

## OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ADVISER ON AFRICA (OSAA)

### Support to NEPAD

**Period of Report: August 2004 to June 2005**

The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA) provides support for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development through its reporting, advocacy and analytical work at the global level.

#### **Activities undertaken in support of NEPAD**

##### Advocacy and analysis

During the reporting period, OSAA has supported the work of the Secretary-General's Advisory Panel on International Support for NEPAD (SAPIS-NEPAD). The thirteen-member Panel of high-level personalities created to advise the Secretary-General on international support to NEPAD first met in October 2004. Following its deliberations and consultations with Governments, academic experts and the UN system, SAPIS-NEPAD prepared a report which was presented to the Secretary-General on 3 June 2005. The central message of the report is two-fold: first, that NEPAD cannot succeed without a significant increase in support from the international community; and second, that the unleashing Africa's development potential requires harnessing the creativity and dynamism of private initiative in a range of areas, including agriculture, industry, science and technology, and infrastructure development. The Panel's work will continue with the intention of preparing a supplementary report by the first quarter of 2006 to assess progress made in relation to the outcomes of the important international summits scheduled for the later part of the year 2005, such as the G-8, the European Union and the 60th Session of the General Assembly Summit.

As a follow-up to the study on integrating the priorities of NEPAD into the national processes published by OSAA in early 2004, OSAA in cooperation with the Africa Institute of South Africa and the NEPAD Secretariat organized an Expert Group Panel on "*Successful Implementation of NEPAD: Pre-requisites and Mechanism at the National Level*" in December 2004. The meeting discussed in depth the role of governments and civil society in the implementation of NEPAD; organising national focal points; mobilising domestic political and public opinion; and budgeting and financial institutions for successful implementation of NEPAD.

On the initiative of OSAA, a communications, advocacy and outreach cluster for NEPAD was created under the ECA framework, with OSAA as its secretariat and Chair. Along with OSAA, it includes DPI, UNDP and ECA. OSAA, in consultation with the key participants, is preparing an advocacy strategy document which would provide the framework for the co-ordination of the advocacy activities of the main participants in

respect of NEPAD. When finalized, the strategy document is expected to be in the form of a handbook to be used by communicators and advocates of NEPAD.

In collaboration with the Secretariat of the Commission for Africa, OSAA organized a briefing for delegates on 24 May 2005 on the work of the Commission for Africa chaired by the British Prime Minister, and on the Secretary-General's Advisory Panel on International Support for NEPAD.

In June 2005 OSAA launched *OSAABriefs*, a bimonthly newsletter with the objective of keeping the key stakeholders and supporters of NEPAD at the international and UN system level apprised of the positive developments taking place in Africa and to create and enhance awareness of the momentum that is being generated through the implementation of the NEPAD strategic framework.

OSAA also placed a number of articles in newspapers in UK, USA, Russia, South Africa and Nigeria.

#### Private sector

In an effort to promote private sector involvement in the implementation of NEPAD, and to mobilize private sector resources for Africa's development, OSAA recently organized two meetings: the first, a panel discussion on promoting domestic private sector in Africa was held in October 2004 and the other, jointly organized with the NEPAD secretariat, an expert group meeting on the contribution of the private sector to the implementation of NEPAD, was held in March 2005. Studies presented to the latter meeting detailing the nature and scope of private sector involvement in the implementation of NEPAD in three sub-regions in Africa found that even though significant profitable opportunities exist, the private sector has yet to be actively involved in the process of implementing various NEPAD programmes. The private sector could participate in the implementation of NEPAD by taking equity, forming public private partnerships or forming other types of joint ventures to execute the programmes of NEPAD.

#### South-South cooperation

The Special Adviser participated at the TICAD Asia-Africa Trade and Investment Conference held in November 2004 in Tokyo as a major follow-up to TICAD III. The conference drew some 600 participants and focused on issues related to trade and investment between Asia and Africa. The conference deliberated on how to improve the business climate in Africa, looking at the needs of the private sector along with policy requirements for specific sectors. The outcome document of the conference was the "*TICAD-NEPAD Joint Policy Framework for the Promotion of Trade and Investment between Africa and Asia*", signed by the Chief Executive of the NEPAD Secretariat, and the Representative of Japan to NEPAD on behalf of TICAD organizers. In collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Japan to the UN, OSAA held a briefing meeting on the TICAD Asia-Africa Trade and Investment Conference on 1 October 2004 with a view to

mobilizing the interest of member states in trade and investment between Asia and Africa.

OSAA in cooperation with Indonesian and South African Missions also facilitated briefings and meetings in preparation for the Summit of Heads of State and Government of Asia and Africa held in Indonesia in April 2005. The Summit recognized that it was time to advance economic cooperation between the two regions based on renewed political commitment. Three documents were adopted at the Summit, namely: the Declaration on the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership; the Joint Ministerial statement on the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership Plan of Action; and the Joint Asian-African Leaders' statement on tsunami, earthquake and other natural disasters. During the Summit, the Prime Minister of Japan announced that the Government of Japan will double its ODA to Africa during the three-year period leading to TICAD IV in 2008. Parallel to the Summit, the Asian-African Business Summit took place which included the launching of the TICAD Exchange Network

### Peace and development

African participants in and beneficiaries of programmes for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of ex-combatants will meet in Freetown, Sierra Leone, on 21-23 June 2005, at a Conference on Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration and Stability in Africa. Drawn from a number of countries undergoing post-war recovery, they will highlight the lessons of their experiences, propose measures to improve DDR strategies, discuss them with their international partners and help build a network of African DDR practitioners. The conference is being organized in collaboration with the Government of Sierra Leone.

A report on the *Role of Civil Society in the Prevention of Armed Conflict* will be published in July 2005 to coincide with a High-level Panel Discussion on '*Structural Prevention: Micro-credit, Prevention of Armed Conflict and Peace-Building*' to be held on 20 July 2005 at United Nations Headquarters during the three-day Global Conference on the Role of Civil Society in the Prevention of Armed Conflict and Peace-Building. The High-level Panel Discussion is co-organized by OSAA and the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict.

### Civil society

The third edition of the directory of African non-governmental organizations released by OSAA in the last quarter of 2004 features 3776 organisations of the African civil society working in the major substantive areas covered by NEPAD. It will be distributed together with the report on the Role of Civil Society in the Prevention of Armed Conflict.

### **Collaboration with other UN agencies**

OSAA together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Africa Leadership Forum (ALF) and the Africa Institute of South Africa organized an African

expert group meeting in February which reviewed the African perspective in the recommendations of the High-Level Panel report on Threats, Challenges and Changes. In addition, OSAA organized a variety of meetings, including with the African Group, the European Union and delegations to consider the potential impact on Africa of the report. The report of the High-level Panel provided an opportunity for Africa to review its mechanism of engagement with the United Nations, as well as the international community, specifically as it related to dealing with issues pertinent to Africa's well-being which are addressed by the programmes of NEPAD.

OSAA has collaborated with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS) in organising an ECOSOC Ministerial Roundtable Discussion on "Synergies between the Brussels Programme of Action (BPOA) and NEPAD in Attaining MDGs: Partnership for Capacity Building" on 1 July 2005

### **Activities addressing resource mobilization**

As a contribution to mobilizing financial resources for Africa's development, OSAA has played an active role in assisting project formulation in African countries for possible funding through the UN/Japan Trust Fund for Human Security, as requested by the Secretary General. As a result, the allocation of the Human Security Fund to African countries has grown from 15 to more than 35 per cent.