



Economic Commission for Africa

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

NEPAD TODAY

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African countries urged to entrench NEPAD in law

African governments have been asked to entrench NEPAD in their laws.

Former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo said there was nothing on the ground to officially support NEPAD.

Mr. Obasanjo, who is one of the programme founders, called for faster integration of NEPAD with the African Union (AU), saying the current relationship was affecting its operation. Ever since it was set up, there has been tension over the place of NEPAD in AU programmes given its origins outside the framework of the union,

and the continuing dominant role of South Africa -- symbolised by the location of the secretariat in the country. "Current efforts to move the headquarters, as a semi autonomous body, to AU headquarters must be pursued," Mr. Obasanjo said.

NEPAD was a merger of two plans for the economic regeneration of Africa: the Millennium Partnership for the African Recovery Programme (MAP) -- led by former South Africa president Thabo Mbeki, Mr. Obasanjo, and President Abdelaziz Bouteflika of Algeria -- and the OMEGA Plan for Africa developed by President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal.

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Extend UN expertise to all NEPAD priority areas --- Richard Mkandawire

A senior adviser at the NEPAD Agency, Prof Richard Mkandawire said in Dakar on June 21 that the UN had been instrumental in the work of NEPAD particularly in certain areas adding: "We need to transfer this to all the NEPAD priority areas of intervention."

He told the meeting of Communications focal points within the UN Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) that the NEPAD Agency was ready to work with the UN "in our collective efforts towards the communication and realisation of the

AU programme of NEPAD".

"However, for us to encourage broader buy-in into our joint work we need to show concrete and real on-the-ground stories that highlight how our work is making a difference in the lives of the African people", he added.

In line with these remarks, Ms. Mieke Ikegame, Officer in Charge - Coordination, Advocacy and Programme Development Unit of the UN Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (UN-OSAA) said that

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G8 leaders reaffirm their shared commitment to Africa

Leaders of the eight industrialized nations reaffirmed their shared commitment to continued collaboration between G8 and African partners in support of African-led efforts to build a more stable, democratic and prosperous Africa, to advance economic and social development, and to promote the rule of law.

They made the remarks in a declaration, Recovery and New Beginnings, issued on Saturday when the two-day G8 summit concluded at Muskoka, Ontario, Canada.

The G8 leaders met in Muskoka with the Heads of State or Government of Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia (as Chair of the NEPAD

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Extend UN expertise to all NEPAD priority areas --- NEPAD's Richard Mkandawire

NEPAD as a brand name could not be sold without concrete stories on the ground.

“This is why we all have to establish clear strategies for information and communication sharing between the UN, the AU Commission and the NEPAD Agency. Indeed, this is one of the key things that needs to be done soon in order to realise the mandate of the NEPAD Agency”, advised Ikegame.

Participants at the RCM include representatives from the NEPAD Agency, ECA, FAO, UNDP, UNESCO and related agencies.

Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee), Malawi (as Chair of the African Union), Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa.

The G8 and African leaders recognize that the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is a shared responsibility and that strategies based on mutual accountability are essential going forward.

“While significant progress has been made in some areas, greater efforts are required by all actors in order to achieve the MDGs in Africa,” they said.

African partners welcomed the G-8's continued efforts to help strengthen the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), including institutional capacity, to prevent and manage conflict through, inter alia, peacekeeping training centers in Africa.

G8 Leaders acknowledged the important contribution of African Leaders to the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative (AFSI).

As of April 30, 2010, the G-8 countries have disbursed or allocated 6.5 billion U.S. dollars and remain committed to disburse or allocate the full amount of their individual commitments by 2012 in line with the AFSI they launched in 2009 in L'Aquila, Italy.

Source: <http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90777/90852/7042023.html>

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