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*A service of the  
NEPAD Support Unit of the  
Economic Commission for Africa*

8 October 2007

## Experts to review report on the workings of UN Clusters in support of NEPAD

About 25 experts from 10 countries will begin a two-day meeting in Addis Ababa on October 10 to review a 30-page report on the status of the UN support for the implementation of NEPAD.

Commissioned by the ECA in its capacity as the strategic facilitator of the UN support to NEPAD, the report reviews the framework for the coordination of UN support, its methodology and implementation strategy.

The experts were selected from all the regional economic communities, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, NEPAD Secretariat, UN agencies and ECA's sub-regional offices.

*For more information, see [www.uneca.org/nepad](http://www.uneca.org/nepad)*

## NEPAD projects conference begins

A two-day conference on New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) projects began at the Sandton International Convention Centre in Johannesburg to explore ways of strengthening public and private partnerships for the effective implementation of NEPAD.

The Department of Foreign Affairs said the conference was an expression of commitment from government, business and civil society in South Africa to move NEPAD forward and would deliberate on a common implementation framework. "The overriding goal is better co-ordination within South Africa to ensure efficiency and maximum impact at the level of implementation," the Department of Foreign Affairs said. The Conference will, among other things, provide a platform to create linkages between government, the business and civil society to support the implementation of NEPAD in South Africa.

*Source: Panapress, October 8 2007*

## Ethiopia to host ICT Africa in 2008

A high level Information, Communication and Technology event dubbed ICT Africa 2008 is set to take place in Addis Ababa from 13th - 15th February 2008. The forthcoming event was scheduled earlier for November 2007. The high tech meeting is a replica of previous events held annually in different African countries, which are aimed at deliberating new ideas on ICT developments in Africa

The event will be held under the auspices of the NEPAD Council in collaboration with Pro-Invest of the European Union Institution. The summit is expected to cover a wide range of topics including ICT policy, investment, regional projects, research and development.

Delegates will also look at lessons learned from other regions of the world as well as acknowledge many of the industry's top minds. One of the events planner from NEPAD Council said delegates would be drawn from different parts of Africa and abroad to meet, teach and learn, make connections and move business forward in a bid to fast track ICT developments in Africa. "The event will bring people working on similar projects to form collaborations and synergies."

*Source: AllAfrica.com (Online): [www.allafrica.com](http://www.allafrica.com), 3 October 2007*

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## Regional Integration is key for NEPAD success, Minister

Key to the success of the New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is the speeding up and promotion of regional integration on the continent. Minister of Trade and Industry Mandisi Mphahla, outlined this imperative, during his keynote address at the NEPAD Projects conference in Johannesburg, Monday.

The minister explained the importance of regional trade and foreign direct investment (FDI) in Africa, adding that the rest of the world has realised that "an economically healthy Africa is essential for the well-being and stability of the global economy.

"The challenges facing Africa are well documented. We know that we need to attract FDI to promote wider economic development, to develop our skill base, to promote intra-Africa trade, and to build productive capacity across the continent."

Mr Mphahla highlighted that investment in infrastructure along with the creation of stable business environments, which included government adherence to the rule of law and respect for human rights, were key to attracting FDI. The minister said South Africa is to date the biggest investor in Africa and hoped other countries would follow suit and try to challenge South Africa for this position.

"Africa also needs to pick up the pace of its industrialisation," he said, adding it has become increasingly important to "broaden and deepen the scope of economies in Africa."

Intra-African trade along with private-public cross border partnerships will benefit the continent greatly with emphasis falling on the promotion of sourcing products and services from within the continent, instead of importing items from other parts of the world.

*Source: <http://allafrica.com/stories/200710081295.html>*

## Senegalese president criticizes NEPAD

Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade says that it is time that the New Partnership for Africa (Nepad) be re-looked at and has questioned its effectiveness six years after it was launched. Speaking in the Senegalese capital, President Wade says NEPAD needs to show some concrete results.

The 81-year-old president was one of the five founding fathers of Africa's economic blueprint. Nepad came into being after the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) approved the idea in 2001. It has been described as Africa's own economic development and poverty eradication plan.

However, six years on Wade says the programme is simply not living up to its expectation. "The aim of NEPAD is to help countries with projects that they cannot do themselves, (especially in) the different sectors like ICT and transport," he said. Wade says although money has been promised he has not seen any of it, but it is not the first time that Wade has hit out at NEPAD. The NEPAD secretariat has dismissed his critique. They say that the programme has succeeded in putting the issue of good governance on the front burner through the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).

*[http://www.sabcnews.com/africa/central\\_africa/0,2172,156812,00.html](http://www.sabcnews.com/africa/central_africa/0,2172,156812,00.html)*

### UPCOMING EVENTS IN OCTOBER:

**October 9 2007:** Brainstorming session on NEPAD and the Media (ILRI, Addis Ababa).

**October 10-11 2007:** Ad hoc Expert Group Meeting on External Review of UN system-wide Support to NEPAD.

**9-13 October,** Expert working group meeting on the NEPAD e-Schools business plan, Johannesburg, South Africa.

**10-11 October:** Adhoc Expert group meeting on the External Review of UN wide system support to the implementation of NEPAD: The cluster system at the regional consultations, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**29 October:** NEPAD Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue II, Abuja, Nigeria.

*This newsletter is published weekly by the  
NEPAD Support Unit of the United Nations  
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**DID YOU KNOW?** HP has started a project to address the growing problem of electronic waste in Africa in cooperation with the Global Digital Solidarity Fund and the Swiss Institute for Materials Science and Technology. The project aims to develop a blueprint for electronic waste management in Africa in conjunction with existing recycling schemes. The initial phase will consist of a pilot project in South Africa together with an analysis of existing practices in Morocco, Kenya and Tunisia.

**For more information:** <http://www.merit.unu.edu/it&weekly/html.php?nid=3128>