



Economic Commission for Africa

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NEPAD TODAY

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New commitments made to boost African farm investments

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Increased commitments to boost investments in Africa's agricultural sector was made at the sixth Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme Partnership Platform (CAADP-PP) meeting, which was held in Johannesburg recently.

During the meeting, the African Union Commission (AUC) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (Nepad) planning and coordinating agency, as well as other development partners noted the progress in defining a postcompact strategy to complete the design of investment

plans, and agreed on funding and policy related modalities of implementing these plans.

It was also recommended that the name of investment plans be changed to the 'Agricultural and Food Security Investment Plans'. AUC rural economy and agriculture commissioner Tumusiime Peace urged stakeholders to ensure the quality of agriculture and food security investment plans at a country level and to ensure that these were funded.

Source: <http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/new-commitments-made-to-boost-african-farm-investments-2010-04-26>

SA to push for Africa's economic integration

South Africa remains committed to regional economic integration in Africa and the country's economic policy will continue to promote free trade in the continent, the International Relations and Cooperation Minister, Maite Nkoana-Mashaba, said on Thursday, 22 April 2010, during her department's Budget Vote.

She said South Africa's work, as part of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) should build on the free

trade arrangement achieved in 2008 by

focusing on boosting regional production capacity and facilitate cross border trade.

"We also believe the time has come to extend preferential markets across Southern and Eastern Africa through the Tripartite Free Trade Area that will draw together SADC and East African Community," Nkoana-Mashabane said.

Source: <http://www.bizcommunity.com/Article/410/87/47038.html>

NEPAD REVIEW

Contextualising NEPAD: regional- ism, plurilateralism and multilateralism

There is a dearth of literature on the nature and scope of the African Union's New Partnership for Africa's Development (AU/NEPAD) in relation to trends in the international trade system. Available literature concentrates on the neoliberal character of the programme and views it as exposing the uncompetitive African economies to the hostile international economic environment. Contrary to this view, this article argues that AU/NEPAD, because of its three-part approach within contemporary trade trends, could be a viable strategy to promote economic development in the continent.

Contrary to this view, this article argues that AU/NEPAD, because of its three-part approach within contemporary trade trends, could be a viable strategy to promote economic development in the continent

Firstly, AU/NEPAD promotes reformed developmental regionalism, since it combines collective self-reliance of member states with 'strategic linking' into the global market. Secondly, it connects strategic linking to new partnerships through plurilateralism, as depicted by the G8 Africa Action Plan. Finally, AU/NEPAD promotes multilateralism through engagements with the World Trade Organisation, the UN and the World Bank.

For full article, please visit <http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content-db=all-content=a917853727>

UN CLUSTER NEWS

Cluster 4 holds a retreat in Tunis

Cluster 4--- Environment, Population and Urbanization Cluster, will have a retreat on 11-12 May 2010 in Tunis. Cluster Coordinator, UNEP, says the retreat will identify key results and joint activities for 2010 -2012 in line with AU/NEPAD Strategies and Action Plans and agree on cluster 4 priorities in line with the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM).

It will also discuss and agree on joint resource mobilization initiatives and examine concrete modalities for implementation of agreed joint activities aiming at strengthening collaboration with and support to AU/NEPAD including the RECs.

UNEP said the retreat would review and finalize the Business Plan with clear modalities for implementation and fund raising.

Participants will review AU/NEPAD action plans and key results for 2010 – 2013. They will also identify specific areas for joint support to AU, NEPAD, RECs and African countries.

They will also discuss a monitoring and evaluation framework for the business plan, according to UNEP. Interested? Contact L.MANNEH@AFDB.ORG or a Catherine.Mwangi@unep.org.

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