# THE NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA’S DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD)

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THE NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA’S DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD)

BACKGROUND

- NEPAD is a merger of the Millennium Partnership for Africa’s Recovery Programme (MAP) and the Omega Plan.
- The merger was finalised on 3 July 2001.
- Out of the merger, the New Africa Initiative (NAI) was born.
- NAI was then approved by OAU Summit Heads of State and Government on 11 July 2001.
- Its policy framework was finalised by HSIC on 23 October 2001, forming the NEPAD.

WHAT IS NEPAD?

- It is a holistic, comprehensive integrated strategic framework for the socio-economic development of Africa. The NEPAD document provides the vision for Africa, a statement of the problems facing the continent and a programme of action to resolve these problems in order to reach the vision.
- It is a plan that has been conceived and developed by African leaders.
- It is a comprehensive integrated development plan that addresses key social, economic and political priorities in a coherent and balanced manner.
- It is a commitment that African leaders are making to African people and to the international community, to place Africa on a path of sustainable growth.
- It is a commitment African leaders are making to accelerate the integration of the African continent into the global economy.
- It is a framework for a new partnership with the rest of the world.
- It is a call to the rest of the world to partner Africa in her own development on the basis of her own agenda and programme of action.

GOALS OF NEPAD

- To promote accelerated growth and sustainable development.
- To eradicate widespread and severe poverty.
• To halt the marginalisation of Africa in the globalisation process.

OUTLINE OF THE PLAN

A. CONDITIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A1. The Peace, Security, Democracy and Political Governance Initiatives:
   (i) Peace and Security Initiative
   (ii) Democracy and Political Governance Initiative

A2. The Economic and Corporate Governance Initiative

A3. Sub-regional and Regional Approaches to Development

B. SECTORAL PRIORITIES

B1. Bridging the Infrastructure Gap:
   (iii) All Infrastructure Sectors
   (iv) Bridging the Digital Divide: Investing in Information and Communications Technologies
   (v) Energy
   (vi) Transport
   (vii) Water and Sanitation

B2. Human Resource Development Initiative
   (i) Poverty Reduction
   (ii) Bridging the Education Gap
   (iii) Reversing the Brain Drain
   (iv) Health

B3. Agriculture

B4 The Environment Initiative

B5. Culture
B6. Science and Technology Platforms

C. MOBILISING RESOURCES

C1. The Capital Flows Initiative
   (viii) Increasing Domestic Resource Mobilisation
   (ix) Debt Relief
   (x) ODA Reforms
   (xi) Private Capital Flows

C2. The Market Access Initiative
   (i) Diversification of Production
   (ii) Agriculture
   (iii) Mining
   (iv) Manufacturing
   (v) Tourism
   (vi) Services
   (vii) Promoting the Private Sector
   (viii) Promoting African Exports
   (ix) Removal of Non-tariff Barriers
PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES OF NEPAD

- Ensuring African ownership, responsibility and leadership.
- Making Africa attractive to both domestic and foreign investors.
- Unleashing the vast economic potential of the continent.
- Achieving and sustaining an average gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of over 7 per cent per annum for the next 15 years.
- Ensuring that the continent achieves the agreed International Development Goals (IDGs).
- Increasing investment in human resource development.
- Promoting the role of women in all activities.
- Promoting sub-regional and continental economic integration.
- Developing a new partnership with industrialised countries and multilateral organisations on the basis of mutual commitments, obligations, interest, contributions and benefits.
- Strengthening Africa’s capacity to lead her own development and to improve coordination with development partners.
- Ensuring that there is a capacity to lead negotiations on behalf of the continent on major development programmes that require coordination at a continental level.
- Ensuring that there is capacity to accelerate implementation of major regional development cooperation agreements and projects already approved or in the pipeline.
- Strengthening Africa’s capacity to mobilise additional external resources for its development.
NEPAD OUTCOMES

- Economic growth and development and increased employment
- Reduction in poverty and inequity.
- Diversification of productive activities, enhanced international competitiveness and increased exports.
- Increased African integration.

HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

The first meeting of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee, as mandated at the OAU Summit in Lusaka on 11 July 2001, was held in Abuja, Nigeria on 23 October 2001. A number of decisions were taken. This signifies the start of the vital implementation phase of the initiative:

a) The name of the initiative was finalised, being the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD). The New Africa Initiative (NAI) had been merely an interim working title.

b) The NEPAD document itself was finalised. None of the substance was changed from that accepted by the OAU in Lusaka, but the document was reorganised and edited to remove repetition and inconsistencies (work was done by the ECA and the Steering Committee in this regard).

c) A three-tier governing structure was accepted for NEPAD:

- **Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee:**
  - Chair: President Obasanjo
  - Vice-Chair: Presidents Wade and Bouteflika
  - Comprised of 15 states (3 states per OAU region), including the 5 initiating states, i.e. Algeria, Egypt, Nigeria, Senegal, and South Africa.
  
  **Central Africa:** Cameroon, Gabon and São Tomé and Príncipe
  
  **East Africa:** Ethiopia, Mauritius and Rwanda
  
  **North Africa:** Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia
Southern Africa: Botswana, Mozambique and South Africa
West Africa: Mali, Nigeria and Senegal

- **Steering Committee:**
  - Composed of the personal representatives of the five initiating Presidents.
  - Develops terms of reference for identified programmes and projects.
  - Oversees the Secretariat.

- **Secretariat**
  - Full-time, small core staff at the DBSA in Midrand, South Africa. Liaison and coordination function.
  - Administrative and logistical function.
  - Outsourcing of work on technical detail to lead agencies and / or continental experts.
  - Tel: +27 (0) 11 313 3672
  - Fax: +27 (0) 11 313 3684

d) A number of Task Team were established to develop specific detailed implementable projects and programmes for the next meeting to consider in the priority areas identified:
  - Capacity building on peace and security
  - Economic and corporate governance
  - Infrastructure
  - Central bank and financial standards
  - Agriculture and market access

- Apart from the above Task Teams, a Subcommittee on Peace and Security was established, focusing on conflict prevention, management and resolution. President Mbeki (South Africa) is to chair the Subcommittee

- The leaders also agreed to set parameters for good governance (political and economic) and to consider an appropriate mechanism for peer review.
Much of the above priorities are about reducing the risk profile of doing business in Africa and on creating the conditions conducive for investment.

Although the above priorities have been identified, on the understanding that everything cannot be done at once, this is not to say that other priorities will be neglected or will stop, e.g. ICT (DotForce Initiative), Health (Global Health Fund), Debt (HIPC Initiative), etc. All are critical interventions in achieving the overall objective, but these others are being handled within an established process where NEPAD itself cannot add real value at this time. Progress in these matters will be closely monitored.

e) Lastly, the Steering Committee was mandated to develop a strategic plan for marketing and communications at the national, sub-regional, continental and international levels.

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS USING THE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

i) The primary objective for establishing a governing structure with the mechanisms described above is to strengthen Africa’s capacity to lead her own development and to improve coordination with development partners.

ii) The second objective is to ensure that there is a capacity to lead negotiations on behalf of the continent on major development programmes that require coordination at a continental level.

iii) The third objective is to ensure that there is capacity to accelerate implementation of major regional development cooperation agreements and projects already approved or in the pipeline.

iv) The fourth objective is to strengthen Africa’s capacity to mobilise additional external resources for her development.

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

The Secretariat will coordinate the preparation of a business plan for each priority area. The plan will define clear objectives, value to be added by the initiative, key
partners, required actions (research, consultation, negotiation, ratification, implementation, etc.) institutional arrangements and resource mobilisation strategies where appropriate.

A project leader or task team coordinator will be appointed for each project. The leader / coordinator will mobilise expertise from existing institutions, both in the continent and internationally. Lead agencies will also be utilised in project development.

Expertise will be drawn mainly from African countries on the basis of relevant expertise. Cabinet Ministers and other political office bearers will be utilised when political leadership is necessary.

Project leaders and task teams will work closely with relevant African countries, regional economic structures, African development and finance institutions, relevant multilateral institutions and development partners.

Terms of reference with time frames will be prepared and submitted to the Steering Committee for each project.

New initiatives / projects will be approved only in cases where the management structures of the initiative are convinced that it can add value, either through a new intervention or the strengthening or accelerating of existing processes or programmes. The intention is definitely not to duplicate, replace or compete with existing initiatives / processes, or to establish a new bureaucratic structure.

The unique strength of NEPAD is that it is led by mandated African leaders. In other words, it is a process that is owned and led by African Heads of State. It is this uniqueness that must be used to strengthen the many good initiatives that need the support and commitment of African political leaders. The chosen champions can use their credibility and political weight to forge new paths or to unblock existing ones in achieving Africa’s regeneration.

RELATIONSHIP WITH EXISTING INITIATIVES

It is realised that the NEPAD does not exist in a vacuum. There are many initiatives and processes on the ground already, e.g. the UN Millennium Declaration, the G8
Okinawa Declaration, the Copenhagen Declaration, the Skagen Declaration, the Cotonou Agreement, the EU / Cairo Plan of Action, the AGOA, TICAD, the Sino-Africa process, etc.

NEPAD does not seek to replace or compete with these, but rather to consciously establish linkages and synergies between NEPAD and these initiatives, and to see where each initiative can make the greatest contribution.

NEPAD provides the focal point and the overall strategic framework for engagement as Africa’s chosen agenda for development. Such engagement also includes aligning the NEPAD with work being done within the RECs, e.g. SADC and the AU. Engagements have been ongoing since the OAU Lusaka Summit to achieve the linkages and synchronicity described above. There are a number of critical events in this process scheduled for 2002, namely:

- The Financing for Development Conference in Mexico in March
- The AU Summit in South Africa in July
- The WSSD in Johannesburg in September

**RELATIONSHIP WITH THE AFRICAN UNION**

- NEPAD is a project of the OAU / AU.
- The Implementation Committee has to report annually to the AU Summit.
- The AU Chair and Secretary General are ex-officio members of the Implementation Committee.
- The AU Secretariat participates at Steering Committee meetings.
- The management structures of NEPAD are designed to ensure follow-up and implementation in the phase of transition from the OAU to the AU.
- NEPAD is the socio-economic development blueprint for the AU to implement its objectives.
- It is the mechanism for accelerating implementation of the Abuja Treaty.
- The Secretariats of the Regional Economic Communities will participate fully in the NEPAD programme development through workshops and consultation.
CONCLUSION

Why this initiative, why now and what is the value added?

Many fine initiatives have been developed in the past, such as the Lagos Plan of Action and the Abuja Treaty, but have failed due to three major reasons: timing (Cold War paradigm); lack of capacity for implementation; and a lack of genuine political will.

We are at a significant juncture in history. A critical mass of leadership has developed both on the continent and abroad that are genuinely committed to the regeneration of the continent. Africa’s advances in recent years, the convergence of agreement on international development goals and a common agenda for Africa illustrate this.

Also, the NEPAD provides three new key elements, namely, it is African developed, managed and owned; it brings the concept of a new partnership (with mutual commitments, obligations, interest, contributions and benefits); and Africa is undertaking certain commitments and obligations in its own interests which are not externally imposed conditionalities.

In conclusion, we must grasp this precious opportunity. We must maintain the present goodwill and momentum in ensuring implementation. We cannot afford to fail.