ADF VIII discusses why Africa must benefit
from its natural resources

The Eighth African Development Forum (ADF VIII) held in Addis Ababa under the theme “Unlocking Africa’s potential as a pole of global growth” and the analytical work carried out in the Economic Report on Africa 2012 under the same theme.

It adds, the platform offers as much an opportunity to build partnerships as for the occasion to further deepen discussions on implementation of: the Africa Mining Vision (AMV), the AU Declaration on Land; the Framework and Guidelines for Land Policy in Africa (F&G); the Implementation Strategy for the Accelerated Industrialization Development (AIDA); Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests; and other frameworks for best practices in the management of mineral, land, fisheries and forest resources.

The overall objectives of the Forum are to raise awareness and cultivate deeper understanding of the role of Africa’s natural resource governance in its economic transformation. It will also provide an opportunity to discuss frameworks, policy options and strategies to better integrate mineral, land, fisheries and forest management into national resource- based economic development; discuss, and offer governance and management models, programmes, strategies and policies.

Dr. Emmanuel Nnadozie, the Director of Economic Development and NEPAD Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) has also argued that, “Exporting raw materials is equal to exporting your jobs.” He indicated that, processing those raw materials on the continent would offer jobs to citizens and add value to exports.

According to him, it is important to get Africans into the global value chain. He said that can be done through natural resource governance, knowledge and human resource development and growth that is strong and broad-based.

There is no doubt that the African continent is rich in natural resources.

The continent with an estimated over one billion population is rich in renewable and non-renewable natural resources, however, there is general agreement that the continent does not benefit from its vast resources. These resources are mined and exported in their raw form.

Africa produces more than 60 metal and mineral products and is a major producer of several of the world’s most important minerals and metals. But issues about Africa’s natural resources are vexations.

Some of the minerals mined out of Africa include gold, diamond, PGE’s, silver, iron, uranium, bauxite, manganese, chromite, nickel, bauxite, cobalt and copper. Platinum, coal, and phosphates are also mined on the continent.

Africa also has rich forests, marine and aquatic resources that have been exploited for years, but Africa’s share of the revenues, “have been minuscule compared to what the mining companies have realised,” said Dr. Stephen Karingi, the Director, Regional Integration, Infrastructure at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

Dr. Karingi has also said the top 40 mining companies operating in Africa reportedly made net profits of about $110 billion in 2010 alone. And these companies have a net asset base which exceeds $1 trillion.

A consultant to the African Mining Vision, Mark Jeffery has written that mining has come to dominate the export earnings of many African countries. In 2005 minerals accounted for more than 80% of exports in Botswana, Congo, DRC, Guinea, and Sierra Leone and more than 50% in Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia and Zambia. By 2008 sustained demand from a burgeoning Chinese economy had seen prices for minerals reach new heights.

Jean Noel Francois, the Acting Director, Department of Trade and Industry at the African Union Commission (AUC) has also said that even though Africa’s mineral resources are fuelling growth and development in many industrialized and emerging economies of the world, Africa still remains poor under-developed and dependent on donor assistance for national budget support.

He further reiterated the fact that Africa consumes very little of its own mineral resources and exports most of it as raw materials, “with little or no local value addition and beneficiation.”

The concept paper further states that the Forum will build on the outcome of the Fifth Joint African Union Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance and ECA Conference of African macro ministers-on-vanuatu, running and economic Development held in March 2012 in Addis Ababa under the theme “Unlocking Africa’s potential as a pole of global growth” and the analytical work carried out in the Economic Report on Africa 2012 under the same theme.

The conference jointly organised by the UNECA, the AUC and the African Development Bank is under the theme “Governing and Harnessing Natural Resources for Africa’s Development”.

The “ADF, an ECA flagship biennial event created in 1999, is a multi-stakeholder platform for discussing the effectiveness of Africa’s development policy and strategies... It is to establish an African-driven development agenda that reflects consensus, and has the potential to yield specific programmes for implementation,” the conference concept paper has said.

The conference has called for full implementation of the Fifth Joint African Union Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance and ECA Conference of African macro ministers-on-vanuatu, running and economic Development held in March 2012 in Addis Ababa under the theme “Unlocking Africa’s potential as a pole of global growth” and the analytical work carried out in the Economic Report on Africa 2012 under the same theme.

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African Development Forum takes off with media workshop

By Emmanuel K. Doghevi

The Eighth African Development Forum (ADF VIII) started off with a media workshop for all the journalists covering the conference, Sunday October 21, 2012 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The Forum jointly organised by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB), is a major development agenda conference on Africa’s future.

Speaking at the workshop, Mr. Yinka Adeyemi, Officer-in-Charge of the Information and Communications Services Unit of the ECA, told the journalists that it is their duty to hold African governments accountable. He said the amount of money that is illegally taken out of Africa is over $50 billion every year. He urged the journalists to help the track the money, stop the flow and return the money.

A High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa, an African Union-endorsed think-tank charged with recommending appropriate policies to counter the phenomenon and seek repatriation of the stolen moneys back to the continent headed by former South African President, Thabo Mbeki is working on tracking, stopping the flow and returning the funds to Africa.

He encouraged the journalists to write to inform their citizens and hold their governments accountable. Mr. Antonio Pedro, ECA head in Rwanda, told the journalists that the extractive industries in Africa are producing little linkages to other sectors of the economy, indicating that even though there is a high foreign direct investment in the sector, “there is no reflection on development outcomes.”

He reiterated the fact that the media was important in helping galvanise debates as well as influencing policies on the utilisation of natural resources that have been grossly underutilised.

The call was made during a media training workshop held October 21, 2012 as part of the off-again beginning of the Eighth African Development Forum (ADF VIII) conference taking place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The event, organised by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) brought together over a dozen journalists from the print, online and broadcast media.

Speaking at the workshop, Jenerati Ulimwen- buya, a media expert from Tanzania, noted that the African media today is better positioned to not only help in the discourse in the proper utilisation of natural resources on the continent but also stand at a historic vantage point in terms of helping to sketch out a new future for the continent.

He called on the need for African media to seize the opportunity towards not only educating the public on how to control the natural resources within their countries but to also act as a watchdog to prevent abuses as well as corruption that are often tied with the exploitation of natural resources in Africa.

On the issue of illicit capital flows, Yinka Adeyemi, from the ECA’s Information and Communications Services called on journalists to help in what he called a three pronged approach towards combating illicit capital flows from the continent - “Track it; Stop it; and get it.” He said the UN and other relevant bodies had been working towards that end. Adeyemi also indicated that the High Panel on Illicit Financial Flows headed by former South African President, Thabo Mbeki is working to track illicit funds leaving the continent and to return these funds.

He said even though the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) has been adopted by most African countries, it should be domesticated by the AUC.

According to him, it is important for African countries to invest in other sectors of the economy apart from mining as natural resources are non-renewable. He said countries must address the enclave nature of mining by using mining rents to develop other sectors of the economy.

He argued that conversations on mining shouldn’t be between only governments and the companies, but should involve other stakeholders like the media.

“An informed and responsible media should help shape government decisions,” he said.

In her remarks, Mrs. Wynne Musabayana, Deputy Head of Communication Division of the AUC, reiterated the fact that the media was important in the ongoing discussions. She said because citizens have the right to know, the media serves as the interlink between institutions and the people.

Mrs. Musabayana said the process of Africa’s development must be participatory and driven by citizens.

She therefore called on the media to insist that African leaders implement decisions they take at AU and other meetings in their countries.

Media engagement towards improving natural resources governance in Africa necessary - Workshop

By Samson Haileyesus

African journalists have been called upon to make their own contributions towards solving galvanising debates as well as influencing policies on the utilisation of natural resources on the continent.

The three day conference to be held October 23-25 2012 is under the theme: “Governing and Harnessing Natural Resources for Africa’s Development”.

Speaking to the journalists, Mr. Yinka Adeyemi, Officer-in-Charge of the Information and Communications Services Unit of the ECA, told the journalists that it is their duty to hold African governments accountable.

The primary role of the Panel is to complement and support the work on illicit financial flows currently being undertaken by other African and non-African institutions particularly in areas of: commercial tax evasion; criminal activities; and corruption. Specifically, the Panel in partnership with the ECA’s external partners will promote national and multilateral policies (safeguards and agreements) aimed at curtailing cross-border flow of illegal money. In addition, it will put forward solutions, facilitate strategic partnerships and commission research on various aspects of the subject.

In the past four decades, it is estimated that Africa has lost $1.8 trillion through illicit capital flows between 1970 and 2008. These are noted to have occurred through tax evasion, under-invoicing, import over-pricing and under-pricing of exports as well as transfer pricing.

Adeyemi therefore, underscored the need for the media to partner as well as collaborate with stakeholders within and outside the continent to help in combating illicit capital flows. Mrs. Wynne Musabayana, speaking on behalf of the African Union Commission (AUC), indicated that the renewed resolve of the AUC towards supporting the work being done by media not only in terms of providing information to the general public at large but also as a conduit through which the AUC can reach not only Africans but also beyond. In this regard Musabayana indicated that the commitment of the AU towards supporting media through inclusion in the AU’s strategic plan towards providing information as well as help build capacity of journalists towards reporting more on the activities of the AU.

The theme of ADF VIII is, “Governing and Harnessing natural resources for Africa’s development and Economic Development held in March 2012 in Addis Ababa under the theme “Unleashing Africa’s potential as a pole of global growth”.

This year’s ADF is expected to offer opportunities to stakeholders to build partnerships and further deepen discussions on implementation of: the Africa Mining Vision (AMV), the AU Declaration on Land, the Framework and Guidelines for Land Policy in Africa (F&G); the Implementation Strategy for the Accelerated Industrialization Development for Africa (AIDA); Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests; and other frameworks for best practices in the management of land, fisheries and forest resources.

ADF Today is produced by an independent team of journalists.


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For the online version of the newspaper go to www.uneca.org/adf
ADF looks towards regulating e-waste in Africa for economic benefits

By Samson Haileyesus

It is a bid to curb the rising levels of electronic waste (e-waste) within the African continent so environmental regulators, recyclers, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), policy makers and academicians are calling for regulations. They are also calling for a continental framework towards addressing the rising number of obsolete computers, appliances, mobile phones and other devices being dumped into the continent - these pose serious threats to human and environmental health. "We are mindful of the benefits of the business opportunities and resources inherent in e-waste recycling however... what we want is, it should be done properly", said Dr. Nzioka Benebo, Director General of the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) of Nigeria.

The Nigerian government, she said is committed to looking at e-waste within the context of mining. Dr. Benebo noted the economic potentials that could be generated from e-waste and opined towards looking at it as a potential resource that could contribute to the nation's income if managed properly, as most e-waste contains a variety of materials in some cases precious metals can be recovered for future uses. In addition it could be dismantled and reused thus preventing water and air pollution during the extraction of mineral ores. To this effect Dr. Benebo noted that Nigeria has already visited Taiwan and the United Kingdom to tap into knowledge on e-waste management.

Dr. Benebo noted that though Nigeria has regulations in place towards regulating e-waste the continent at large too does have significant potential for sustainable e-waste recycling endeavors.

However, Dr. Benebo named that barriers to sustainable e-waste recycling technologies exist which fall under: policy and legislation; technologies and skills; business and financing.

She therefore, called on manufacturers to invest in research and development to design products that can be easily upgraded, disassembled and recycled. In addition she called for the ratification of the Bamako Treaty.

Dr. Benebo said these during a workshop under the theme "Urban mining challenges and opportunities for Africa. Synergies between e-waste recycling and mining of mineral resources", ahead of the eighth edition of the Africa Development Forum (ADF VIII).

With regards to progress in creating the continent's critical mass to move forward, Betty Nzioka, Deputy Director, Environmental Awareness, National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) of Kenya briefed the participants on the deliberations of the Pan-AFRICAN FORUM ON E-WASTE which was held in March 2012 in Nairobi and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) held in September in Arusha, Tanzania.

On the latter Nzioka said: "The objective was to sensitize that e-waste is no longer something we can ignore, there are some countries in the world where management and recycling is on course but a large part of Africa is trying to understand the magnitude of this type of waste", noted Nzioka.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) estimates that with increased domestic consumption of electronic products, coupled with the ongoing import of waste electronics into Africa from other regions, the continent is set to generate a higher volume of e-waste than Europe by 2017.

Nzioka shared the experience of Kenya on e-waste management guidelines as well as the African effort towards coming up with a united front both within the context of the AMCEN and the Pan-African Forum on E-waste.

The Eighth African Development Forum (ADF VIII)
Mining companies worldwide spent $7.3bn on exploration in 2009

By Grous Abate

Mining companies worldwide are reported to have spent about $7.3 billion on exploration activities. Professor Aberra Mogessie, President of the Geological Society of Africa (GSAF) made this known at a pre-event forum at the Eighth African Development Forum (ADF VIII) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

He said Africa is well endowed with mineral resources, however, much of Africa is still unexplored and unmined.

The World Bank organized the forum under the theme ‘Geological Mapping and Mineral Inventory in Africa’ Monday October 22, 2012. The forum included sessions featuring keynote speakers and presenters, followed by panel discussions and debates.

Opening the session, Ethiopian Minister of Mines, Sinkinesh Ejigu said the meeting will help to identify key issues that should be addressed and will provide possible solutions.

She further said that sufficient capital investment, low level know-how, poor linkage with other sectors hampers the development of mapping and mineral inventory in Africa.

“As Africa is significantly underexplored we should do more to know what potential Africa has exactly and utilize its resources efficiently” she said.

Africa, the world’s second largest continent, comprises of a number of resource-rich countries.

The mineral wealth of Africa includes a major portion of the world’s reserves of bauxite, chrome, cobalt, diamonds, fluorspar, gold, manganese, phosphate rock, platinum-group metals, titanium minerals, vanadium and zircon. Africa also contributes to a significant portion of the world’s production of these metals.

Professor Aberra, President of the Geological Society of Africa (GSAF) suggested that investment in education of earth science and other related fields, investment in research in science and technology and good governance will help to properly develop the mineral resources of the continent.

“We say Africa is well endowed with mineral resources, however, much of Africa is still unexplored and unmined. The amount of money spent worldwide in 2009 by companies engaged in the mineral exploration sector totals $7.3 billion. Although Africa has 20% of the earth’s crust, it is only 15% of the budget that has been invested in mapping in Africa. Therefore Africa needs investment in Geo-knowledge,” he said.

He ended his comment saying “What will be discussed here at this meeting and elsewhere should not lead to a scramble for African mineral resources but for a sustainable and integrated development of the African continent for the benefit of all concerned.”

The session also discussed the need for attaining availability of adequate geo-scientific data that will increase investment and enable a state to maximize its revenues.

ADF Events

DAY 1 Tuesday, 23 October 2012

10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. Plenary session 1

Welcoming remarks by Mr. Carlos Lopes, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ECA

Statement by the President of the Republic of the Mozambique

Roundtable on Governing and Harnessing Natural Resources for Africa’s Development

Moderator: Ms. Ukudah Amiono

Speakers:
Honorable Musaka Mudavadi, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya
Representative of the President of the Republic of Gabon Representative of the Prime Minister of Australia
Executive Vice-President of Angolodo Ashanti

Venue: Conference Room 1

1.00 - 2.30 p.m. LUNCH BREAK

2.30 - 4.00 p.m. Plenary session 2

Roundtable on Mineral Resources for Africa’s Development: Anchoring a New Vision

Chair: H.E. Mr. Maxwell Mwonzamamba, Commissioner, Economic Affairs, African Union Commission

Speakers:
H.E. Mr. Eriksen Elgu, Minister of Mines, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
Mr. Han, Mr. Claire Short, Chair, Executive Industry Transparency Initiative
Mr. Sughalr Panthapal, Secretary-General, UINTD
H.E. Mrs. Isabel Cristina de Azvedo Heyvaert, Ambassador of Brazil to Ethiopia
Mr. Horve Guichet, Environmental Programmes Director, World Resource Forum
Mr. Yao Graham, Executive Director, Third World Network Africa
Mr. Raphael Kapilinsky, Professor of International Development, The Open University

Venue: Conference Room 1

4.00 - 4.30 p.m. COFFEE BREAK

4.30 - 6.00 p.m. Plenary session 3

Roundtable on Governing the Risks and Opportunities of Large-scale Land Investments for Africa’s Development

Chair: President Postus Mogae, Former President of the Republic of Botswana

Speakers:
H.E. Mr. Robert Bwesigwa Wila, Minister of Lands, Republic of Congo
Dr. Daniel Kavui Bereku, Permanent Chief, National House of Chiefs, Ghana
Mr. Joseph Mongu, Former Minister of Agriculture, United Republic of Tanzania
Mr. Madiego Nasser, Director, International Land Coalition
Mr. Andre Lapriers, Deputy CEO of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)
Mr. Tegonework Getu, Director, UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa

Venue: Conference Room 1

6.00 - 8.00 p.m. RECEPTION

Tips for participants

• Hours of the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia at ECA: 9.00 - 17.30
• Sweet Tooth: Bilo’s pastry at the Old ECA building has delicious pastries for less than Br12.

8.00 - 17.00

Top the pastries off with mahiachito or expresso from Kaldis, just above Bilo’s.