



Economic Commission for Africa

A service in support
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NEPAD TODAY

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Every Wednesday

Commission for Social Development adopts text on social dimensions of NEPAD

The Commission for Social Development concluded its forty-eighth session today by approving a draft resolution on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

By the terms of that text, introduced as orally revised by the representative of Yemen, the Commission would have the ECOSOC encourage African countries to step up efforts to implement NEPAD by developing and strengthening governance institutions in order to create an environment conducive to foreign direct investment for the region's development.

The Council also urged States that had not done so to join and strengthen the APRM as well as urge continuous support for poverty eradication and sustainable development measures in Africa, with a particular emphasis on the Millennium Development Goals.

Furthermore, the Council would ask the Secretary-General to submit a report on the social dimensions of NEPAD, to be tabled in collaboration with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, during the Commission's forty-ninth session.

Also during the meeting, Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General for Economic

and Social Affairs, hailed the Commission on its first ever approval of a text on social integration and on showing the will and commitment to tackle daunting remaining challenges to the achievement of such broad social development goals as social integration, poverty eradication, and full employment and decent work for all, as set forth in the Copenhagen Declaration of the World Social Summit.

Source: http://media-newswire.com/release_1112784.html

Experts develop action plan to boost Africa's pharmaceutical innovation

A group of experts from across Africa has developed an action plan for boosting pharmaceutical innovation on the continent, with an emphasis on putting countries in the drivers' seat for their medicines development, access and local production.

The experts met in Pretoria, South Africa, to address the problems and challenges faced by African countries in their quest to

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improve access to medicines, do research for improved products and stimulate local production of medicines.

A statement issued Tuesday by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) said the experts suggested steps to support country innovation strategies.

They include the creation of mechanisms for improving regional scientific cooperation and the sharing of information across countries - for instance on projects and best practices.

A new tool for designing national pharmaceutical action plans was improved by the group, who agreed that it is useful for countries across the continent.

The experts included senior country policy makers (health and science and technology), researchers, pharmaceutical industry representations, civil society organizations and development partners.

"These decisions have significant implications for the future of pharmaceutical innovation and access to medicines on the continent. Africa has a robust set of inter-governmental agreements, Declarations, and national policies in many countries today. But to date these policies have not been effectively put into action," the statement said.

The discussions support the implementation of the Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Innovation, Public Health and Intellectual Property, the Africa Health Strategy and the African Union Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan.

The Pharmaceutical innovation tool and the substance of discussions in the meeting

were informed by the new study, *Strengthening Pharmaceutical Innovation in Africa*, launched by NEPAD, Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED) and the African Union (AU) last week.

Source: <http://www.afriquejet.com/news/africa-news/zambia:-experts-develop-action-plan-to-boost-africa's-pharmaceutical-innovation-2010022344691.html>

NEPAD unveils 2010 as AU's Year of Peace

Addressing NEPAD staff members in Midrand recently during the unveiling of 2010 as African Union's Year of Peace, the CEO of NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki pointed out that it is very unfortunate that there are places today on the African continent that are not enjoying peace.

Dr. Mayaki said development is the best way to bring about peace and that the NEPAD developmental initiatives on the African continent would impact positively on peace for economic and social development. He further stated that more money had been spent on the continent trying to promote peace initiatives by the international community than has been invested in agricultural programmes and for this he put Somalia as an example.

Source: <http://www.nepad.org/News/>

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