

NEPAD NEWS

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MoveAfrica: Moving goods and facilitating trade

Midrand - "In order for transport corridors and One Stop Border Posts to work efficiently, we need to get the full picture that includes the critical role of leadership as well as political will," Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, the NEPAD Agency's CEO stated in his opening remarks at the first MoveAfrica stakeholder meeting convened at the NEPAD Agency in Midrand, South Africa.

Dr Mayaki elucidated the critical role for public policy to take a bottom-up approach, pointing out that public policy needs to be more inclusive in its design in order for governments to be accountable. Moreover, it is only through a shared vision with open policy space, coupled with institutional capacities that work and strong coordination that will bring about real integration in Africa.

"This is the foundation upon which the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa [PIDA] prioritises continental programmes to help address the infrastructure deficit that severely hampers Africa's competitiveness in the global market," Dr Mayaki said.

The MoveAfrica Initiative drives the transportation and logistics pillar of the Continental Business Network (CBN). The NEPAD Agency established the CBN as an African Union Heads of State and Government response to facilitate private sector advice and leadership in essential continent-wide infrastructure projects. As elaborated by Mr Symerre Grey-Johnson, Head of Regional Integration, Infrastructure and Trade at the NEPAD Agency, MoveAfrica essentially focuses on improving logistics and trade across the continent.

The two-day meeting, held between 2-3 November, saw extensive deliberations on key issues which require intervention in the MoveAfrica Initiative. The meeting focused on:

- The MoveAfrica launch, including partner and stakeholder commitments, as well as creating awareness on what is being done in the transport and logistics sector and collaboration among various players within the framework of this initiative.

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"It is only through a shared vision with open policy space, coupled with institutional capacities that work and strong coordination that will bring about real integration in Africa."

- Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki

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Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD Agency giving the opening remarks at the MoveAfrica meeting

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- The role of the NEPAD Agency in scaling up regional integration and trade, and the complementarities between PIDA and its role in two initiatives; the Boosting Intra Africa Trade initiative and the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa initiative.
- The proposed Traffic Light System, a multimodal system which will assess, on the one hand, the performance of the One Stop Border Posts for road transport, while on the other looking at rail, air and sea transport.

Public partner contributions were received from: Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA); Department for International Development (DfID); Development Bank of Southern Africa; African Development Bank (AfDB); African Import and Export Bank (Afrexim Bank); Transnet; International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), and; the Walvis Bay Corridor Group.

Contributions were also received from private partners that included Ford Motor Corporation and Barclays. The meeting participants also reflected on bankable projects, during which Mr Shawn Maphalla, Public Sector Specialist at Barclays, maintained that the private sector values strategic partnerships because of the sharing of risk, as well as deriving long-term stability and impact.

Mr Grey-Johnson reiterated that the role of banks in the MoveAfrica Initiative is twofold: Firstly, they play a major role in financing of infrastructure projects and secondly, they also have a crucial role in the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises along transport corridors.

Partners reaffirmed their commitments based on prior discussions with the MoveAfrica team on how they will support the Traffic Light System.

The meeting concluded by charting the way forward with regards:

- Operationalising of the Traffic Light System which will entail a kick-start of the One Stop Border Posts, the selection of priority countries as well as the opening up of intermodal corridors.
- Resource mobilisation for operationalisation of MoveAfrica, which will include political buy-in from high-level African leadership, using the Traffic Light System as a flagship programme for branding and advocacy.

The MoveAfrica work plan will be rolled out in January 2017.



Mr Symerre Grey-Johnson, Head of NEPAD's Regional Integration, Infrastructure and Trade Programme, giving the closing remarks at the MoveAfrica meeting

In 2001, the Marrakesh Accords paved the way for the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), which was designed to provide technological and financial support to help developing countries offset the impacts of climate change. Fifteen years later, Marrakesh again sets the stage for Africa to advocate an ambitious climate plan by hosting COP22 (held from 7 - 18 November).

Given its small contribution to global warming, the issue of adaptation remains the continent's number-one priority. The effects of global warming are tangible and could have devastating consequences for Africa. In some countries, yields from rain-fed agriculture could be reduced by up to 50 percent by 2020. By 2020, some assessments project that 75-250 million people are estimated to be exposed to increased water stress. We have reached a point where postponing action could eradicate the economic advances made by a significant number of African countries. On the other hand, discussions with a focus on action could bring benefits on many levels: economic, financial, social and environmental.

Climate change is an opportunity to rethink development models, especially for Africa. This is something African leaders and economic stakeholders have keenly understood in their collective commitment to negotiations and actions to tackle global warming. Through the African Union (AU) and its various bodies, Africa has played a key part in talks on climate change, ensuring that the continent adopts a common stance in international negotiations.

Africa must continue to speak as one in any debate and action on climate change. Through the AU and the introduction of NEPAD, the development agency of the African Union, and Agenda 2063, its roadmap for structuring and sustaining the continent's economic take-off, African leaders have adopted an environment action plan to rise to environmental challenges on the continent. This plan aims to promote sustainable use of Africa's resources while strengthening public and political support for environmental initiatives and making environmental issues an integral part of poverty-reduction strategies. It also provides a means of pooling resources through programmes such as the "Great Green Wall", a scheme designed to counter desertification from Senegal to Ethiopia thanks to agro-forestry projects, to prevent desertification.

In 2014, NEPAD also successfully established a climate change fund with the support of the German government to offer technical and financial assistance to AU member states, Regional Economic Communities and institutions. In most parts of Africa, livelihoods largely depend on agriculture, which is particularly vulnerable to climate-related strain.

The commitment to raise \$100 billion per year by 2020 is an opportunity to make Africa more resilient to the effects of climate change. African negotiators will need to encourage developed countries to increase their financial support for adaptation before 2020 and better meet the pressing needs of vulnerable African countries.

At the same time, the proliferation of funds to tackle climate change has raised questions over African countries' ability to gain access to finance. Funding to adapt agriculture to climate change may be one of the most important issues on the table in Marrakech. Africa needs direct access to all new funds with minimal management by intermediaries.

The COP on African soil is a unique opportunity to highlight Africa's needs and build on our strengths. It is a chance to act now to shape models for our future growth. We must succeed if we are to fulfil our commitment to the people of Africa, who bear the brunt of the adverse consequences of climate change affecting our world today.

Source: *Huffington Post*



PIDA Week 2016 brought together Member States, private sector, development partners and project owners

“If Africa is to be successful in increasing the number of regional and domestic infrastructure projects and their impact, changes are needed in mind-set”

- Dr Ibrahim Mayaki

PIDA Week - Job creation through Infrastructure Development

Abidjan - Africa has to provide employment opportunities for its youth if it is to harness their potential and contribute to the desired economic growth outlined in the vision of Agenda 2063.

The call was made by officials from the African Union, the NEPAD Agency and the African Development Bank (AfDB) at the opening of the second annual Programme for Infrastructure Development (PIDA) Week in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The theme, 'Creating Jobs through Regional Infrastructure Development,' drew over 250 participants and stakeholders representing African Union member states, the private sector, development partners and project owners.

PIDA, a multi-sectoral programme covering transport, energy, transboundary water and information and communications technology, is dedicated to facilitate continental integration in Africa through improved regional infrastructure. PIDA Week 2016 showcased and validated the relevance of regional infrastructure projects and the impact thereof on Africa's socio-economic development and particularly on job creation for the youth.

In her statement, H.E Dr Elham M.A Ibrahim, AU Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy said, "PIDA should play an important role in narrowing the gap between job creation and unemployment. To that end, public decision-makers and private sector management are urged to actively undertake training and skills acquisition in infrastructure development, particularly in building roads, rail systems, power generation and power transmission systems in order to enable young Africans to be well prepared for the implementation of complex programmes such as PIDA."

The NEPAD Agency's CEO, Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki emphasised that if Africa is to be successful in increasing the number of regional and domestic infrastructure projects and their impact, changes are needed in mind-set, policy pronouncements and programme implementation.

Dr Mayaki underscored the need to continue with the positive streamlining of trans-boundary infrastructure projects as highlighted in PIDA and complementary initiatives.

"Africa stands to benefit from its critical human resources - the young people - who must be nurtured to enable their meaningful participation in national development efforts. I believe that infrastructure development is central to this," said Dr Mayaki.

In his address, AfDB acting Vice President Stephan Nalletamby, outlined PIDA's continued importance for Africa's transformation and insisted that the programme was "solid, sustainable and attainable" for the 2030 development objectives.

"We have selected our destination and we are going to get there, as long as we can be assured of excellence in our infrastructure and total reliability in its implementation and operation on the ground. The PIDA programme is at the forefront of our thinking. We consider it to be critical for Africa's integration agenda," Nalletamby told participants.

Nalletamby maintained that "PIDA has the unique feature of being the first African infrastructure development agenda designed by Africans and fully owned and endorsed at the highest level by African Heads of State and Government. So it has to succeed."

PIDA Week 2016 focused on reporting key achievements. The PIDA Progress Report for 2016, which was shared after the opening ceremony, highlighted the need to de-risk infrastructure and PIDA projects to solicit interest from private sector investors as well as domestic and international investors. The Continental Business Network, has provided the platform to engage private sectors stakeholders. The 2016 report also gives an overview of progress made in the 16 priority PIDA projects agreed upon at the 2014 Dakar Financing Summit.

In addition to progress and successes, the report presents a candid overview of the challenges and lessons learnt to ensure continued accelerated implementation of PIDA projects.



World Fisheries Day celebrations in Lomé, Togo

World Fisheries Day raises awareness on the importance of preserving biodiversity, sustainable fisheries, food security, economic well-being and the health of people around the world

World Fisheries Day - Attaining Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa

Lomé - As the world celebrated World Fisheries Day on 21 November, one of the key areas being tackled on the African continent is how to reach sustainable aquaculture.

Instituted in 1998, World Fisheries Day raises awareness on the importance of preserving biodiversity, sustainable fisheries, food security, economic well-being and the health of people around the world. Africa has extensive and extremely valuable fish resources, which are exploited by the marine, inland and aquaculture sub-sectors. The exploitation of these resources contributes to African economies, employment, food supply and welfare.

As part of addressing the challenges found in the management of marine environments, the NEPAD Agency took part in the World Fisheries Day commemoration in Lomé, Togo, hosted by the African Confederation of Artisanal Fisheries Professional Organisations (CAOPA).

Dr Bernice Mclean, Senior Programme Officer for Fisheries at the NEPAD Agency, spoke on strengthening the message of the opportunities inherent in fisheries and aquaculture for the continent. She highlighted the actions needed for better governance of these sectors if they are to contribute to food security and economic growth. In her presentation on how to reach sustainable aquaculture in Africa, Dr Mclean brought out the challenges and opportunities in aquaculture development.

The fish sector makes vital contributions to the food and nutrition security of 200 million Africans and provides income for over 10 million engaged in fish production, processing and trade.

The total value of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Africa, including fish processing, is estimated by a recent study conducted by the NEPAD Agency and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) to be 24 billion US dollars, which accounts for 1.26 percent of the total continental gross domestic product. Among the various fisheries, aquaculture contributes 15 percent to that value and employs about 7.5 percent of the total number of workers in the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Africa.

In commemorating World Fisheries Day this year, CAOPA issued a declaration that recognises that fisheries occupy a strategic position in African national economies. Moreover, artisanal fisheries, the dominant sub-sector in most countries, is one of the sectors that contributes the most to the creation of wealth. This is achieved through not only the sub-sector's contribution to state revenue, but also through the creation of jobs and its contribution to food security.

The NEPAD Agency's Fisheries and Aquaculture programmatic work focuses on enhancing the contribution of fisheries resources to food security and economic growth in Africa. In improving sustainable fisheries governance on the continent, earlier this year, the NEPAD Agency and partner organisation AU-IBAR, supported the development of a platform for non-state actors in West Africa with CAOPA.

Speaking on the importance of celebrating World Fisheries Day, Dr Hamady Diop, Head of the Natural Resources Governance – Food Security and Nutrition Programme at the NEPAD Agency stated that he views, "The creation of the fisheries non-state actors' platform as an important step towards not only improving the governance of the sector, but also in strengthening the 'African Voice' in fisheries and aquaculture."



Mrs Estherine Fotabong, NEPAD Agency's Director of Programmes at the launch of the Africa Environment Partnership Platform at COP22

The Africa Environment Partnership Platform will engender the requisite political support, institutional structures and human capacity at national and regional levels

Africa Environment Partnership Platform launched in Marrakesh

Marrakesh - In order to foster coordination, mobilise resources, generate knowledge and align support for the implementation of the AU/NEPAD *Environment Action Plan*, the Africa Environment Partnership Platform (AEPP) was launched in the Moroccan city of Marrakesh. The launch took place during the meeting of the 22nd Conference of Parties (COP22) to the UN Framework on Climate Change.

Egyptian Minister of Environment, Dr Khaled Fahmy, who is also President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), acknowledged the critical role that the AMCEN has played in creating the platform. Dr Fahmy paid tribute to the institutions that have continually supported the work of the ministerial group and also lauded the efforts of the NEPAD Agency, the African Union Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme for coordinating the launch and establishing the AEPP.

Speaking at the launch, Mrs Estherine Fotabong, Director of Programmes at the NEPAD Agency declared that the platform will engender the requisite political support, institutional structures and human capacity at national and regional levels to ensure integrated environmental governance and management.

According to Mrs Fotabong, the platform will ultimately provide an avenue for enhancing knowledge generation, strengthening resource mobilisation efforts and partnerships to support the implementation of environmental initiatives on the continent.

“The ratification of the Paris agreement and the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions under the UN Framework on Climate Change processes in Africa is likely to witness a lot more

initiatives and programmes,” said Mrs Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, AU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Economy. “Therefore coherence and harmonisation of efforts will be important in order to avoid duplication,” Mrs Tumusiime said, illuminating the importance of coordination, in light of the plethora of initiatives that are already in existence.

Speaking on behalf of African countries, the Minister of Environment for Uganda, Dr Goreti Kitutu reiterated the importance of the platform and the readiness of ministries of environment to support it, since the platform was established by the AMCEN. Dr Kitutu also called for greater coordination between the secretariat of the platform which will be based at the NEPAD Agency and with environment focal points at country level.

Speakers at the launch also included Dr Abebe Haile Gabriel, Deputy Regional Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organisation and Dr Julia Bucknall, Director of Environment and Natural Resources Global Practice at the World Bank. Both speakers expressed the willingness of their institutions to provide support towards the effective functioning of the platform.

The moderator of the event, Mr Mounkeila Goumandakoye, former United Nations Environment Regional Director for Africa, expressed his delight at the launch of the AEPP and called on African countries to own and provide strategic guidance towards its work.

The AEPP will hold its inaugural meeting in 2017.



Prof Aggrey Ambali giving his opening remarks alongside Robert Ndieka from African Union Commission

“We must bring different constituencies currently working on health statistics in Africa on-board and define clear roles and responsibilities to ensure harmonisation” - Prof Aggrey Ambali

African Union Health Indicators and draft Reference Manual reviewed

Midrand—The NEPAD Agency, African Union Commission (AUC), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Member States and international partners met for the first time as a subgroup on health of the Specialised Technical Group (STG) on the Strategy for Harmonisation of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA).

The gathering reviewed the draft Health Indicator Reference Manual and piloting instruments for data collection on health in Africa to ensure synchronised health indicators and coherence in health statistics on the continent. The meeting also reviewed the progress report on health statistics that will be discussed at the end of November by the Committee of Director Generals of Statistics (CoDG).

Driven by the common agenda of harmonising health statistics in Africa, the NEPAD Agency hosted the meeting at its Head Office in Midrand, South Africa over a two-day period from 7– 8 November. The review of these documents is aimed at aligning with the revised African Health Strategy (AHS), the AU Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The proposed health indicators shall also be aligned with the SHaSA developed following the decision of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in July 2009 in Sirte, Libya.

During the official opening of the meeting, NEPAD Agency Head of Industrialisation, Science, Technology and Innovation (ISTI), Prof Aggrey Ambali welcomed the delegates and observed that there is a vacuum in health statistics in Africa as most international organisations are not aware of processes currently on-going at the African Union level.

Prof Ambali therefore tasked the delegates to increase visibility on harmonisation of health statistics in Africa and ensure that the roles and responsibilities of different international organisations currently collecting statistics on health in Africa were clearly incorporated in the deliberations of the meeting.

“We must bring different constituencies currently working on health statistics in Africa on-board and define clear roles and responsibilities to ensure harmonisation,” Prof Ambali said.

AUC Monitoring and Evaluation Expert from Social Affairs Department, Robert Ndieka thanked the participants for their valuable contribution to the process. He said that the AUC and NEPAD Agency are mandated to spearhead this process which is now at a critical stage where RECs and AU Member States are beginning to get involved through National Statistical Offices in strengthening the health statistics component of the SHaSA.

The meeting was attended by representatives of National Statistical Offices from Cameroon and South Africa as well as a representative from the Ministry of Health in South Africa. Also present are representatives from the East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) represented by West African Health Organisation (WAHO), South Africa Medical Research Council (SAMRC), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), University of Norway- District Health Information System (DHIS), Eastern, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC) and African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA).



Meeting participants at the NEPAD offices



Expanding fish trade opportunities for small-scale fishers and fish farmers can help raise incomes

Central African Corridor cross-border trade in fish

Douala - While Africa is losing its share in the global fish trade market, even trading relatively less within the continent itself, intra-regional trade in fish on the other hand is encouraging. After sugar, fish is reported to be the second most traded agricultural commodity intra-regionally. As a commodity, fish is among the top agricultural products with significant export potential.

Africa has great potential to generate more food and nutrition security benefits from fisheries which can also help to reduce poverty, as is evidenced through the promotion of sustainable fisheries management. Moreover, increased trade can be associated with faster economic growth. Hence, expanding fish trade opportunities for small-scale fishers and fish farmers can help raise incomes as well.

Intra-regional fisheries trade in Africa is constrained by a number of factors which include inadequate hard and soft market and trade infrastructure, as well as weak policy and institutional frameworks. These challenges lead to high transport costs, unpredictable trade regimes and inadequate market information for stakeholders. Other challenges include inadequate compliance to sanitary and phytosanitary measures and the high cost of doing business on the continent.

Concerned about the low level of intra-regional trade, the African Union Heads of State and Government (during their 23rd Ordinary Summit in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea in June 2014) committed themselves to triple, by the year 2025, intra-African trade in agricultural commodities (including fish) and services.

To this end, a stakeholder consultation workshop was held from 1-3 November, in Douala, Cameroon. The workshop was convened to consolidate ongoing efforts of partners, as well as to agree on a roadmap for the establishment and implementation of the One Stop Border Post (OSBP) concept, on cross-border trade on fish and fishery products in the Central African corridor (whose member states are Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Chad and Congo).

In his opening address at the workshop, the Director of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Fishery Industries in Cameroon, Dr Belal Emma,

maintained that cross-border trade of fishery products in the Central African region is extremely important as fisheries and aquaculture contribute to food and nutrition security of the region's population. Dr Belal also highlighted the importance of the sector for the creation of jobs and income.

Dr Bernice Mclean, Senior Programme Officer for Fisheries at the NEPAD Agency, reiterated the important role played by fisheries trade as a contributor to economic growth and development in Africa. She also stressed the urgent need to develop appropriate policies, certification procedures, standards and regulations embedded in national and regional trade and food security policy frameworks that can be translated to practical results on the ground.

Dr Mclean cited the OSBP and trade-related measures model as an effective tool for implementing fisheries trade policies at the regional level. She appealed to stakeholders at the workshop to agree on a roadmap for the establishment and the implementation of the OSBP concept for the Central African region.

The consultation workshop concluded with the development of a roadmap with a series of key priority actions that included among others, the:

- Harmonisation of standards, regulation and inspection procedures;
- Operationalisation of the Economic Community of Central African States' (ECCAS) region free trade area; and
- Establishment of a data collection system for fish and fish products at important borders to address the need for statistical evidence for informed decision making.

Dr Mclean reaffirmed the NEPAD Agency's commitment to deliver on the NEPAD Action Plan for Fisheries and Aquaculture, the Malabo Declaration, Agenda 2063 as well as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme.

The workshop was jointly organised by the NEPAD Agency, the African Union Inter-Africa Bureau for Animal Resources and WorldFish in collaboration with the Government of Cameroon, ECCAS and the European Union.

Regional Science Granting Councils deliberate on STI Policy Context in Southern Africa

Harare – The NEPAD Agency brought together the Southern Africa Regional Science Granting Councils (SGCs) to deliberate on the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) policy context and understand the link between policy and indicators. The workshop took place in Harare, Zimbabwe from 1 - 4 November with participants from Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and host country, Zimbabwe.

At the end of the workshop, participating SGCs had a more solid understanding on STI policies, legal frameworks and policy instruments under which they operate. More importantly, they also understood the indicators and relevant disaggregated datasets for research and development and innovation for their respective countries.

Speaking during the workshop, NEPAD Agency Head of Research and Statistics Cluster, Dr Tichaona Mangwende, said that the aim of this initiative is to strengthen the capacity SGCs to support research and evidence-based policies for socio-economic development in Africa.

“Science Granting Councils’ role in decision making on STI investment has to move from the periphery to occupying a central position,” Dr Mangwende emphasised.



Participants at the Science, Technology and Innovation policy workshop in Harare, Zimbabwe

During the opening remarks, Research Council of Zimbabwe Executive Director Suzan Muzite recognised that the Science Granting Councils Initiative is a significant undertaking designed to effectively;

- Manage research;
- Design and monitor research programmes and to formulate research policies based on robust indicators;
- Support knowledge exchange within STI systems with regional and international ones; and
- Establish partnerships with all sectors in the national innovation system.

She further acknowledged the technical support provided by the NEPAD Agency to Zimbabwe and STI. Similar sentiments were expressed by participants who made presentations on behalf of the other countries.

According to African Technology Policy Studies (ATPS) network, Senior Researcher Ernest Acheampong, “It has been observed that a majority of African countries have STI policies. However, implementation challenges were being faced due to limited resources and capacity. Hence, the SGCs initiative will help to mitigate most of these challenges.”

NEPAD delegation meets top Energy Officials in Madagascar

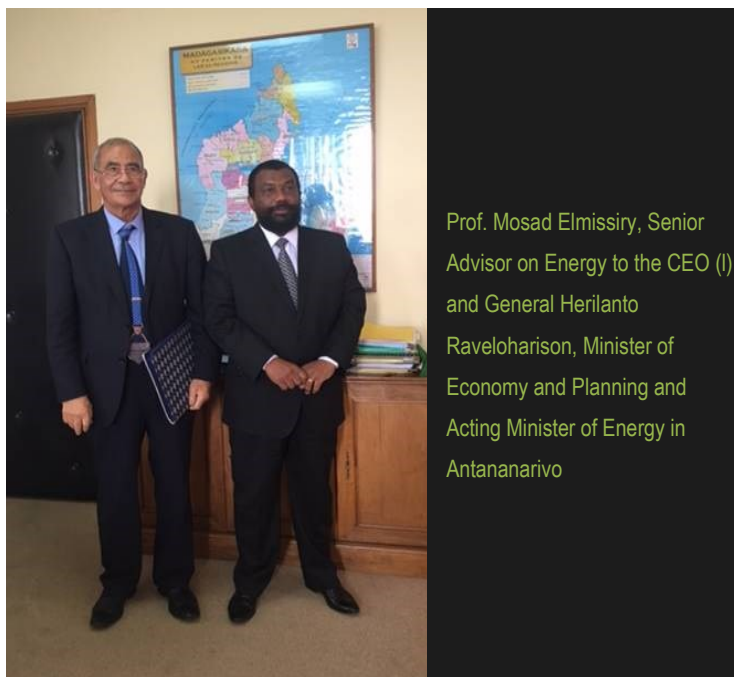
Antananarivo - A delegation from the NEPAD Agency undertook a mission to Antananarivo, in order to hold a series of discussions pertaining to the organisation’s intervention in the important area of energy in Madagascar. The NEPAD delegation, led by Prof Mosad Elmissiry, Senior Advisor on Energy to the CEO, met with officials from the Ministries of Energy, Transport, Public Works, as well as Economy and Planning.

The delegation was received by General Herilanto Raveloharison, Minister of Economy and Planning and Acting Minister of Energy, who outlined the new energy policy of Madagascar (2015-2030) which focuses on both short-term aspects relating to the rehabilitation of existing energy infrastructure, as well as the medium to longer term aspects of coupling renewables with traditional thermal power.

The potential of hydro-power to strengthen the energy sector as well as solar was underscored by the Minister, who emphasised that energy policy should be part of a broader strategic development vision for the country.

Prof Elmissiry proposed a number of areas related to energy infrastructure in which NEPAD could potentially intervene in Madagascar, and stressed the importance that the Regional Integration Infrastructure and Trade Programme places in ensuring there is follow-up to the proposals.

The meetings with other ministries focused on complementary areas of intervention where the NEPAD Agency could possibly provide technical assistance, as well as where it could potentially play a facilitative role.



Prof. Mosad Elmissiry, Senior Advisor on Energy to the CEO (I) and General Herilanto Raveloharison, Minister of Economy and Planning and Acting Minister of Energy in Antananarivo

The mission to Madagascar is in response to a bilateral discussion held between the NEPAD CEO, Dr Ibrahim Mayaki and the President of Madagascar H.E Mr Hery Rajaonarimampianina, on the margins of the AU Summit in Kigali on July 18, at which Dr Mayaki made a commitment to send a high-level delegation to Madagascar to meet with the main energy stakeholders. The mission was undertaken in order to assess the energy situation on the ground and to identify specific areas that require urgent intervention.

Pharmaceutical Plan and Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation Project in 2017

Douala – The NEPAD Agency supported the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) Member States, through the Organisation for the Fight Against Endemic Diseases (OCEAC) to develop an Action Plan for 2017 that identifies priority areas and activities for the effective implementation of the Common Pharmaceutical Plan (CPP) and the Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation (MRH) Project in Central Africa. The terms of reference of the Project Steering Committee responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Action Plan were also reviewed and validated. This took place during the meeting in Douala, Cameroon from 16 – 17 November and was made possible through financial support from the NEPAD Agency.



Chimwemwe Chamdimba, Dr Meguieze Loudang Marlise and Dr Aime Djitafo Fah

Opening the meeting on behalf of the Minister of Public Health in Cameroon, Dr Meguieze Loudang Marlise encouraged participants to ensure effective implementation of the CPP as it will help to improve public health in communities.

“All these efforts contribute to African people accessing safe, quality and efficacious medicines and the work of this meeting is laying a solid foundation to achieving this task,” Dr Marlise stated.

Mrs Chimwemwe Chamdimba from the NEPAD Agency highlighted the importance of the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation (AMRH) tool kit in regulatory systems strengthening and harmonisation processes in Africa. The AMRH tool kit was adopted in December 2015 at the African Medicines Regulatory Conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It is aimed at guiding Regional Economic Communities in setting up and reviewing MRH Projects at regional level and ensuring long term coherence of these projects.

“The NEPAD Agency is aware of the good work that CEMAC is already doing in the harmonisation of pharmaceutical policies in the region through the CPP. There is still room to scale up activities and ensure that access to safe and quality medicines is achieved,” Mrs Chamdimba said.

She further stated that the CEMAC regional harmonisation efforts are in line with African Union continental policies and frameworks. Hence, there is need to align these efforts to the AMRH initiative and draw lessons from similar MRH projects being implemented in other regions, that is, in the East African Community, the Southern African Development Community and the Economic Community of West African States through the West African Health Organisation.

Representing the Secretary General of OCEAC, Dr Aime Djitafo Fah reminded participants that the CPP was adopted in June 2013 in the CEMAC region but there are some deficiencies in terms of implementation across different member states. This meeting is an opportunity to strategically structure the implementation of the CPP in each CEMAC Member State and ensure harmonisation. The meeting was attended by Heads of National Medicines Regulatory Authorities, Heads of Directorates of Pharmacy and Medicines of the CEMAC, representatives from the OCEAC Secretariat - Harmonisation of National Pharmaceutical Policies and other stakeholders.

Regreening heritage landscapes and revitalising communities in the Sahel and Sahara

Marrakesh – Different studies and publications have documented strategies and solutions to effectively address land degradation and promote resilient landscapes in Africa, and drylands’ challenges have become a common denominator.

“Interest in restoration in Africa is at an all-time high and we urge all parties to take action now,” said Mamadou Diakhite, Principal Officer in the NEPAD Agency’s Sustainable Land and Water Management Programme.

Following last year’s COP21 in Paris a panel of various restoration initiative leaders got together on November 16 at the Global Landscapes Forum held along the margins of COP22, to discuss the major developments, commitments and perspectives of landscapes restoration in Africa drylands, recognising that such restoration has both Climate Change mitigation (for example on vegetation cover and soil carbon sequestration) and adaptation (for instance on resilient farming systems and disaster risk mitigation) potential.

Interest in land restoration in Africa is at an all-time high

“Three ingredients for success restoration [are] *inspire, enable and implement*,” stated Craig Hanson, Global Director of Food, Forests and Water at the World Resources Institute.

Efforts to address landscape restoration on a global scale have recently been reinvigorated under the Sustainable Development Goals. In Africa, related efforts were echoed at COP 21 in Paris in 2015 with the launch of the Africa Resilient Landscapes Initiative and the Africa Forest Landscape Restoration 100 - both lead by NEPAD Agency, as well as commitments made to further scale up and expand the Great Green Wall Initiative for the Sahel and Sahara.



Panelists at the Regreening Heritage Landscapes event

There is now broad recognition of the potential impact of landscape restoration on both mitigation and adaptation, which also has a role in efforts to address and manage other key development challenges such as food security, rural poverty, employment, displacement and migration.

Upcoming Events

26 Nov-1 Dec 2016: *17th International Conference on Drug Regulatory Authorities, Cape Town, South Africa*

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

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Proverb

“A child that does not visit other homes thinks his mother is the best cook.”

Meaning: The world is a big place with many possibilities, explore it while you can.



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