



NEPAD NEWS

A monthly publication of the New Partnership for Africa's Development Agency

September 2016

Youth unemployment at the forefront of NEPAD's 2nd Africa Rural Development Forum

Yaounde - The 2nd Africa Rural Development Forum started on a high note in Yaounde, Cameroon, with experts agreeing that there is a need to come up with an implementable strategy to transform rural areas into the 'new emerging rural world.'

According to the forum, youth and women employment and empowerment will characterise this new emerging rural world. The strategy for achieving this will include catalysing the food and agriculture system; stimulating growth of rural non-farm economies, building and sustaining the rural human capital base; building institutions for rural transformation and ensuring political will as the over-riding mover of rural transformation in Africa.

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Cameroon, H.E Philemon Yang spoke on the role that the youth play as the main lever of economic development.

"Our country counts on agriculture and development of rural areas to reach emergence status by 2035. The NEPAD Agency's work and position confirms these two major options of our national development strategy," he said.

"It is increasingly clear, that advancing rural transformation, is not pity or charity to rural populations. It is a critical and integral success factor for Africa's sustainable economic growth and inclusive development agenda. Attaining Africa's aspirations and goals, to a large extent depends on the change (transformation) in Africa's rural areas – both in location and people terms," said Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, NEPAD Agency CEO *-continues on page 2*



Prime Minister of the Republic of Cameroon, H.E. Philemon Yang delivering his opening remarks

www.nepad.org

"My core message is not to state the obvious, that 'rural transformation is important and a priority for Africa.' We've known this for decades. The focus is on how do we make it happen?"

- Dr Ibrahim Mayaki

In this Issue

- Zero Hunger in Africa by 2025 is possible
- Youth Employment and Skills Development in Africa
- Africa - the Fire Continent: Fire in the Contemporary African Landscapes
- A World without Malnutrition by 2030
- Pension and Sovereign Wealth Fund Capital Mobilisation for PIDA Projects
- Africa prepares for the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation 2nd High-level meeting
- AUC and NEPAD develop joint work plan on Health
- Regional Internet Exchange Point launched in South Africa
- Informing Future Interventions for Scaling-up Sustainable Land Management through Information and Knowledge

“My core message therefore is not to state the obvious that “rural transformation is important and a priority for Africa”. We’ve known this for decades. The focus of my remarks is on “how do we make it happen” he said.

The Forum also hosted the launch of the 2nd edition of the Atlas of Rural Development in Africa. Officially launched by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Cameroon and the NEPAD Agency CEO during the opening ceremony, the Atlas provides a reference on the state of transformation in rural areas and will help monitor the change over time. It also identifies the trends on “New emerging rurality perspectives on Africa rural transformations.”

Quoting an aspiration from the Agenda 2063 vision for Africa, the NEPAD Director for Programme implementation and Coordination, Mrs Estherine Lisinge-Fotabong said, “We aspire that, youth unemployment will be eliminated, and Africa’s youth guaranteed full access to education, training, skills and technology, to health services, jobs and economic opportunities, recreational and cultural activities as well as to financial means to allow them to realise their full potential.”

She underscored that rural transformation succeeds only when driven by the entire economy and strong public policy intervention meaning there is need to: expand domestic markets; create backward and forward linkages within and between rural and urban sector; and pursue a multi-sector approach to rural transformation.

The AU/NEPAD Rural Futures strategy and agenda for Africa focuses on this crucial issue of employment, it is about driving every nation and the continent towards full employment in both rural and urban areas.

The Forum brought together Member States representatives at various levels including Ministers, experts, civil society including youth and private sector, development partners and local authorities who in the end agreed that “Jobs in rural areas and the dynamism of African youths leapfrogs the development and transformation of the continent.”



Yaounde Declaration and Plan of Action

Yaounde Declaration and Plan of Action

1- The 2nd *Africa Rural Development Forum (ARDF)*, held under the theme: *Transforming Africa’s Rural Area through Skills Development, Job Creation and Youth Economic Empowerment for Africa* by the NEPAD Agency and hosted by the the Government of Cameroon sought to build on the outcomes of the 1st ARDF.

2- The main outcome of the 1st ARDF was the adoption of the “*Cotonou*

Declaration on Rural Futures” to support the structural transformation of the continent in order to promote inclusive growth and empowerment of rural areas through people-centered development.

- 3- Within the context of the Cotonou Declaration action points **A Blueprint to Implement Rural Development Policies In Africa** was developed and subsequently Endorsed at the 2nd Africa Rural Development Forum as a vehicle for advancing rural transformation across Africa and accelerating pace towards the visions of the African Union’s Agenda 2063.
- 4- The Blueprint will support member states and regional players towards an integrated, cross-sectorial, and coherent set of actions based on local realities, priorities and a shared African vision and narrative.
- 5- The Second Edition of the Atlas was launched under the theme “*A new Emerging Rural World: An Overview of rural Change in Africa*” providing information and analysis on cross-sectorial factors and dynamics to inform public policy debates and decisions on rural transformation.
- 6- Among the key thematic issues the Forum highlighted:
 - a. Youth Economic Empowerment and skills Development
 - b. Rural Development – Policies and Institutions
 - c. Rural Infrastructure and ICT
 - d. Green Economy and job creation in advancing Rural Development in Africa
- 7- The Forum adopted the overarching strategy for rural transformation to include:
 - a. Rural transformation has to be driven by the whole economy as overarching approach to graduating from the structural limits of dualism
 - b. Growing the domestic market base through land and agrarian reforms and agriculture-led rural industrialization
 - c. The role of the State is crucial especially in policy reforms and legislation that reforms the public expenditure architecture towards rural transformation investment priorities.

Plan of Action

1. Operationalise the Blueprint including adoption by Heads of State and implementation by member states
2. Establish a support network for expanded use of the Atlas across all regions
3. Examine and consider support to strengthen local capacity for generating quality data on rural development
4. Consolidate the following recommendations:
 - Support member states to internalise territorial planning, multi-sectoralism and placed-based policies in national development strategies
 - Recognising that public finance and support is critical for handholding of young entrepreneurs including smart subsidies, government should promulgate policy interventions that leverage private investment into youth’s businesses
 - Promote youth empowerment (education, skills and knowledge and access to land and other factors of production) as critical ingredients of success by youth as entrepreneurs
 - The green economy presents an enormous potential and opportunity for accelerated job creation and skills development. Therefore research and development aimed at connecting the youth to job creation opportunities on the green economy should be accelerated;
 - African Governments should make a conscious effort to provide public sector financing support to green economy initiatives whilst at the same time building internal capacity to access global financial resources dedicated to environment, climate change and related areas including the Green Climate Fund.
 - Equal emphasis must be put on Formal and Non-Formal skills development (vocational and technical education), to create opportunity in the informal sectors of the economy.
 - Build on the comparative advantage of youth by investing in hard and soft rural infrastructure, including ICT to build the capacity of youth to leverage on the rural-urban nexus
 - Support the integration of decent work indicators on youth employment programmes across Africa
5. Develop an Implementation and Performance Management Framework for the Yaounde Declaration and Plan of Action, and generate evidence-based indicators of the envisioned rural transformation based on mapping and



Food security and the trajectory of economic growth need to be balanced with nutrition sensitive agriculture

Zero Hunger in Africa by 2025 is possible

Pretoria – Nearly one in five people is hungry. Even though hunger has decreased steadily since the mid-1990s, due to population growth, however, it has actually increased in absolute numbers. In addition, net food imports since the early 1990s have grown to about 14 percent of the total demand.

Speaking at the launch of the ***Zero hunger in Africa by 2025: conditions for success report***, at the Institute for Security Studies in Pretoria, South Africa, Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, the NEPAD Agency's CEO, stated that one of the goals set in the 2014 Malabo Declaration through the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), is ending hunger in Africa by 2025.

He emphasised that success in Africa will therefore be through regional integration, be it in ending hunger, agriculture or infrastructure.

The NEPAD Agency and the Pardee Center for International Futures launched the report that helps to put in perspective the magnitude of the task 'to zero hunger by 2025,' while highlighting the major levers in policies, investments, technologies as well as human and institutional capacities necessary to sustain desired levels of supply and demand-access to food.

"We cannot continue doing business as we are doing it today, since growth in Africa has not been inclusive enough. We need improved capacity to implement various interventions to do things differently if we are to deliver on Africa's Agenda 2063 and the goal of eliminating hunger by 2025," Dr Mayaki said.

Dr Lindiwe Sibanda, CEO of the the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN), noted that hunger affects women and children disproportionately, while women are the backbone of agriculture in Africa.

"The face of hunger in Africa is that 32 percent of under-5 children are stunted - the numbers have stagnated instead of going down. If the cognitive capacity of children in Africa is reduced for life, who are the future leaders for the continent? Agriculture needs to be more nutrition sensitive. Hidden hunger challenges are therefore critical and need to be addressed," Dr Sibanda said.

Speaking at the same event, Lynette Chen, CEO of the NEPAD Business Foundation also maintained that food security and the trajectory of economic growth need to be balanced with nutrition sensitive agriculture.

During the launch of the report on ending hunger in Africa, it was recognised that while the goal of eliminating hunger by 2025 might be very ambitious, it is not impossible. Steve Hedden, Research System Developer from Pardee Center maintained that how we define hunger will dictate how we get there and how we reach our targets.

Senior Advisor on Programme Development to the CEO at NEPAD, Martin Bwalya, gave a presentation on the report that brings out the conditions that have to be met in order for Africa to realise this goal. He reported that overall, the food available needs to be increased by 437 million metric tons by 2025 or 47 percent of current demand. To do this requires cropland to increase by 1.5 percent; crop yields need to increase by 3.2 percent, and livestock head size needs to increase by 5.8 percent year.

In order for Africa to attain its goal by 2025, a wide range of actions by different actors to bring about the necessary substantial change in the dynamics of demand and supply is requisite:

- On the supply side is productivity and production – expansion of cropland, yield increase, livestock heads and reduction of post-harvest losses.
- On the demand side is increasing access – incomes, consumer subsidies, prices, school feeding programmes, support to under-5 children and mothers, including pregnant women.

It was concluded that any efforts to eliminate hunger will have to factor in robust risk assessments, including climate change.



Youth Employment and Skills Development in Africa

New York – Africa faces the ‘triple challenge’ of inequality, poverty and unemployment. A significant engagement of Africa’s population in decent employment has the potential to address inequality and poverty on the continent. The stark reality is that there exist a large and growing unemployment population on the continent, of which youths are mostly affected. Half of Africa’s population of 1.1 billion people are below the age of 25 years, with this number expected to double to 2.4 billion people by 2050.

One of the NEPAD Agency’s programmatic interventions is to address issues of economic marginalisation and social exclusion of youths, by facilitating the creation of economic opportunities and decent employment. This intervention aims to ensure that the youths realise their potential, and contribute to the achievement of a prosperous continent.

Given the critical nature of youth employment in Africa, the NEPAD Agency organised a high level forum on *Youth Employment and Skills Development*, with partners, on 20 September, on the margins of the 71st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), at the UN Headquarters in New York. The purpose of the event was to engage, discuss and listen to experiences from various players and stakeholders on how issues of leadership, policies and investments, can create opportunities for job creation and employment for the youths in their home countries.

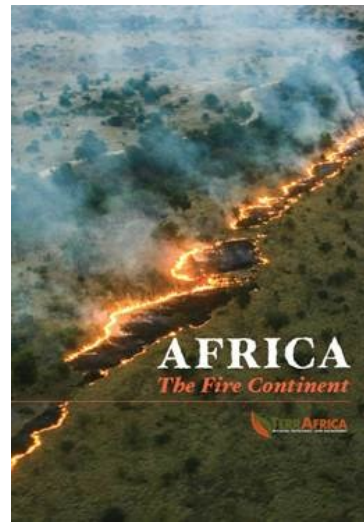
The meeting was opened by the NEPAD Agency’s CEO, Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, who declared that the major challenge which Africa faces is joblessness. Dr Mayaki made reference to a 16 year old Boko Haram former fighter, who revealed that he earned three dollars a day, while under the control of the Boko Haram. Dr Mayaki stressed that given that these fighters come from disadvantaged communities, it is worrying to imagine how many potential Boko Haram dissidents could spring up across the continent in future. “Therefore,” according to Dr Mayaki, “Policy makers need to come up with concrete actions to deal with youth unemployment within the next decade.”

In order to effectively create jobs and empower youths, one of the key messages at the meeting was that this endeavour calls for shared responsibility amongst all parties concerned, be it the public sector, private sector, training institutions, the youths themselves and development partners. The meeting participants also noted that entrepreneurship is one avenue to create employment opportunities. However, job deficits in African countries are still huge, especially with the very difficult transition from school to work, as well as gender biases. There should be democratisation of opportunities, without leaving the young women job seekers and entrepreneurs behind.

Mrs Estherine Fotabong, the Director of Programmes at the NEPAD Agency, highlighted some areas of work that the NEPAD Agency is collaborating with partners, to rally increased political attention and action, catalyse policy alignment and attract increased investment financing in pursuit of structural transformation, especially through job creation for youths. One such initiative is the Skills Initiative for Africa. This initiative aims to create a positive outlook and future for African youths, through increased employment and income opportunities.

It was also noted that the relationship between jobs, peace and security cannot be divorced from lack of livelihood opportunities for African youths. An increase in the number of decent jobs in African counties is likely to translate into more peace and security on the continent.

The meeting brought together a number of high profile panellists, champions and practitioners from both public and private institutions across the globe. Amongst them were Prof Bartholomew Armah, Chief of Planning at UNECA; Mr Alberic Kacou, Vice President of the African Development Bank; Ms Parminder Vir, CEO of Tony Elumelu Foundation; Mr Pali Lehohla, Statistician-General in South Africa, and; Ms Azita Berar Awad, Director of ILO Employment Policy. Also in attendance were youths, youth based organisations and members of the diaspora.



Science tells us that many plant species and ecosystems in Africa benefit from fire and indeed need it to remain healthy

Africa - the Fire Continent: Fire in the Contemporary African Landscapes

Back in August during the Third Africa Drylands Week and Drought Conference held in Namibia, TerrAfrica Partnership under NEPAD’s Sustainable Land Management Programme launched a short documentary-film titled “Africa, the Fire Continent and this week launches the full report “*Africa – the Fire Continent: Fire in Contemporary African Landscapes.*”

Science tells us that many plant species and ecosystems in Africa benefit from fire and indeed need it to remain healthy. Traditional farmers recognise this and have for centuries frequently burnt grasslands to stimulate and maintain their grazing potential. However, in the last 150 years, people have changed the fire cycle. They have often increased or decreased both the intensity and frequency of fires in different ecosystems.

With increased development comes the chance of out of control fires damaging property. More recently as a response to climate change, with the desire to build up carbon stocks, there has been a tendency to count the loss of biomass due to fire as a negative. Yet, at the same time, especially in southern Africa we also see a return to using fire as an important landscape management and restoration tool.

This report is aimed at provoking discussions on these issues and reminding us that the right fire management regime is an important element in maintaining the health of different ecosystems. We see this as the start of an important debate on how fire should be used to restore and maintain healthy ecosystems, promote agriculture, and build up carbon stocks to address climate change, while reducing the risks to life and property.

The report *Africa – the Fire Continent: Fire in Contemporary African Landscapes* was prepared by a team of African experts under the TerrAfrica partnership, together with the World Bank Group.

To read the full report visit <http://terrafrica.org/africa-the-fire-continent-fire-in-contemporary-african-landscapes>



Panellists at the inaugural meeting of the 2016 - 2018 of the SUN Lead Group during the 71st UNGA in New York

Dr Mayaki underscores the need for countries to tackle nutrition issues at a multi-sectoral level and at the same time create necessary synergies between policies with sound leadership that have hands-on implementation capabilities, and for that leadership to be accountable for priority nutrition indicators.

A World without Malnutrition by 2030

New York - A call was made to strengthen capacities to continuously improve country planning and implementation to end malnutrition by Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Lead Group head Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD Agency, at the inaugural meeting of the 2016 - 2018 of the SUN Lead Group. The meeting was held along the margins of the 71st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York City on 21 September.

Dr Mayaki emphasised the need for countries to tackle nutrition issues at a multi-sectoral level and at the same time create necessary synergies between policies with sound leadership that have hands-on implementation capabilities, and for that leadership to be accountable for priority nutrition indicators.

The inaugural meeting provided the first opportunity for Lead Group members to meet and identify the priority actions that they will undertake to further the objectives of the SUN Movement. Following the welcome remarks by the chair of the Sun Movement Lead Group, Mr Anthony Lake, Ms Gerda Verburg, the new SUN Coordinator presented an overview of the SUN Movement Strategy and Roadmap 2016-2020 in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The SUN Movement Strategy and Roadmap (2016-2020), is a product of a consultative process that spanned 57 countries, multiple United Nations and donor agencies, along with hundreds of international and national non-government organisations and businesses. It outlines the SUN Movement's second phase and is focused on translating momentum into results for people who suffer due to malnutrition everywhere. Moreover, it presents a practical vision of how countries can all work together, toward the vision of a world without malnutrition by 2030.

In a statement received from the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon, he maintains that, "This strategy and its accompanying

roadmap underscores that there are few challenges facing the global community today that match the scale of malnutrition, a condition that directly affects one in three people. There has been progress but much more needs to be done."

At the meeting, H.E Jakaya Kikwete, former president of the United Republic of Tanzania pointed out that creating a Food and Nutrition Security multi-sectoral platform in Tanzania was one the fundamental approaches to combat malnutrition and is coordinated under the Office of the Prime Minister.

The SUN Movement's strategic objectives related to the theme of the meeting to:

- Expand and sustain an enabling political environment;
- Prioritise and institutionalise effective actions that contribute to good nutrition;
- Implement effective actions aligned with Common Results; and
- Effectively use, and significantly increase, financial resources for nutrition.

Outcomes relating to strengthened capabilities for 'multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration' will see all SUN countries by 2020:

- Having multi-stakeholder partnerships for coordination at national levels;
- Having all key stakeholders, including communities, making measurable contributions to scaling up nutrition;
- Having aligned policy, legislation and regulations, in support of nutrition;
- Adopting an approach to prevent and manage conflicts of interest as they emerge; and
- Ensuring consistent and sufficient investment in capacity strengthening by governments and partners.

It was concluded that by 2030, a world free from malnutrition in all its forms is possible. Led by governments, supported by organisations and individuals, collective action will ensure every child, adolescent mother and family can realise their right to food and nutrition, thereby reaching their full potential and shape sustainable and prosperous societies.



Mr Symerre Grey-Johnson, Head of NEPAD's Regional Integration, Infrastructure and Trade Programme, presenting on CBN-PIDA in New York during a dialogue on Pension and Sovereign Wealth Fund Capital Mobilisation

“Africans need to invest in Africa itself and believe in the potential internal investment, as that is where the actual returns are coming from,” Dr Carlos Lopez, Executive Secretary of UNECA

Pension and Sovereign Wealth Fund Capital Mobilisation for PIDA Projects

New York - The NEPAD Agency's Continental Business Network (CBN) in partnership with the African Development Bank, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and Africa investor (Ai) held a breakfast dialogue, on *Pension and Sovereign Wealth Fund Capital Mobilisation for the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) Projects* at NASDAQ Exchange in New York.

PIDA promotes regional economic integration by building mutually beneficial infrastructure and strengthening the ability of countries to trade and establish regional value chains for increased competitiveness. PIDA programmes and projects are expected to lead to an integrated continent, fuelling international trade, job creation and sustainable economic growth.

The dialogue in New York follows the successful CBN high-level Leader's Dialogue hosted in May 2016 on the sidelines of the African Development Bank Annual Meetings in Lusaka, Zambia, which examined the role of the private sector in de-risking PIDA projects. It paved the way for the subsequent launch of a "De-risking of PIDA Projects Report."

The dialogue built on one of the recommendations emanating from the De-Risking Report - the need to mobilize Africa's institutional infrastructure investment community, including African pension and sovereign wealth fund capital, as the key to meeting the financing gap that is currently hindering Africa's infrastructure development as well as its economic and social progress. This CBN high-level panel convened leaders to discuss practical initiatives and opportunities to mobilize institutional asset owners to invest in African infrastructure.

The NEPAD Agency's CEO, Dr Mayaki, gave a keynote address at the event and spoke on NEPAD's commitment to working with the private sector through the CBN on domestic and regional infrastructure, trade-enabling infrastructure investment and the importance of deepening engagement with African asset owners and global institutional investors.

Hon Jeff Radebe, Minister in the Presidency: Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, in South Africa, provided an overview of South Africa's on-going efforts and work in respect of the African Union's **Presidential Infrastructure Championing Initiative**.

Minister Radebe said, "The time is ripe for African pension and sovereign wealth funds to become increasingly significant investors in public and private markets both on the continent and beyond. This potentially transformative development will attract global interest and bring into play global institutional investors, perhaps as partners to our continental investors."

During the dialogue, Mrs Fatima Haram Acyl, Commissioner for Trade and Industry at the African Union Commission, spoke on the Continental Free Trade Area and the expanded opportunities and economies of scale offered by this increased and consolidated market for long-term investors in trade-enabling infrastructure investment in Africa and how the CBN operates as the platform through which the private sector can access these opportunities.

Dr Carlos Lopes, Executive Secretary of UNECA stressed on the need for Africans to invest in Africa itself and believe in the potential internal investment as that is where the actual returns are coming from.

Also at the same event, Mr Symerre Grey-Johnson, Head of NEPAD's Regional Integration, Infrastructure and Trade Programme, presented the progress of CBN-PIDA initiatives and projects. He highlighted the 2017 priority areas and made emphasis on the upcoming NEPAD **Renewable Energy Initiative** that will focus on driving the continent's renewable energy projects towards bankability and implementation.

The meeting also saw participants deliberate on innovative co-investment models needed to drive investment, sustain growth and mitigate risk. During this session, sovereign wealth fund leaders discussed and assessed domestic and regional investment opportunities, including investment laws, governance and portfolio and political risk considerations to optimise infrastructure investments and allocations. This session explored potential funding of the 16 PIDA projects (such as lending, soft loans and grants) and strategic ways to mobilise sovereign wealth and pension fund capital.

Africa prepares for the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation 2nd High-level meeting

Addis Ababa - The Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC) emerged from an agreement reached at a forum in the Republic of Korea in 2011. At the Forum, development stakeholders agreed to “hold each other accountable for making progress against the commitments and actions agreed on effective development co-operation.” Following the first High-Level Meeting for the GPEDC in Mexico in 2014, the second High-Level Meeting will be held in Nairobi, Kenya towards the end of 2016.

In preparation for the Second High-Level Meeting, the NEPAD Agency, the African Union Commission and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Service Centre for Africa hosted the Africa Regional Workshop on the GPEDC *Post-Monitoring Results and Preparations* on 14-16 September 2016, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The consultation in Addis Ababa provided a platform for collective continental input to the Draft Nairobi Outcome Document with input from the 2015 *GPEDC Monitoring Results*.

Mrs Florence Nazare, who heads up NEPAD’s Capacity Development Division welcomed delegates on behalf of the CEO of the NEPAD Agency, Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, from over 40 African countries representing governments, regional economic communities, civil society, parliamentarians, academia and the private sector.



From left to right: Mrs Florence Nazare, Dr Anthony Mothae Maruping, Mr Richard Ssewakiryanga



Delegates at the meeting in Addis Ababa

Mrs Nazare noted the critical requirement for GPEDC to effectively contribute to the implementation of the NEPAD Agenda, African Union Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda. The engagement is the final African regional consultation towards formulating Africa’s common position, consensus and political messages on development effectiveness priorities to the High-Level Meeting in November 2016. It draws on national, regional and continental development plans. The Second HighLevel Meeting aims to amplify the positive impact of development co-operation over the next 15 years.

The AUC Commissioner for Economic Affairs, Dr Anthony Mothae Maruping highlighted the important role of the three tier approach (national, regional and continental levels), in attaining Africa’s socio-economic transformation of which development cooperation is a key player. He reiterated that Africa’s emerging status as a growth pole means partners should channel more resources to support country and regional productive sectors for impact and sustainability.

Delegates at the meeting agreed on the need for the commitments in the Nairobi Outcomes Document to prioritise the principle that development cooperation plays a catalytic role in advancing national and regional development priorities. This, the delegates concluded, should be the core of Africa’s common position and consensus to the Second High-Level Meeting towards attaining a continent-relevant Outcomes Document. Based on inclusive global consultations, the Nairobi Outcomes Document will shape how existing and new development actors can partner to implement Agenda 2030 and realise the Sustainable Development Goals.



Participants at the joint meeting of the AUC and the NEPAD Agency

The collaborative work between AUC-DSA and NEPAD Agency during the past six years has been very visible and the two organisations have to continue on this path

AUC and NEPAD develop joint work plan on Health

Johannesburg – The NEPAD Agency and the African Union Commission’s (AUC) Department of Social Affairs (DSA) have developed a detailed joint work plan to guide their collaborative work on health-related issues on the African continent covering the 2016-2017 period. During the meeting, a review of the previous 2015/16 work plan was done, and proposals for potential areas for accelerating collaborative health activities for the coming period identified and aggregated.

The joint meeting, which took place at NEPAD Agency headquarters, from 6-7 September 2016 was attended by senior officials from both organisations. The AUC-DSA delegation was led by the Director of Social Affairs, Ambassador Dr Olawale Maiyegun, while the NEPAD Agency delegation was led by Prof Aggrey Ambali, Head of Science, Technology and Innovation Hub (NSTIH).

Ambassador Maiyegun said that the NEPAD Agency has a significant role to play in health on the African continent and that there is a need to find common areas of collaboration to include the Agency as part of the Africa Centre for Disease Control (CDC) as this will help to pull resources together.

“I am proud of the joint AUC/NEPAD activities particularly in health over the past six years and would like to see this collaboration continue and scaled up,” Ambassador Maiyegun said.

The Ambassador also said that the AUC-DSA and the NEPAD Agency must be vigilant and be prepared to work together to move to the next level by participating in the on-going negotiations in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the Continental Free Trade (CFT). This platform is crucial and can be used to leverage the medicines agenda and include medical products on CFT agenda.

Prof Ambali thanked the DSA for showing their commitment by being part of this important annual joint meeting. He said that the NEPAD Agency has given health the prominence it deserves by creating a head of health position that has been occupied by the newly-appointed former Pharmaceutical coordinator, Ms Margareth Ndomondo-Sigonda.

“Dr Ibrahim Mayaki is very serious about health and social affairs, and appreciates the mutual respect of the partnership that exists between AUC-DSA and NEPAD Agency,” Prof Ambali stressed.

Prof Ambali emphasised that the collaborative work between AUC-DSA and NEPAD Agency during the past six years has been very visible and the two organisations have to continue on this path. The development of the annual joint work plan shall provide the much-needed direction on collaborative works on health in the coming one year.



Launch of the Johannesburg Internet Exchange by H.E Dr Elham Ibrahim, African Union Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy and Dr Siyabonga Cwele, Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services of South Africa

“Regional and continental infrastructure is key to economic integration of the continent. Regional initiatives contribute to the integration of the fifty-four member states of the African Union into one strong, robust, diversified and resilient economy,” Dr Elham Ibrahim, African Union Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy at the launch of the Johannesburg Internet Exchange

exchange points of Africa are hosted in the countries that colonised them,” Dr Cwele said.

Through the African Internet eXchange System (AXIS) Project, (part of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) the core of which is implemented by the NEPAD Agency), countries with internet exchange points have increased from 18 to 32. AXIS is implemented by the African Union Commission guided by a steering committee comprised of officials from the NEPAD Agency and the Regional Economic Communities.

“Africa has been paying overseas carriers to exchange intra-continental traffic on our behalf. This is both costly as well as inefficient. With regional IXPs in Africa exchanging intra-regional traffic locally, this will reduce the latency and save costs by eliminating the international transit through overseas carriers, said Dr Elham Ibrahim, AU Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy.

The AUC has further provided grants to eight internet exchange points to be supported to become regional internet exchange points. The African Union grant is supporting the Johannesburg Internet Exchange (JINX), to set up multi-locations to facilitate its expansion to become a regional internet exchange.

Dr Ibrahim also stressed that, “Regional and continental infrastructure is key to economic integration of the continent. Such regional initiatives contribute to the integration of the 54 member states of the African Union into one strong, robust, diversified and resilient economy.”

Regional Internet Exchange Point launched in South Africa

Johannesburg – With the support of the African Union and in line with the goal of keeping intra-regional internet traffic within the region, the Johannesburg Internet Exchange point (JINX) was on September 20th, 2016 launched as a regional exchange point.

The event was officiated by Dr Siyabonga Cwele, Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services of South Africa and H.E Dr Elham Ibrahim, African Union Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy. The NEPAD Agency attended the event alongside leaders in the ICT Industry as well as students as representatives of the future internet generation.

“Today marks another continental milestone of the journey towards self-emancipation,” proclaimed Dr Siyabonga Cwele, Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services of South Africa.

“The launch of the SADC Internet Exchange Point, supported by the African Union, means that we are investing in modern communications infrastructure on the continent. Consumers will benefit because the regional internet exchange means that citizens will have better user experiences. It should lead to faster downloading times because the information will be circulating within the region. This should ultimately contribute in lowering the cost of connecting to the internet. As it stands now, internet



Restoration efforts of degraded land in Mbabane

Informing Future Interventions for Scaling-up Sustainable Land Management through Information and Knowledge

Mbabane - Improved land management strategies and technologies being used across Africa are helping protect the environment, boost agricultural productivity, strengthen livelihoods and enhance food security. Their simple application helps to reverse land degradation, which in turn improves agricultural production and subsequently improve livelihoods of communities inhabiting dryland ecosystems.

The NEPAD Agency, in collaboration with the Global Environment Fund (GEF) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) organized a Regional Economic Communities (RECs) Workshop on Sustainable Land Management and Landscape Approaches: From Collecting Data and Information to Generating and Managing Knowledge, from 13-16 September 2016, in Mbabane, Swaziland.

On behalf of the CEO of NEPAD, Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, the Team Leader of the Sustainable Land and Water Management, Mr Mamadou Diakhite welcomed the participants to the workshop. He maintained that land represents a driving force for transformation and development, he also noted that the workshop was timely and critical to ensure data collection to generate and manage knowledge in sustainable land management to be able to harness the precious resource that land represents for countries as well as for the continent.

The workshop was also designed to increase understanding of regional Knowledge Management while focusing on effectively

collecting, analysing, managing and accessing valid SLM and landscapes data and information in Africa and identifying opportunities for mainstreaming landscapes and SLM knowledge across the continent and within TerrAfrica and other relevant programmes.

The RECs represented were ECCAS, ECOWAS, SADC by Swaziland and the meeting was also attended by key technical partners, research institutes and civil society.

The RECs representatives all highlighted the critical need to prioritise the development of data collection for the RECs to help ensure an efficient sustainable land and water management. This will also help build capacities through demonstrating best practices and practical tools, with a specific objective of generating and initiating a report on the state of land degradation and restoration in the continent to face desertification, deforestation and climate change in the implementing countries. Technical partners contributing to this activity included: the CILSS (Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, Observatory for the Sahel and Sahara (OSS), African Center for Statistics of UNECA, International Water Management Institute (IMWI) and the *Institut pour le Developpement et pour la Recherche* (IRD).

In order give participants exposure to experience on the ground of Sustainable Land Management and Landscapes approaches at country level, the workshop concluded with a field visit to two model sites of agriculture in Swaziland. Restoration efforts by communities on the ground showed that restoring degraded land can improve livelihoods. To this end, the NEPAD Agency donated a 5000 litre water tank and 200 meters of fence to two communities toward their restoration projects.



Upcoming Events

10 to 14 Oct 2016: Africa Week, New York, USA

11 to 13 Oct 2016: 2nd Africa Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance - Annual Forum, Nairobi, Kenya

26 - 28 Oct 2016: 7th Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security, Accra, Ghana

27 Oct 2016: Launch of the NEPAD Renewable Energy Initiative, Accra, Ghana

7-18 Nov 2016: 22nd Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP22), Marrakesh, Morocco

14 - 18 Nov 2016: PIDA Week, Abidjan, Ivory Coast

30 Nov - 1 Dec 2016: 2nd High Level Meeting of the Global Partnership on Effective Development Cooperation, Nairobi, Kenya

See also: www.nepad.org/events

Contact Us

The NEPAD Communications Unit

Tel: +27 (0) 11 256 3600

Email: info@nepad.org

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/nepad.page

Twitter: www.twitter.com/nepad_agency

www.nepad.org

Proverb

“He who throws rubbish along the way, will be met by a horde of flies upon his return”

Meaning: You must be ready to take responsibility for your actions



Copyright © NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA): All material published in the NEPAD Newsletter is copyright and is the exclusive property of the NEPAD Agency. No part of the material may be quoted, photocopied or reproduced without prior permission from the NEPAD Agency, 230 15th Road, Randjespark, Midrand, South Africa

