



Economic Commission for Africa

A service of the UN-system wide support to the African Union and its NEPAD Programme

NEPAD TODAY

nepad@uneca.org

Every Wednesday

Chief of Section
Kwabia Boateng

Editor

Yinka Adeyemi

Production Assistant

Meseret Arega

Intern

Tsega Fanta

NEPAD Agency releases its 2009 annual report

The NEPAD Agency has released its annual report for the 2009, focusing on progress made in various thematic areas such as agriculture/food security; capacity development; environment, gender, governance, health, ICT; infrastructure, energy, transport and water; science and technology; trade and market access; and education and culture.

The report says 2009 was a year of great changes for the NEPAD agenda and process, identifying the integration of NEPAD into the AU and the transition from the NEPAD Secretariat to the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, as the most challenging and exciting development.

It says NEPAD continues to provide the necessary technical support for continent-wide policy

discussions, knowledge generation, decision-making and communication, enabling Africa's political leaders to present a united and coherent front for the continent's development partners, such as the United Nations, G8, G20 and the Africa Partnership Forum, among other partnership mechanisms that Africa is involved in.

The report says NEPAD's work is envisaged to promote "an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in global arena" as the African Union defined vision. NEPAD role is, essentially, to steer and accelerate the political and socio-economic transformation desired by African leaders and citizens, it says.

Continued on page 2

Senegal advocates internet governance in Africa

Senegalese Minister for Technology, Information and Communication, Ms. Fatou Ndiaye Diop Blondin, has said the growing use of Internet in Africa and the important role of this technology in economic development of the continent required putting the issue of governance at the heart of state priorities.

'Although Internet penetration in Africa is smaller than in other parts of the world, particularly in developed countries, this tool is now affecting all aspects of life and it is imperative that African countries ensure the full and effective

Continued on page 2

NEPAD Steering Committee validates Agency's strategic direction

Special to ECA

The NEPAD Steering Committee which met in Pretoria in July has validated the strategic direction of the NEPAD Agency by endorsing its five thematic priorities and crosscutting issues as well as the Agency's new operating model based on a functional approach and an organizational design that reflects the new mandate of the NPCA.

Continued on page 2

NEPAD Agency...

Continued from Page 1

In a foreword to the report, the CEO of the NEPAD Agency, Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, said Africa's transformation is on course as indicated, for instance, by the progressive and steady average economic growth of 4-5% in the past few years, though the global financial and economic crisis adversely affected Africa's growth trajectory.

"The challenge is that many of Africa's 900 million inhabitants are still living below the poverty line. With only five years left until the 2015 deadline to achieve the MDGs, it is evident that many African countries will not meet that target," said Mayaki, adding that the structural concerns of Africa have been exacerbated by an ongoing financial crisis that started in late 2007 and which has had serious implications for the continent.

For full report, <http://www.scribd.com/doc/36126518/ANNUAL-REPORT-2009-Transition-From-the-NEPAD-Secretariat-to-the-NEPAD-Planning-Coordinating-Agency>

Senegal advocates...

Continued from Page 1

participation of all in debates on its governance,' Diop said at the opening of a West African forum on internet governance.

Citing Senegal, she stressed that information and communication technologies (ICTs) were part and parcel of development policies and plans, adding that her country had also launched a number of initiatives to use ICTs in general and Internet in particular at the forefront to improve the quality of life and accelerate national development.

'Senegal has a long history of leadership in developing this sector at regional and continental levels; our country coordinates the ICT industry and infrastructure of NEPAD (New Partnership for African Development) and is the founder of the Digital Solidarity Fund, launched in 2003 in Tunisia,' she recalled.

The three- day forum aims to facilitate the exchange of ideas and experiences and develop a common platform in West Africa for negotiations to be launched during the World Conference on Internet Governance.

Pan African News Agency, 24 September, 2010

NEPAD Steering...

Continued from Page 1

The Steering Committee also underscored the importance of providing the necessary resources and requisite capacity skills for the NPCA to efficiently deliver on its mandate as well as the need to strengthen NPCA's working collaboration with RECs to advance regional and continental integration

The Committee noted that the NPCA Strategic Direction is informed by the AUC Strategic Plan: 2009-2012 and that the leadership of the AUC including AUC Chair and Deputy Chair had been directly engaged on the Strategic Direction. A synopsis of the NPCA Strategic Direction was placed before the 23rd HSGOC which met this month in Kampala, Uganda.

On the Africa Partnership Forum (APF), the Steering Committee welcomed the outcomes of Toronto APF, which highlighted the progress being made by Africa towards MDGs attainment, especially on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, and the focus on regional partnerships by RECs. It also concluded that the Africa's development priority issues as identified in the original NEPAD framework, including peace and security, continue to be relevant to the APF, as a means of mobilizing partnership resources.

However, the Committee emphasized support for the current formula of division of labour between the AUC and NPCA in supporting the African side, comprising Steering Committee and Personal Representatives in the APF. The need to re-align APF objectives with the new NPCA mandate was also canvassed.

Regarding the conclusions of Muskoka G8/Africa Outreach and Toronto G20 Summit held in Canada in June 2010, the Steering Committee was briefed on various issues including the fulfillment of commitments made by development partners to Africa, Africa's expectations regarding attainment of MDGs particularly maternal & child health; Mutual Accountability and Peace and Security; G20's outcomes on sustainable economic growth, effectiveness of International Finance Institutions (IFIs), and setup of Committee on Development.