



Economic Commission
for Africa

www.uneca.org/nepad

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

15 October 2007

Uganda's peer review to begin in January

Uganda's performance on governance will be assessed by the Africa Union under the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) in January 2008. Government ministries have up to October 29 2007 to identify priority activities to be implemented in the next five years.

"President Yoweri Museveni is scheduled to present Uganda's programme of action to his African Union colleagues in January for assessment," said Silvia Ofoyuru, the programme manager of the APRM/NEPAD.

"You should identify priority activities and their cost so that we can integrate them into the final plan to be presented by the President to his peers," she told permanent secretaries and their technical staff at the Kabira Country Club last week.

Ofoyuru advised the ministries to examine the sector investment plans and other national initiatives. Prof James Katorobo, the chairperson of the meeting's plenary session, said: "The APRM initiative is to free African governments from external influences on their policies by developing their own." The African Peer review mechanism is a self-monitoring tool for good governance, under the NEPAD framework.

Source: <http://www.newvision.co.ug/D/8/13/592021>

Current pace on UN anti-poverty goals too slow, says Thabo Mbeki

"Seven years ago, in 2000, in its Millennium Summit in New York, the United Nations General Assembly addressed the challenge of global poverty. As part of its Millennium Declaration, it identified various Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that had to be achieved by 2015.

Effectively this year's General Assembly is the half-way point on the journey towards the realization of the MDGs. The General Assembly will therefore have to pose the critical questions: What progress has been made towards the achievement of the MDGs, and what more should be done to ensure that the world community of nations realizes this objective? Correct and honest answers to these questions are of vital importance to the billions across the globe who continue to suffer from the terrible scourges of poverty, hunger and underdevelopment". For full text:

<http://www.nationmedia.com/estafrican/current/Opinion/Opinion151020074.htm>

Algeria and Rwanda to reinforce cooperation in context of NEPAD

The Algerian-Rwanda Joint Commission met in Kigali on October 3 to hold broad discussions on how to address decolonization and promote regional integration initiatives in Africa in the framework of NEPAD. The two countries also discussed efforts against terrorism as well as partnership in trade activities, especially with the private sector.

Source: <http://www.afriquenligne.fr/actualites/economie/1%92algerie-et-le-rwanda-renforcent-leur-cooperation-bilaterale-200710039882/>

For more information, please contact yadeyemi@uneca.org Tel: 251-11-5443537, 251-911-402715

EVERY MONDAY
NEPAD Briefs



Djibouti embarks on awareness campaign on APRM

Djibouti, which acceded to the APRM at the XIX African Summit held in Accra Ghana, has embarked on nation-wide information and awareness campaign on the APRM process in the country.

The country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the accession confirmed the government's political will to actively implement NEPAD recommendations at the national level. The Government will proceed by undertaking field surveys and questionnaires, especially on democracy, political, economic and corporate governance, said the Ministry.

<http://www.ianation.dj/news/2007/ln120/national.htm>

Over \$68 billion invested in NEPAD projects, says Mucavele

Africa has invested over \$68 billion in priority areas of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), more than half of which came from contributions from African governments, NEPAD secretariat CEO Firmino Mucavele says. The money was invested last year by governments and the private sector in key sectors that include infrastructure, agriculture, health, education and human resources.

Contributions are short of NEPAD's \$111 bn required budget, but that was a smaller gap than last year, Mucavele added. He said pledges also exceeded the present gap. "The gap we have is less than the pledges that have been put down. This means that we will move a little bit faster in terms of economic growth and social programmes." However Ross Herbert, of the South African Institute for International Affairs, said a major shortcoming of NEPAD was that it had been unable to articulate a clear vision of what it was supposed to be. Herbert pointed out that NEPAD had been more successful in lobbying the west on debt than on continental work. He remarked that there was a lot of promise for NEPAD, but there was a need for greater candidness to deal with the impediments to implementation.

Source: Business Day, 11 October 2007

Southern Africa to meet trade deadline

Southern Africa is on track to form a free trade zone by 2008 and is considering establishing a customs union, a senior official with an African leadership group said on Tuesday. NEPAD has thrown its support behind the idea of setting up a free trade zone in the region next year.

"We will be able to meet the deadline of the FTA (Free Trade Area) and we are seeing what we can do to meet the customs union," Xolelwa Mlumbi-Peter, a South African trade official and director of the NEPAD, told a news conference in Johannesburg. The Southern African Development Community (SADC), a group of 14 nations including economic powerhouse South Africa, is also pushing the plan, which would, in theory, be followed by a customs union in 2010 and common market in 2015.

Source: Reuters, 10 October 2007

UPCOMING EVENTS IN OCTOBER:

- 17-19 October:** 5th African Business Leaders Forum, Accra, Ghana
- 22 October:** Meeting of Heads of States to discuss the reorientation and recovery of NEPAD, Dakar, Senegal
- 29 October:** NEPAD Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue II, Abuja, Nigeria.

*This newsletter is published weekly by the
NEPAD Support Unit of the United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa:
Chief: Emmanuel Nnadozie
Editor: Yinka Adeyemi
Asst. Editor: Siham Abdulmelik
Contributer: Adeline Djeutie*

DID YOU KNOW? An innovative food bank is providing poor farmers with access to cereal grains when there are seasonal or unexpected food shortages. The banks, managed exclusively by women, are improving nutrition, keeping families together and gathering interest in the form of grain in the warehouses.
For more information: www.ruralpovertyportal.org/french/regions/africa/ner/voices/banks.htm