

**Statement by Professor Ibrahim A. Gambari
Under-Secretary General and Special Adviser on Africa**

**to the 6th Annual Regional Consultation
of UN agencies Working in Africa**

**Addis Ababa
9 July 2004**

Mr. Executive Secretary,

Mr. Nkhulu, Chairman of NEPAD Steering Committee and Head of NEPAD Secretariat,

Madam Deputy Executive Secretary,

Dear Colleagues

Let me first thank Mr. KY Amoako, Executive Secretary of ECA, and his staff for the excellent preparations for this meeting, which is an important event on the calendar of the entities of the UN system working in Africa. We all know that as international support for NEPAD grows, the UN system must be at the vanguard of that effort, ^{and do so in a coherent & coordinated way} As the Secretary General noted in the overview of his report on UN system support for NEPAD to the Committee for Programme Coordination(CPC), the UN system is one of the main pillars of international support for NEPAD.

I want to speak to four sets of issues in these brief remarks.

- ***The regional consultation process:*** This is an important process for the agencies to engage seriously and creatively in support of NEPAD. The key role is to bring coherence in our work. This does not mean that agencies cannot provide support on individual basis. As the report of the Secretary General on UN system support for NEPAD to the Committee for Programme and Coordination in March, 2004 has acknowledged, “depending on nature of the support required, entities of the UN system have acted individually in some instances and worked collaboratively in others”. There is great expectation on the part of the Member States, African and non-African alike, about the importance of the regional consultation process as a vehicle for collaboration and coherence within the UN system for support to NEPAD. This was evident in the discussion at the General Assembly last year and most recently at the CPC that ended a week ago in New York. It is important that the agencies represented around this table live to that expectation.

One major fact that we have observed is the non-involvement of many Secretariat Departments within the Regional Consultation Mechanism. In this connection, I am taking steps to address this at the level of the Interdepartmental Task Force in New York, which I chair.

- ***The discussion at CPC on report on UN system support for NEPAD:*** Let me give you some flavour of the discussion on NEPAD at the last CPC. Though the CPC is not widely known among the entities of the UN system, especially those outside the UN Secretariat, I can assure you that it plays an important role in deliberations on programme thrust and content of the UN. In this year's debate, the CPC acknowledged the important role that the UN system has played, both individually and collectively, within the cluster arrangement, in supporting the NEPAD Secretariat and in the implementation of the various programmes of NEPAD. Major highlights of the debate by the CPC when considering UN system support for NEPAD were as follows:
 - The important role that the UN system has to play in supporting, not only the NEPAD Secretariat but also the regional economic communities in policy development, programme formulation, capacity building and institutional development was emphasized. Coordination should be enhanced and strengthened, particularly with a view to achieving a higher level of support and coherence within the six priority areas identified under NEPAD. Outreach and support should be channeled through all existing and appropriate mechanisms of the United Nations system to individual African countries.
 - The need for coordination to be actively pursued at all levels - the global, regional, sub-regional and national level as a means of deepening support to NEPAD was stressed.

- Financial resource mobilization being key to the successful implementation of NEPAD, the agencies of the UN system can play an important role in supporting resource mobilization for Africa and in particular, for the implementation of NEPAD. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa was urged to put greater efforts through its global advocacy work in mobilizing financial resources for Africa.

- It was emphasized that, under the sub-cluster on humanitarian response and post-conflict recovery, the inter-agency assessment team should address needs and gaps at an early stage, rather than resort to emergency measures when gaps in the humanitarian situation become critical. It was suggested that the lessons should be drawn from ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on Guinea Bissau and Burundi, for the work of the sub-cluster on humanitarian affairs and post-conflict recovery.

- While the conclusions and recommendations of the SG's report were generally welcomed, clarifications were sought regarding the implications of paragraph 72 (c), which proposed that "additional resources should be made available to the system to better support NEPAD." Clarifications were provided to the effect that these proposals stemmed from the recognition that many agencies reported the lack of adequate resources as a constraint to providing more support to the programmes of NEPAD. It was also emphasized that the additional resources required related to the needs of the agencies and organizations of the entire UN system and not for the particular entity.

- ***Reporting requirements on NEPAD:*** All the entities of the UN system working in Africa are involved in many important and interesting activities, in support of the implementation of NEPAD. These need to be known, especially by the Member States, individually and collectively. One important role of my office is precisely to prepare the reports of the Secretary General on NEPAD submitted to the intergovernmental

bodies at UN headquarters. This calls for the cooperation of all of your agencies and organizations. You will have noticed by now that my office makes request on your entities twice a year: in February and in May. The first request is to prepare the report for the CPC and the second for the General Assembly. The second request is basically to give agencies an opportunity to update the inputs that they provide in February. On the basis of the updated inputs, OSAA puts together a folder, which is made available to member states and other stakeholders during the General Assembly Debate on Africa and also as information material throughout the year.

We share the intergovernmental reports with the various entities of the UN system. And we pledge to continue doing that. We have been very much encouraged by the very positive feedbacks that we have received from various agencies and Member States on the reports. Please note that the report to the CPC, in view of the fact that it is devoted exclusively to the UN system, gives more space to the work of the clusters and to the work of each individual agency or organization. It is far less so in the report to the General Assembly as we are required to report on other stakeholders' activities in that report. I want to express my deep appreciation for the support that my office has received from all your departments, funds, programmes and organizations in preparing those reports and to urge for greater cooperation from you.

- **Cluster on Advocacy and Communications for NEPAD:** My Office has been assigned the role for coordination of global advocacy in support of NEPAD, and, in line with this mandate, I have proposed the creation of a cluster on ^{Global} Advocacy, under the chairmanship of my Office. In view of the dire need for enhanced advocacy for NEPAD, ^{esp. at the global level} I would count on the cooperation of all UN system entities.

The cluster is intended to reinforce mechanisms of coordination and coherence in the area of advocacy and communications, to communicate consistent messages on NEPAD, by the UN family and its partners in NEPAD. To facilitate the realization of this

endeavor, my Office in collaboration with NEPAD Secretariat, has prepared an advocacy and communication strategy document. The first draft of this document has been circulated in January 2004 and on the basis of the comments we received and the recommendations of the workshop organized by the NEPAD in Bamako on 23-25 March, this year OSAA has prepared a second draft, which we have circulated for consideration in this meeting. The document has already received comments at the Annual Meeting of the UN Communications Group, which took place in Nairobi on 24-25 June, but we hope to discuss it further in the proposed cluster here.

The strategy is intended to provide a framework in which the UN can work together with partners in NEPAD Secretariat and the AU commission in raising awareness and promoting NEPAD objectives, goals programmes, and success stories. It includes both communications and advocacy, since in our view these two are inseparable and are mutually supportive. Advocacy needs good communications and good communications need good advocacy and ^{both need} committed communicators.

It remains for me to thank Mr. Amoako again and to add my voice for his expectations for thoughtful discussion and productive outcome of this meeting.

Thank you for your attention.