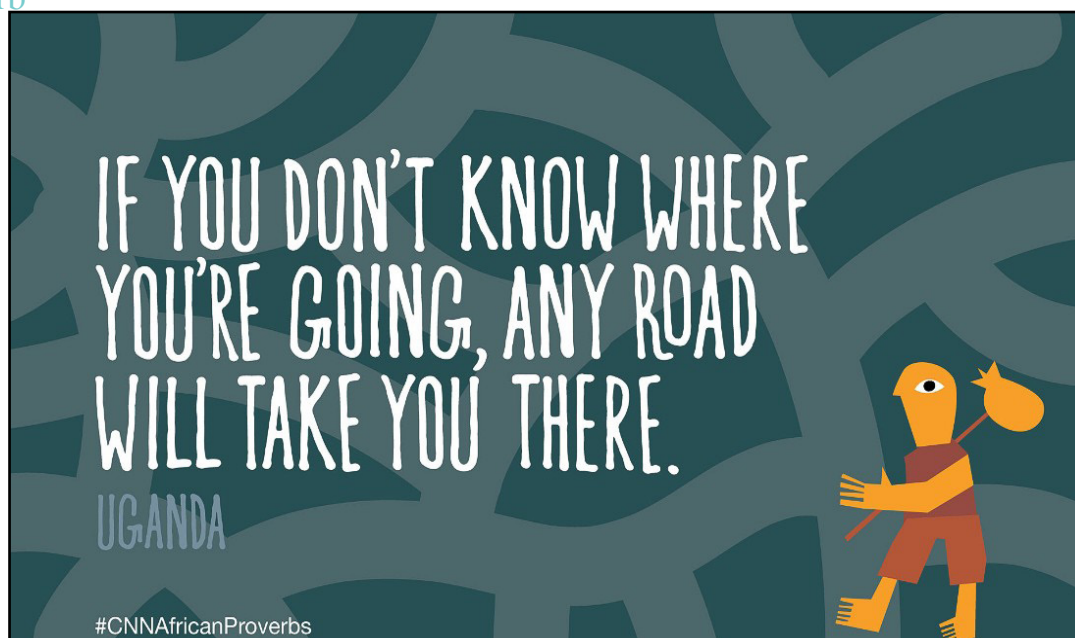
30 November – 11 December 2015: 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21), Paris, France

30 November – 1 December 2015: Second Biennial Scientific Conference on Medicines Regulations in Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

2 – 4 December 2015: Fourth African Medicines Regulators Conference, Addis Ababa , Ethiopia

See also online at: www.nepad.org/events

Proverb



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