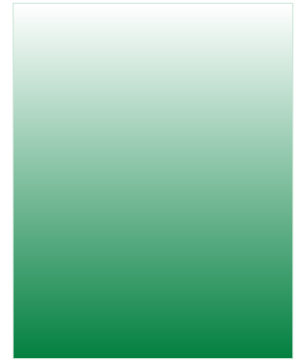


Executive summary



The production of the Sustainable Development Report on Africa (SDRA) was launched in the 2004-2005 biennium, as one of ECA's flagship publications. The report is intended to be an important medium for monitoring and assessing sustainable development in Africa, and is among other things, aimed at promoting a balanced integration of the three pillars of sustainable development. The theme of the second issue of the Sustainable Development Report on Africa (SDRA-2)- *Five-Year Review of the Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development Outcomes in Africa (WSSD+5)*, is inspired by the thematic cluster of issues that would be deliberated on by the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), at its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions, which include "Africa".

WSSD reaffirmed sustainable development as a central element of the international agenda and paved the way for the practical and sustained steps needed to address many of the world's most pressing challenges. In order to better focus efforts to address the development needs of Africa, the international community, identified the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) for special attention and support. The JPOI, and in particular its chapter eight, entitled "Sustainable development for Africa", guides SDRA-2.

The report is based on an extensive desk review involving many experts, but it is not intended to address all pertinent issues in an exhaustive manner. The intent is to provide the reader with an overview of Africa's progress in implementing its sustainable development agenda and to engender action on the part of all stakeholders, including Governments, civil society, the private sector and development partners, with a view to accelerating progress towards meeting Africa's sustainable development goals. The Regional Review Report on Africa from which the SDRA-2 is derived, was tabled at the Fifth Meeting of the ACSD, held on the 22-25 October 2007. This report takes into account comments and inputs provided at the meeting, and by the NEPAD Secretariat.

Key Findings

Sustainable development governance in Africa

Concrete actions taken and progress made

Sustainable development framework The JPOI recognizes the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as providing a framework for sustainable development on the continent. The African Union (AU) provides leadership for the continental development vision. The NEPAD Secretariat coordinates projects

and programmes being implemented by Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and member States. At the national level, many African countries have taken steps to create NEPAD focal points for coordination, monitoring and integration of NEPAD programmes into national development plans. The notion of partnership embedded in NEPAD is one of the strengths of the initiative, and has elicited significant international support for Africa. At the level of the United Nations (UN), the mechanism for coordination in support of NEPAD is the Regional Consultation Meetings (RCMs) of UN agencies working in Africa, coordinated by ECA.

Peace and security: While prospects for peace in a number of countries improved during 2006, some situations have worsened, despite considerable efforts by African countries, regional organizations and the international community. Nevertheless, the AU aims to achieve a conflict-free Africa by 2010. The AU Peace and Security Council and the African Peace Facility have been established. The operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture has received full support and the AU Policy Framework for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development has been adopted. Furthermore, the UN-AU Framework for the 10-year Capacity Building Programme recognizes the importance of peace and security and includes the establishment of effective early-warning and crisis response systems.

Human rights: African leaders have affirmed commitments to human rights and the rule of law through the Constitutive Act of the AU, NEPAD Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), among others. African countries have overwhelmingly subscribed to most international and regional human rights norms and standards, ratified numerous major human rights treaties and enshrined these norms and standards into their constitutions and national legislation. Some progress has been made on human rights, and the principle of rule of law is generally respected in most countries, along with a fair level of commitment to the respect for human rights. However, the application of human rights standards needs improving.

Political governance and administration: Democratic politics and practices have taken a significant leap in Africa in the last two decades. Overall, a new social pact with the institutions of the State and the processes of governance is gradually being reconstructed to promote democracy and good governance. There is a relative decline of executive dominance in Africa. Many African countries have adopted constitutional measures and put in place administrative mechanisms to strengthen checks and balances. NEPAD's Democracy and Political Governance Initiative aims at contributing to strengthening the political and administrative framework of participating countries. African Ministers of Public Service have formulated and adopted a NEPAD Governance and Public Administration Programme.

Economic and corporate governance and private sector development: The objective of the NEPAD Economic and Corporate Governance Initiative is to promote programmes aimed at enhancing the quality of economic and public financial management, as well as corporate governance. The NEPAD Secretariat has been working closely with key donors to support programmes aimed at strengthening public finance management. Several African countries have made progress in economic governance, public financial management and accountability and the integrity of the monetary and financial systems. As a result, the situation in Africa today is better than it was a decade or so ago. However, a great deal remains to be done. In the area of corporate governance, countries have made efforts to promote private sector-led growth and development.

Challenges and constraints

The slow progress in integrating NEPAD vision and mission, values and agenda, priorities and strategies and programmes and projects into the AU structures and processes; political, economic and social inequities and weak regional mechanisms for promoting and enforcing human rights; fragile democratic and political processes and inadequate independence of the legislature and judiciary from the executive; weak capacities in

public financial management; and slow progress in achieving sound economic and corporate governance and private sector development.

Lessons learned and the way forward

It is important to effectively integrate NEPAD into AU structures and processes and provide greater support for the private sector and promote more outreach to civil society. On peace, security and human rights, the promotion of effective, inclusive and legitimate governance and the development of comprehensive early warning systems, to ensure that timely measures, such as mediation and preventive diplomacy, would be undertaken to avert violent crises, are crucial. Capacity building, including technical and financial assistance to the AU, RECs and countries should be expanded. The trend towards peace, stability and democratization should be supported and consolidated. It is essential to build on the emerging structures and practices and to consolidate progress recorded in the area of political governance and administration. As regards, economic and corporate governance and private sector development, there is need to ensure that the capacity to implement well conceived reforms are available, to adopt a holistic approach to addressing the problem of governance and to improving public financial systems and management.

Poverty Eradication and socially sustainable development

Concrete actions taken and progress made

Income poverty: The AU concretely expressed its commitment to facilitating acceleration of progress towards the MDGs by African countries. Countries have developed national development plans that incorporate poverty reduction strategies. The number of extremely poor people in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) has levelled off and the poverty gap ratio has declined during the same period. However, this ratio is the highest in the world, indicating that poor people in SSA are the most economically disadvantaged in the world. The incidence of poverty in North African countries has remained constant at two percent for the same period. Poverty in Africa is accompanied by very high-income inequality. Although Africa's recent growth performance has been quite impressive, it is still too low to achieve poverty eradication.

Agriculture for sustainable development: Measures taken by African countries to boost the development of the agriculture and rural sector include: the Maputo Summit Declaration that endorsed the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Plan of Action, and the commitment by African leaders to allocate at least 10 percent of their national budget to agricultural development; the Sirte Declaration on Agriculture and Water that adopted the development of strategic agricultural commodities; the Fertilizer Summit that adopted the resolution to increase fertilizer use in Africa; and the Abuja Food Security Summit that recommended the establishment of the African common market for basic food products. The performance of the agriculture sector in Africa has slightly improved, but this did not translate into improved food security and reduced poverty. SSA accounts for 13 percent of the population and 25 percent of undernourished people in the developing world. It is the developing region with the highest proportion of people suffering from chronic hunger.

Gender Equality for sustainable development: The constitutive Act of the AU recognizes the key role that women have played in development and calls for AU to adopt a gender parity principle. RECs have adopted gender policies and other instruments to promote and protect rights of women. African countries have ratified various Conventions on gender equality and equity and women's rights. Some governments have enacted or amended legislation on women's human rights and some have adopted constitutions that take on board gender equality. Several countries have significantly increased the level of women's representation in parliament and women have been elected and/or appointed into powerful positions. Gender concerns are

increasingly being mainstreamed into policies and strategies, including PRSs. Health and educational status of women is also improving.

Education for sustainable development: The AU adopted a resolution to launch a Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006-2015) 2006. In order to enable African countries achieve the MDG of Universal Primary Education (UPE) a detailed Action Plan has been formulated under the auspices of NEPAD. African countries have subscribed to the goal of achieving Education for All (EFA) by 2015 and many have undertaken education sector reforms. The overall EFA picture in SSA is mixed. Enrolment in primary education has increased since Dakar, but the number of out-of-school children remains much too high. School progression and completion are still major concerns and universal participation is still far away. The rest of the EFA agenda is lagging, in particular with regard to gender parity, education quality and adult literacy.

Health for sustainable development: The AU/NEPAD Health Strategy and the Africa Health Strategy 2007-2015 were adopted in 2003 and 2007, respectively. AU has also adopted several commitments on HIV/AIDS. The NEPAD “Fight Against AIDS” plan provides an overarching framework to address HIV/AIDS and its impact on the continent. In SSA, the under-five mortality rate in 2002 was almost double the average for developing countries; maternal mortality ratios are dramatically higher than in any other part of the world. SSA is the worst affected region with the AIDs epidemic, but the provision of antiretroviral treatment is expanding and prevalence is leveling off. More than 90 percent of the world’s malaria burden is in Africa. However, progress has been registered in some countries. The number of TB cases has increased up to fourfold in the past decade, but TB treatment has proven remarkably effective. However, at present, up to 70 percent of African people with HIV lack access to functioning TB treatment.

Sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing Africa: The NEPAD City programme aims to address urbanization and its consequences, to make African cities more attractive for investment. UN-HABITAT has launched the Global Campaign for Sustainable Urbanization through a range of sub-programmes. Many cities are beginning to adopt the ideals, principles and norms of good urban governance. The responses to the challenges of urbanization vary from city to city. However, in many cases, policies and actions are at variance. With the exception of a few countries, efforts made have not had much impact on housing provision, slum upgrading and poverty reduction.

Water supply and sanitation: The African Minister’s Council on Water has been established and is actively engaged in policy coordination and advocacy, and many water initiatives are operational. Many countries have developed and/or updated national strategies and action plans on Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) within the context of PRSs, and have embarked upon, or undertaken policy and institutional reforms on WSS. However, SSA lags behind the rest of the world on progress to meet the drinking water target. In contrast, North Africa is classified among the regions that are on track to meeting the target on drinking water. North Africa is also on track to halve the proportion of people without basic sanitation by 2015. SSA on the other hand has not made sufficient progress towards meeting this target.

Challenges and constraints

Sustaining high levels of growth and ensuring that growth provides employment opportunities are key challenges to reducing income poverty. At the same time, income poverty is a major constraint to achieving food security, gender equality and equity, education, health, human settlements and water and sanitation objectives. All these are interlinked and impact on one another. Additionally, weak institutional capacity, unfavorable macroeconomic conditions, insufficient investment in infrastructure, and natural disasters, are important constraining factors.

Lessons learned and the way forward

Sustaining high growth rates to financially empower countries to alleviate poverty and adopting holistic multiple strategic interventions in a wide range of areas are essential. In the agriculture sector, providing additional resources, enhancing adoption of better farming practices and improved technology, creating the right conditions for investment and for effective market functioning, as well as undertaking reforms that promote structural transformation of agriculture and rural economy, are essential. Gender issues should be mainstreamed into economic analyses and poverty reduction strategies, and policies that guarantee gender equality and replicate the AU principle of 50/50 gender parity should be institutionalized. Efforts should be intensified to build upon success so far achieved in the education sector, including implementing policies that enhance access, quality, and equal opportunities to boys and girls, rich and poor. Health interventions should be adequately designed and implemented in order to achieve immediate results and improve survival of infants, children and women. Activities aimed at sustainable human settlements must include slum prevention, slum upgrading using local resources and technology, and promote employment creation. Sustainable water supply and sanitation calls for long-term strategies and plans for investments and the development of urban and rural water and sanitation infrastructures, as well as undertaking institutional and legislative reforms.

Sustainable Consumption and Production

Concrete actions taken and progress made

Ten-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP: The African 10 Year Framework Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (African 10-YFP) has been launched. The Task Force on Cooperation with Africa, and the Regional Steering Committee for the African 10-YFP have been established. An eco-labelling project is being implemented within the framework of the Programme. In June 2007, an expert group meeting was organized to review two draft study reports on ecolabeling. As a follow-up to the meeting, discussions and consultations were held between the AU Commission, ECA, UNEP and the Taskforce. Agreements on securing political endorsement, substantive development, coordination and mobilizing resources are currently being implemented.

Corporate social responsibility: NEPAD sets the tone for corporate sustainability (CSR) in Africa. It highlights the need to create conditions for private-sector growth in order to generate social development benefits. The APRM is an important instrument that can effectively promote CSR. The African Institute of Corporate Citizenship is promoting the role of business in building sustainable communities. Emerging CSR organizations in Africa complement many other civil society groups working on certain aspects of CSR. Given its developmental context, the application of CSR in Africa mainly contributes to addressing those issues affecting the daily lives of Africans, including health, education and training, agriculture and food security. African business associations and several stakeholders from civil society and academia are participating in global initiatives, including the Global Compact and the UNEP Financial Initiative. Several companies in Africa are members of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

Sustainable tourism development: NEPAD has identified tourism as an important vehicle to addressing the current development challenges facing Africa. In 2004, its Tourism Action Plan was approved. A main objective of the Plan is to provide an engine for growth and integration, and to contribute to poverty eradication. Most African governments have now included tourism in their national development strategies. Countries have also started adopting policies that unlock opportunities for the poor within tourism. Additionally, countries have adopted the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism and are reporting on implementation progress.

Sustainable industrial development: In July 2004, the AU endorsed the Africa Productive Capacity Initiative (APCI) as the NEPAD Sustainable Industrial Development Strategy. The African Productive Capacity

Facility has been established as a financial mechanism to support the APCI. UNIDO has assisted many countries in Africa in developing and implementing programmes aimed at improving the competitiveness of selected industries and, wherever possible, identify new market opportunities. UNIDO and UNEP, supported by UNDP and other bilateral donors, are the agencies most actively promoting cleaner production in Africa. Projects to strengthen metrology, standards and testing institutions are underway in several countries. Countries have also established agro-processing ventures and Medium Sized and Micro Enterprises (MSMEs), and are gradually accessing finance, technology transfer and capacity building for growth-oriented and competitive MSMEs, with increased focus on women.

Energy for sustainable development: A multi-donor NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility has been established at the African Development Bank (AfDB). The facility has provided funding for the preparation of several regional projects, including oil pipeline, gas pipeline, hydroelectric power and power interconnection. Several UN Agencies are supporting energy projects, including energy access and efficiency and renewable energy. Rural energy access scale-up initiatives led to the design of new energy supply schemes integrating energy services to the development of productive and income generation activities, entrepreneurship, and the promotion of indigenous energy resources.

Chemicals and hazardous wastes management: Many African countries have ratified major chemicals and wastes related Conventions. African countries have completed and endorsed a regional action plan for the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). Countries are benefiting from training and capacity building projects to support the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System for the classification and labeling of chemicals. Countries are adopting policies and legislation on chemicals and wastes, including hazardous wastes management and are implementing activities on environmentally sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes. The African obsolete pesticide stockpile project has been established to clean up stockpiled obsolete pesticides, catalyze development of prevention measures and build capacity for chemicals-related issues. African governments have committed themselves to promoting synergies and coordination among chemicals and wastes regulatory instruments and agencies.

Challenges and constraints

Poverty, inadequate awareness and capacity, lack of appropriate policies, strategies and legislative frameworks, inadequate harmonization of laws, regulations, codes and standards, and poor enforcement, are stumbling blocks to all aspects of SCP. Others include lack of business incentives low skill levels and limited capacities. Political instability, wars and terrorist attacks, leakages and limited linkages to the local economy are specific constraints to sustainable tourism development.

Lessons learned and the way forward

It is essential to maintain the political momentum and commitment for the effective implementation of the African 10-YFP. Sound corporate governance and risk management systems to successfully implement policies and measures to address environmental and social challenge should be promoted. Sustainable tourism development should take into account risk factors; ensure effective market place value, quality of products and meaningful community-private-public partnerships, supported by policies that influence flows to the poor. Interventions in sustainable industrial development should improve productivity and investment with a focus on structural issues, prominent among which relate to domestic capacity building, the strengthening of domestic factor markets and the supply of public goods. The problem of access to modern energy in rural and peri-urban areas should be addressed in PRSs and National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSDs). Furthermore, policies, strategies, legal and regulatory frameworks that are conducive to an attractive national investments climate should be established. Countries should target analysis at understanding the concrete

impacts of chemicals and hazardous wastes on key development issues to help in effectively mainstreaming chemicals management into national development strategies, including PRSs. Synergies between chemicals and hazardous wastes related MEAs should be enhanced at all levels.

Natural resource base of economic and social development

Concrete actions taken and progress made

Sustainable land management: An important regional initiative is the AU/AfDB/ECA Initiative on a Pan African Framework on Land Policy for Securing Rights, Enhancing Productivity and Improving Livelihoods. Countries are undertaking land reforms, which inter alia address land and natural resource rights and policies in the region, with the active participation of civil society organizations. Institutions and management systems are also being strengthened.

Sustainable mineral resources development: The African Mining Partnership (AMP)- a high-level ministerial forum, has been established to implement the mining chapter of NEPAD. The AMP has evolved into a forum for African countries to discuss and take common positions on emerging issues of importance to Africa. Other initiatives include: the establishment of the Communities and Small-scale Mining Africa chapter; the Africa Mining Network; the Spatial Development Programme championed by the NEPAD Secretariat; the Southern and Eastern Africa Minerals Center, which has now opened membership to all African countries and to other stakeholders, including the private sector. At sub-regional level, there have been efforts to improve harmonization of mineral policies, standards, and regulatory and legislative environments.

Freshwater resources: The Africa Ministerial Council on Water and the Africa Water Task Force were established to enhance cooperation and coordination and promote the development and implementation of coherent policies and strategies for water resources management. Additionally, the African Water Vision 2025 has been developed, launched and is being implemented. The implementation of water resources management component of the NEPAD Infrastructure Short-Term Action Plan (STAP) is focused on seven river basins. At subregional level, several river basin organizations and initiatives have been established/ developed and are operational. An increasing number of countries are developing new policies, strategies and laws for water resource development and management, based on the principles of integrated water resources management. Countries carrying out water sector reforms are also restructuring their institutional and legal frameworks.

Coastal and marine resources: Most coastal countries in Africa are signatories to one or more multilateral environmental agreements that deal with marine and coastal management issues. These Conventions lay the foundations for coastal states to adopt policies, develop legislation and management plans on coastal and marine environments. Many countries have put in place policies and legislation on integrated coastal zone management. The coastal and marine programme of NEPAD aims to support the implementation of regional and global agreements on the coastal and marine environment. Initiatives in the fisheries sector include the adoption of the Abuja Declaration on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa.

Sustainable forest management: A forest programme was developed as part of the NEPAD Environment Initiative. Regional and sub-regional agreements, partnerships and programmes to promote sustainable forestry have been established. Countries have undertaken a wide range of measures and actions aimed at mitigating and reversing the trend of forest loss. Substantial effort has been made mostly by North African countries to establish planted forests. Two thirds of African countries have developed, and are at different stages of implementing National Forest Programmes. The majority of African countries have adopted new forest policies and forest laws, and efforts are being made in many countries to improve law enforcement. Countries are also making progress in integrating forestry issues into poverty reduction strategies.

Biodiversity: The African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources was adopted in 2003. The Convention commits African countries to development that is based on the achievement of ecologically rational, economically sound, and socially acceptable policies and programmes, which recognize the human right to a satisfactory environment, as well as the right to development. African countries have ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Protocol and several other biodiversity-related Conventions. Countries are translating provisions of the CBD into action through the development of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

Climate Change: A programme on climate change has been developed as part of the NEPAD Environment Initiative. Several African countries have completed their first national communication and have begun their second. African countries are at different stages of preparing their National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs). Forty-six countries have ratified or acceded to the Kyoto Protocol and are engaged in its implementation. The World Bank and UNEP are supporting countries in developing projects for funding within the framework of the Clean Development Mechanism. Countries are also developing and deploying new, innovative and other technologies and methods to deal with challenges brought about by climate variability and climate change.

Drought and desertification: Strategies and programmes to address drought and desertification have been developed at subregional and regional levels and the Green Wall for the Sahara programme has been launched. Centers charged with timely monitoring of drought, and issuing early warnings have been established. African countries have signed the United Nations Convention to combat Desertification (UNCCD). Countries are developing and implementing their National Action Programmes to combat desertification (NAPs). NAP implementation has commenced in some countries and several have integrated them into national development plans, including PRSs.

Natural Disaster risk reduction: The AU Commission, together with the NEPAD Secretariat, has developed the African Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), and a Programme of Action was adopted in 2005. In 2006, AMCEN mainstreamed the Africa DRR strategy into its five-year programme. Various RECs have DRR policies and strategies and have established subregional centers for DRR. SSA countries have made significant progress in DRR and a number of policies, institutions, and organizations have been set up to mainstream DRR. Arrangements within most Middle East and North African countries exist for emergency management and are organized and coordinated at a national level. However, these arrangements do not deal with DRR holistically.

Challenges and constraints

The creation, investment, distribution, governance and macroeconomic, as well as capacity challenges are major concerns to the sustainable development of mineral resources. Poverty, weak national institutions with poor technical and financial capacity and in some cases, fragmented or overlapping functions and actions; low levels of research and scientific capacity; low access to appropriate and efficient technology; inadequate capacity to integrate the principles of environmental economics into development planning processes; poor understanding and appreciation of natural resources issues, especially their links with, and benefits to poverty reduction; and lack of adequate financial support; constrain the sustainable management of the natural resource base.

Lessons learned and the way forward

Countries should strengthen governance systems at all levels, and reinforce institutional capacity, including human, technical and financial, adopt and implement effective policies and legislation, foster stakeholder ownership and local participation in natural resources management and development. Regional and subregional initiatives should be linked and coordinated with national development processes, in order to achieve greater

impact. Appropriate incentives should also be provided to encourage all stakeholders to become involved in sustainable natural resources management and development. There is need to enhance capacity building initiatives in the area of environmental economics, including valuation of environmental and natural resources. Enhancing adaptive capacity and increasing resilience through approaches that foster sustainable development should be key climate change interventions. This should be complemented with enhancing and promoting policy coherence and integrating climate change mitigation and adaptation concerns into priority development policies and programmes. Countries should increase political support to natural resources management and development, climate change and disaster risk reduction programmes. Countries also need to effectively integrate strategies and action plans of all natural resources sectors into national development plans, including poverty reduction strategies.

Means of implementation

Concrete actions taken and progress made

Domestic resources: Following the economic downturn during the eighties and early nineties, recovery began in 1994. Countries have continued to achieve and sustain positive real growth rates since 2000 and other macroeconomic aggregates have also improved. However, this growth rate is not enough for most countries. With only four countries recording an average real GDP growth rate of seven percent or more during 1998-2006, few African countries are positioned to achieve their sustainable development goals.

External resources: The capital flows in addition to domestic capital are very small compared to the developmental needs of African countries. Besides, despite the recent increase in Official Development Assistance (ODA), very few countries account for the larger share of the continent's receipt. In many African countries, the bulk of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows into the natural resource sector. However, FDI flows to the service sector have been on the rise in recent years, challenging the dominance of the extractive industries. There is also some diversification of sources of flow of FDI. Lately, Asian investments from China, India, Malaysia and South Korea have been increasing in Africa. As of June 2006, the HIPC initiative has delivered debt relief to 15 African countries.

Globalization and trade: African countries have become more engaged in World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations. The AU Commission has led the political efforts and the coordination of the negotiations. Significant technical support by many institutions has been provided to the political process spearheaded by the AU. CSOs have also been active in advocating for African priorities in the trade negotiations. Several African countries and RECs are involved in bilateral or trade negotiations in order to diversify their export markets and enhance their integration into the global economic system. Coordination between the different RECs will eventually lead to larger integration spaces that will allow room for African producers and exporters to finesse their competitiveness in order to enter the global trading system.

Regional integration: Africa is making some progress in its attempts to integrate. However, the results are mixed. Improvements have been made in the areas of trade, communications, macroeconomic policies, and transportation. Regional integration has brought marked improvements in the communication sector in some parts of the continent. There are checked results to report in the areas of energy. On free mobility of people, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the East African Community (EAC) have made significant progress. On the production and use of public goods through collective efforts and resource pooling, not much can be said. However, ECOWAS and Southern African Development Community (SADC) have had success in the area of peace and security.

Transport for sustainable development: In March 2002, African countries adopted the successor arrangement of the Second Transport and Communications Decades for Africa (UNTACDA II). African countries

and RECs have undertaken many policy reforms to attract the private sector, and to establish road funds. A number of transport corridors have been identified for development in landlocked countries. The SSA Transport Policy, the RECs Transport Coordination Committee and the NEPAD Infrastructure STAP are important regional initiatives. The NEPAD-Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility, which was established in 2003, is now a multi-donor facility. Improvements have been made in the road, rail, maritime transport, seaport and airport sub-sectors.

Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development: The most significant recent development in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for Africa is the establishment of the NEPAD Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA) and the establishment of the African Ministerial Council on Science and Technology (AMCOST). Sub-regional cooperation in STI is strengthening, particularly in Southern Africa with the development of protocols for cooperation. African governments recognize the importance of research and development and some are in the process of establishing policies and institutions on STI for sustainable development. Countries are enhancing their research capacities towards building an inclusive information society and most have developed national information and communication infrastructure policies and plans in the framework of the African Information Society Initiative.

Capacity building: African countries have partnered with many institutions in an effort to address the challenges of capacity building in Africa. These include the World Bank, AfDB, UNDP and ECA. Several other bilateral agencies and donors have also undertaken various aspects of capacity building in Africa. African institutions such as the African Capacity Building Foundation and the African Economic Research Consortium have added value to capacity building in Africa. The establishment of African Regional Technical Assistance Centers in three subregions of Africa by the International Monetary Fund, to support poverty reduction strategy processes is a laudable initiative. The AU/NEPAD has recently developed a Capacity Development Strategic Framework (CDSF), which will guide capacity building activities on the continent.

Challenges and constraints

Inadequate integration of employment creation into macroeconomic policy frameworks; low saving rates; low and unpredictable ODA flows; insufficient debt forgiveness; external trade barriers; low supply capacity; slow progress in the regional integration agenda; multiple memberships of countries in various RECs and overlap and duplication of functions of the RECs; inadequate capacity and lack of appropriate and adequate policy coordination and implementation and harmonization of national laws in the transport sector; low investment in proper STI strategies, systems, policies, capacities and institutions; and in the ICT sub-sector, high licensing fees; lack of national standards and high infrastructure costs, are major constraints to ensuring adequate and sustainable means of implementation. And among the major capacity building challenges are poor coordination and inadequate integration of efforts in capacity building; and high dependency on external capacity.

Lessons learned and the way forward

Means of implementation: Countries should promote pro-poor growth, if growth is to have a significant positive impact on poverty, as well as institute broad policy measures to sustain growth. There is need to better integrate capital flows policies into national industrial policy by providing incentives for investments that promote both domestic and foreign investments that are export oriented and have large positive impacts on employment creation. There is also need to advocate for higher volumes of aid in order to achieve and sustain higher levels of GDP growth rates and to accelerate poverty reduction, as well as to ensure that new aid is in the form of grants to prevent a new round of external payment crisis. Development partners should extend debt cancellation to all African countries. There is need to further coordinate and harmonize policies

and positions for success in the global trading system and to combine trade reforms with complementary adjustment support measures.

On regional integration, it is crucial to promote collective efforts, with dynamic political commitment to integration, and expand opportunities for investments that increase African incomes and tap unexploited resources. There is need to increase the financing of the infrastructure sector and adjust policies, in order to build physical and human capacities, modernize management, attract the private sector and improve transport facilitation. There is also need to promote awareness raising, policy analysis and advocacy on STI. In the ICT sub-sector, African countries should better position themselves, especially in the area of outsourcing. Adequate and appropriate capacity in Africa requires governments to ensure that capacity building programmes clearly tie in with, and take forward the developmental agenda; and that capacity building strategies are well coordinated and integrated.

Harnessing the interlinkages

WSSD recognized the three components of sustainable development, as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars, hence the emphasis placed on promoting their balanced integration. And various global and regional-level responses, individually and collectively, provide opportunities for enhancing synergies and promoting interlinkages in addressing Africa's development challenges. These responses have called for the establishment of institutions and development of policies and strategies that promote holistic and integrated approaches. Africa has responded with varying degrees of success. Institutional reforms are progressively being undertaken and sustainable development strategies are being developed and implemented. However, given the many challenges remaining, efforts must be intensified if the objective of positioning countries both individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development is to be achieved.

