



# NEPAD NEWS

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

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## Delivery of Agenda 2063: Serving the people of Africa

**Johannesburg, 30 October 2017** – H.E Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, made his first official visit to the Pan African institutions operating in South Africa. Addressing the staff of the NEPAD Agency, the Pan African Parliament and the African Peer Review Mechanism in Johannesburg, the Chairperson stated that Agenda 2063 (Africa's fifty-year vision for transformation) is attainable through the dedicated efforts of all citizens.

H.E Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat further stated that the current reforms at the African Union and some of its organs are necessary in order to ensure efficiency and effectiveness, towards *the Africa We Want* as enshrined in Agenda 2063.

Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD Agency reported on the progress of NEPAD in delivering results towards attaining the goals in the continent's fifty-year vision. "NEPAD is results driven. All its programmes are designed to deliver on Agenda 2063," Dr Mayaki said.

Through its four programme areas (Human Capital Development -Skills and Employment; Regional Integration Infrastructure and Trade; Industrialisation, Science, Technology and Innovation, and; Natural Resources Governance and Food Security), the NEPAD Agency currently has 95 percent coverage of the continent.

Speaking at the same event, CEO of the Africa Peer Review Mechanism, Prof Eddy Maloka remarked on the organisation's developments. "The African Peer Review Mechanism, which has undergone restoration and reinvigoration, is currently going through a phase of renewal," Prof Maloka said. Mr Vipyra Harawa, Clerk of the Parliament and Representative of the President of the Pan African Parliament (PAP), also highlighted the progress being made in PAP towards serving the continent better. Transformation of the African Union is a measure that is being undertaken to enhance the value of the AU. It is a process that seeks to bring the AU closer to the people, in attaining the aspirations

towards *the Africa We Want*.

"Through the necessary transformation processes, the Pan African institutions will be in a better position to serve the African continent," H.E Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat said.



H.E Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission signing the visitors' book at the NEPAD Agency

*"Agenda 2063, Africa's fifty-year vision for transformation, is attainable through the dedicated efforts of all citizens"*

- H.E Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission

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## **A**frica Week at the UN: Assembly President says continent's vision is close to reality

**New York, 18 October 2017** – Addressing the final event of this year's Africa Week at the United Nations, Mr Miroslav Lajčák, President of the 72nd Session of the General Assembly, on Friday highlighted the continent's transformative changes driven by the African Union's development agency.

"First, I want to acknowledge the importance of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)," Mr Lajčák told an Assembly plenary meeting, referring to the programme first established in 2001 and then integrated into the African Union's structure to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of continental and regional priority projects.

"NEPAD is the commitment to action by Africa's leaders. It continues to be a rallying point in the continent's pursuit of transformation and growth in especially key parameters that underline social and economic empowerment of our people without exception. Within the context of the AU reform, the NEPAD Agency is set to become the AU Development Agency," Dr Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD Agency stated in his address to the Assembly.

"NEPAD was something of a trailblazer. Since its adoption in 2001, NEPAD has led to transformative change," Mr Lajčák further stated, noting that it predates the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063 by more than a decade.

For example, he said, NEPAD's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme has improved agricultural productivity on the continent, changing the lives of many African farmers.

"The continental free trade area is no longer a distant dream. It could very soon be a reality," he said.

However, faster progress needs to be seen, not only in the two sectors of agriculture and trade, but also in infrastructure, industry, economic diversification and poverty eradication, said Mr Lajčák.

He went on to stress that no development in Africa can take hold unless it is led from within, noting that there are many exciting developments at the national level, and African countries are also building their capacities for domestic resource mobilisation, and tackling illicit financial flows.

Yet, in an increasingly globalised world, the efforts within Africa need to be supported by a revitalised partnership with development partners, including UN bodies and Member States, as well as by investment and financial and technical assistance. Also the root causes of conflict and suffering must be addressed.

"The signing of a trade agreement will mean little to a mother whose young child is very sick from malaria. Similarly, foreign direct investment is not on the mind of someone who is running from a shower of bullets," he said.

"Africa has a very clear vision" – one which involves all layers of society benefiting from growth and development; one in which malaria or other diseases do not serve as death sentences for hundreds of thousands of people every year; one in which early warning signs of conflict lead more often to successful mediation than to violence; and one in which institutions are strong, women and youth both lead and participate, and good governance is the norm," he said. "This vision is getting closer to reality," he concluded.

The plenary featured a debate by UN Member States on NEPAD as well as the decade 2001-2010 to roll back malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa. **Adapted from UN News Centre,**<sup>2</sup>



Delegates at the high level dialogue in New York during Africa Week, on the role of the development community and private sector investment for the easy movement of humanitarian goods

Move Africa looks at improving transport corridors for economic activities and movement of humanitarian goods

## **M**ovement of humanitarian goods: Role of development community and private sector

**New York, 18 October 2017** – With all its potential, the continent of Africa is challenged by inadequate and under-developed infrastructure. This limits intra-regional trade by driving up import and export costs.

The unavailability of adequate capacities and technology, coupled with much slower than anticipated private sector participation, has also hindered infrastructural development. This in turn slows down the movement of goods by road, rail, air and sea. However, logistical bottlenecks do not only affect trade, but also have an impact on the humanitarian sector.

It is against this backdrop that the NEPAD Agency convened a high level dialogue in New York during Africa Week, on the role of the development community and private sector investment for easy movement of humanitarian goods.

Strengthening collaboration between the public and private sectors in all aspects related to the movement of goods and people, including the development of policy frameworks and the structuring of public-private partnerships is a way to overcome these challenges.

At the event, which was attended by over fifty delegates from the public, private and development sectors, the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E Thomas Kwesi Quartey, reminded participants that, “It is important to look back at the challenges of integration on the African continent in order to move forward towards *the Africa We Want*. Infrastructure, good governance, transparency and rule of law are the development pillars needed in this sector.”

Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD Agency stated that, “Combining the synergies that exist between the development and private sectors in easing the movement of humanitarian goods, will help to address the underlying factors in the bottlenecks faced.”

“The Traffic Light System in the Move Africa initiative, as well as its implementation tools look at improving transport corridors for economic activities and movement of humanitarian goods, which are critical to attaining goals in Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030,” Mr David Mehdi Hamam, Acting Special Adviser on Africa remarked.

In the NEPAD Agency’s MoveAfrica Initiative, the organisation has partnered with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to reduce processing inefficiencies and delays at borders through One-Stop Border Posts, which will be monitored in its Traffic Light System.

Piloting of the Traffic Light System will be along four selected border posts in Southern Africa - Beitbridge, Kazungula, Kasumbalesa and Chirundu.

Following the high level dialogue, alignment of the functions and activities of the humanitarian sector in the Traffic Light System will take place in the emergency and humanitarian response sector. The system received input in the following areas: Transit Guarantee schemes; Centre Attractiveness, and; Risk Management.

Mr Symerre Grey-Johnson, Head of NEPAD’s Regional Integration, Infrastructure and Trade Programme reiterated that land borders present some of the biggest bottlenecks with regards movement of humanitarian goods. He therefore made the call for stronger public-private partnerships and business models that embed corporate social responsibility in logistics to find solutions to ease these hurdles. He also reiterated that MoveAfrica’s traffic light system will be redressing some of the border challenges across Africa.

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Congestion at border posts that Move Africa's Traffic Light System aims to alleviate

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The high level meeting looked at the parameters that serve the humanitarian sector in facilitating the smooth flow of humanitarian aid and tailor made solutions to that effect.

The meeting also discussed models such as the vision of Uganda in the logistics space, in view of the Uganda Model of Refugee Management, enabling the NEPAD Agency to make necessary interventions as the development agency of the African Union.

The design of the Traffic Light System will be completed by the end of November 2017. Therefore the piloting of the system will factor in outcomes of this meeting on the selected border posts. The piloting is scheduled to commence in January 2018.

Speakers at the event also included Prof Baccahouche, Secretary General of Arab-Maghreb Union; Mr Sandagdorj Erdenebileg, Chief, Policy Development, Coordination, Monitoring and Reporting Service, Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States; Ambassador Adonia Ayebare, Permanent Representative of Uganda to the UN; Mr Grant Leaity, Deputy Director, Office of Emergency Programmes at UNICEF; Mr Chris Nikoi from the World Food Programme; Mr Jeffrey Nemeah from Ford Motor Corporation; Dr Barbara Samuels from the Global Clearinghouse for Development Finance, and Ms Catherine Asapokhai-Utsalo representing charity organisations.

## University students' study tour to the NEPAD Agency

**Midrand, October 25, 2017** - Students from the University of Witwatersrand and the University of Pretoria in South Africa visited the NEPAD Agency offices in Midrand, on a study tour to enrich their knowledge in their studies in international relations, political studies and law.

Natalie Zähringer, lecturer in the Department of International Relations at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) in Johannesburg, led the group of 21 students from Wits. She thanked the NEPAD Agency for hosting the students, remarking that, "The visit to NEPAD by the students from various disciplines who have enrolled in the third year course on international organisations will enable them to deepen their level of understanding on how pan African organisations operate and the ideals they stand for."

Students from both Wits and the University of Pretoria interacted with staff and learned more about how the NEPAD Agency delivers results on the continent through its programmes.

The students were welcomed by Ms Florence Nazare, NEPAD Agency's Head of Capacity Development, who shared with them the overview of what the NEPAD Agency does, as the development Agency of the African Union.

Information and knowledge products were also shared by the following NEPAD Agency staff: Ms Abiola Shomang shared on Agenda 2063; Prof Mzobz Mboya presented on education and training of health professionals; Ms Diana Mawoko made a presentation on the Sustainable Land and Water Management programme; Dr Bernice Mclean shared information on fisheries and aquaculture; Ms Edna Kalima presented the Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture programme, and; Ms Unami Mpofu gave a talk on Skills and Employment for Youth.

The study tour ended with a visit to the 'Hive,' NEPAD Agency's library and knowledge centre.

A number of students expressed interest in the Agency's Young Professionals Development Programme, while a PhD candidate from the University of Pretoria indicated that she would like to focus her studies on the implementation of the continent's fifty-year vision for transformation, Agenda 2063.



Study visit to the NEPAD Agency by Wits and University of Pretoria students



H.E Prof Sarah Anyang Agbor, Commissioner HRST of the African Union Commission

*“Africa’s skills revolution is possible through the cooperation of various stakeholders, to produce skilled and competent African youth, required for turning the continents’ youth bulge to a demographic dividend”*

- H.E Prof Sarah Anyang Agbor

## **A**frica Talks Jobs: Equipping youth with adaptive education and skills for employment

**Addis Ababa, October 30, 2017** - Over 400 delegates from public and private sectors, as well as the business community, academia and Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) practitioners are convening in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 30 October to 1 November 2017.

The event was organised by the Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology of the Africa Union Commission (AUC-HRST); the German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ); the European Union, and Business Africa. It was convened in order to foster learning and knowledge exchange amongst various stakeholders, in addressing the mismatch between demand and supply of skills needed on the labour market, as well as build needed partnerships for entrepreneurial opportunities.

The event was officially opened by H.E Prof Sarah Anyang Agbor, Commissioner HRST of the African Union Commission. In her opening remarks, Professor Agbo stated that, “Africa’s commitment towards skills revolution is underpinned by various policy frameworks, such as the AU Agenda 2063, Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) and the African Youth Charter.”

“Africa’s skills revolution is possible through the cooperation of various stakeholders, to produce skilled and competent African youth, required for turning the continent’s youth bulge into a demographic dividend,” she said.

“The NEPAD Agency delegation was led by Mrs Fati N’zi-Hassane, the Head of Skills and Employment for Youth Programme. While introducing the overview and objectives of the conference, Mrs N’zi-Hassane said that “Revolutions are usually triggered by four major conditions: a crisis; fermentation; leadership and a spark.”

With Africa already in crisis mode in the youth sector, she challenged the various stakeholders at the conference to come up with concrete and action oriented recommendations for addressing unemployment and underemployment in Africa.

Dignitaries who attended the event include: H.E Mr Ranieri Sabatucci, Ambassador and Head of EU delegation to the African Union; H.E Mr Thomas Silberhorn, Parliamentary State Secretary to the German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development; Dr Stefan Oswald, Director, Directorate sub-Saharan Africa, German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, and Dr Aggrey K. Mlimuka, Executive Director, Association of Tanzania Employers on behalf of Business Africa.

The dignitaries expressed enthusiasm that the dialogue can be

translated to job creation on the continent and pledged to support the domestication of Agenda 2063 at national levels within the youth sector.



Mrs Fati N’zi-Hassane, NEPAD Agency’s Head of Skills and Employment for Youth Programme



NEPAD delegation meeting with the Director General of Sustainable Development, Mr Jean Ignace Tendelet and some of his colleagues

The Republic of Congo is one of the countries that has prioritised Sustainable Land and Water Management because of the adverse impacts of land degradation in the country, particularly erosion.

## TerrAfrica commits to scaling up Sustainable Land and Water Management in Congo

**Brazzaville, 25 October, 2017** — The NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Congo organised the TerrAfrica Partnership Joint Mission in the country from 23-25 October 2017.

The objective of the TerrAfrica joint mission was to take stock of the current status of sustainable land and water management (SLWM) actions in the country, including the existence of national level dialogue with key stakeholders and development partners on SLWM issues. This would be critical to inform the coordination of TerrAfrica partners' efforts to provide comprehensive support to in the design and implementation of Congo's investment framework on SLWM.

The mission organised several bilateral meetings with various government ministries such as the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Water Directorate as well key partners including FAO. The ministries representatives and partners underscored the importance of SLWM in the country given the problem of land degradation that it is currently facing. They highlighted the critical need to firstly prioritise the official launch of the SLWM Platform, interlinked with existing platforms in the country and based on how these platforms were created such as the functioning CAADP Platform.

This new platform will also serve as the platform for Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) target setting and other related initiatives such as AFR100 in line with the TerrAfrica's vision of building a harmonised and coordinated approach for all SLWM related initiatives in the country and therefore will also help building synergies.

The meeting also highlighted the importance of developing at a later state the Country Strategic Investment Framework (CSIF) as a framework and guideline for identifying country priority areas for SLWM interventions and aligning resources for implementation of identified priorities.

This will also help build capacities through demonstrating best practices and practical tools, with a specific objective of generating and initiating work on the status of land degradation and restoration in Congo to address desertification, deforestation and climate change.

The Republic Congo is one of the countries that has prioritised SLWM because of the adverse impacts of land degradation in the country, particularly erosion.



It is important to note that the majority of Congolese live in the city which encourages them to build their own gardens and practise urban agriculture. Many of them however are not conversant on the issues of SLWM and capacity building is also needed in this area.

# **B**uilding public health delivery systems that support Africa's industrialisation

**New York, 17 October 2017** – “It is a fact that Africa is the second most populous continent in the world, with the population projected to grow by 25% by 2050 and 40% by end of the century. Yet the continent has health challenges that need to be addressed in order to support the growing population,” Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD Agency made the remarks at the organisation’s event during Africa Week in New York.

During the event on *Building public health delivery systems that support Africa's industrialisation*, Dr Mayaki underscored the fact that Africa’s Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals call for promotion of inclusive and sustainable industrialisation.

Pharmaceutical manufacturing and mining are among the priority sectors identified in AU’s programme for Accelerated Industrial Development in Africa (AIDA). Africa requires a healthy workforce in order to realise targets for industrialisation which demands an efficient public health delivery system.

Africa continues to grapple with high disease burden, weak health care delivery systems and fragmented markets for medical products and health technologies. As the development agency of the African Union, NEPAD has taken critical steps to address the continent’s disease burden by building systems that provide enabling environment for pharmaceutical sector development. This is through the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation (AMRH) Initiative which provides a sound foundation for strengthening regulatory systems and establishment of strong institutions to ensure long term sustainability.

Other programmes that the NEPAD Agency is facilitating and coordinating in the health sector include, amongst others; malaria vector control, development of research for health and innovation strategy, scientific validation and value addition of herbal remedies in order to promote African Traditional Medicines.

In her opening remarks, NEPAD Agency’s Head of Health Programmes, Mrs Margareth Ndomondo-Sigonda maintained that, “You cannot talk of sustainable socio-economic growth without addressing the health of the people who are the drivers of industrialisation.”

During the event, participants explored available options for health financing; promotion of research and development and innovation on medical products and technologies including traditional medicines; local production of medical products and health technologies for stronger health care delivery systems.

Dr Janet Byaruhanga, from NEPAD’s Health programme focused on strengthening regulatory systems, local production of medical products and access to finance. She stressed the need to provide conducive environment for the private sector to secure capital for increased investment in this sector. In addition, the pharmaceutical sector has huge potential to create jobs for youth through the use of modern technologies.

Speaking on the promotion of investments and creating knowledge based jobs, in improving competitiveness as well as public health, Dr Paul Lartey, founding Chair of Federation of African Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Associations, made the case for reliable and sustainable capital for investment in manufacturing and assurance of compliance to good manufacturing practices and standards in order to produce quality medicines.

The World Bank representative, Dr Andreas Seiter, Global Lead -Private Sector HNP, World Bank remarked that Africa should be proud of the achievements made in medicines regulatory harmonisation initiative. He indicated that progress made this far working through the regional economic communities is commendable.

He highlighted on achievements made in the East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the impact of the African Union Model Law on Medical Products Regulation in assisting countries to review their national laws, adding that the momentum should be maintained.

In addition, the NEPAD Agency is investing in the fight against Tuberculosis and other Occupational Lung Diseases in the Mining Industry starting with Southern Africa.

Mrs Chimwemwe Chamdimba, Principal Programme Officer pointed out that TB is the top killer among infectious diseases in Africa. Currently it is being tackled among the most vulnerable populations by looking from three angles: TB and HIV; TB and poverty, and; TB and mining.





Today, Africa is forced to innovate in order to bypass its natural constraints and catch up with technological delays. But the next step in Africa is the move to “reverse innovation.”

## **T**he potential and risks of the digital economy in Africa

*Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO, NEPAD Agency*

In its latest report on the information economy entitled “Digitisation, trade and development” the UNCTAD highlights the growing impact of digital technology on African economies.

While Africa continues to have the lowest rate of broadband Internet penetration, it is also the fastest growing continent in the world. Big data, artificial intelligence, mobile banking and 3D printers are already transforming the ways of the old economy. But in Africa, the breakthrough of the digital economy is particularly impressive.

By 2025, the digital contribution to African GDP is expected to catch up with Sweden and Taiwan. Are we not already talking about the “leapfrogs” of Africa in digital through mobile banking, e-commerce or even e-government? Faced with its many constraints – geographical, sanitary, ecological or agricultural – Africa has had to constantly look for new models and innovate to develop.

Let’s take health as an example: in some countries in sub-Saharan Africa, some doctors are so rare in their specialty that they are only one per million inhabitants. Can we imagine a better opportunity to develop e-health?

Online retail is booming, with many actors benefiting fully from the dynamism of African demography and the increasing penetration of broadband Internet on the continent. Banking on this impressive growth, a company such as Jumia has gone from 35 million euros in sales in 2013 to 289 million euros in 2015.

But beyond e-commerce and mobile banking, the digital economy gives rise to other projects with a collaborative dimension. This is the case, for instance, of the Agritools platform, which shares African technology initiatives to the benefit of farmers, creating a forum for high-level technological solutions for producers.

Today, Africa is forced to innovate in order to bypass its natural constraints and catch up with technological delays. But the next step in Africa is the move to “reverse innovation”. At the moment, Africa is adapting technologies from developed countries. Africa must now create its own innovations that could be adopted by developed countries.

Similarly, while the digital economy offers promising prospects for the future, we must not forget the risks associated with such a development. Several elements must be brought to our attention so that the new digital economy is inclusive and benefits the greatest number.

First of all, digital takes naturally the speed of states, which always take time to react to innovations. Governments must absolutely legislate for the protection of digital data so that the privacy of our citizens and the competitiveness of our businesses are preserved.

Moreover, the digital divide is a real danger: inequalities in the use of these technologies can quickly appear between large and small companies, but also between different African countries. Finally, digital education must be placed at the heart of school curricula. The mastery of these technologies by our fellow citizens is essential in order to fully achieve the integration of Africa into the world economy.



## Upcoming Events

- 27 - 29 Nov 2017: *3<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Scientific Conference on Medical Products Regulation in Africa, Accra, Ghana*
- 28 - 30 Nov 2017: *4<sup>th</sup> Global Science Conference on Climate Smart Agriculture, Johannesburg, South Africa*
- 27 - 29 Nov 2017: *Third ICAO Aviation Forum (IWAF/3), Abuja, Nigeria*
- 5 - 7 Dec 2017: *Women in Agribusiness Conference, Durban, South Africa*
- 10 - 14 Dec 2017: *PIDA Week, Walvis Bay, Namibia*

For more events visit: [www.nepad.org/events](http://www.nepad.org/events)

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## Proverb

**“If you can’t resolve your problems in peace, you can’t solve them with war.”**



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