

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ADVISER ON AFRICA (OSAA)

Support to NEPAD

Period of Report: July 2008 to June 2009

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

High-Level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs

Following the adoption of Resolution 62/242 by the General Assembly, OSAA contributed to substantive preparations for the General Assembly High-Level Meeting on "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward" that took place on 22 September 2008. The meeting's main outcome was the adoption by consensus of a 'Political Declaration on Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward' (resolution 63/1).

OSAA's contribution included the preparation of the Secretary-General's comprehensive report for the High-Level Meeting. The Office was further tasked with preparing a comprehensive follow-up report for the 64th Session of the General Assembly.

Panel discussion on "The Governance Challenge in Africa"

In the framework of the High-Level Meeting on "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward", a side event was co-organized by OSAA and UNU and other entities, on "Governance Challenge in Africa".

The main objective of the event was to establish an outlook on the progress made and expected regarding governance challenges in African countries. Good governance was presented as an indispensable element for durable peace and sustainable development. Three major issues were addressed during the event: "Governance and Leadership", "Equality, Opportunity and the Rule of Law-Access to Justice, Human Rights and the Right to Development" and the "African Peer Review Mechanism". Panelists agreed that political dialogue between African governments and their people was critical to go forward in implementing policies for good governance.

Panel discussion on "Recovering from Global Crisis: towards an Action Plan for Africa and the Least Developed Countries"

As a side event of the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its impact on Development, a panel discussion on "Recovering from Global Crisis: towards an Action Plan for Africa and the Least Developed Countries" was co-organized by OSAA, OHRLLS and UNU on 25 June 2009. The main objective of the event was to draw attention on the international policy responses needed to accelerate Africa's and LDCs' recovery from the crisis.

The major impacts of the crisis on African countries' economies were reviewed with an emphasis on the slow-down in the progress towards the MDGs and cumulative effects of the crisis such as the decline of commodity prices, of the demand for these countries' export and the decline in FDI and ODA. Gender, education, health and infrastructure issues were presented as essential elements to take into account in coming economic policies. Among other recommendations, the necessity to restore a proper regulation of the financial sector and of market confidence, as well as to diversify exports and commodity production in African countries was agreed on. The panelists concluded on the actions already implemented by African countries and the international community, such as the Development Assistance Committee Action Plan to support poor countries coping with the economic and financial crisis, the Vulnerability Fund created by the World Bank and the efforts made by the IMF.

Africa's Cooperation with New and Emerging Development Partners

OSAA organized, with the support and cooperation of United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission, a two-day Expert Group Meeting on "Africa's Cooperation with New and Emerging Development Partners: Options for Africa's Development", held on 10-11 February 2009 at ECA Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The main objective was to examine the nature of the emerging countries' recent relations with Africa, to analyze how their increasing economic role at a global level creates new challenges and opportunities regarding African countries' development and to discuss African countries' actual and possible response.

The EGM led to many concrete suggestions on how to forge and build effective partnerships, in order to support Africa's efforts in achieving development priorities. The main outcome was a set of recommendations aimed at highlighting the importance of taking into account direct and indirect impacts created by the increasing presence of emerging economies in world markets, as well as the importance of industrial development, economic diversification and African ownership. It was agreed that multilateral support should aim at helping Africa implement its priorities. The meeting contributed to open the path to a favorable organization of African countries' economic and financial relations with emerging economies. The project will result in a publication on "Africa's Cooperation with New and Emerging Development Partners: Options for Africa's Development", to be issued in the last quarter of 2009.

Economic Diversification

The private sector's paramount role in implementing NEPAD has been well recognized both by the African leaders and the private sector institutions. In support of various initiatives such as two studies undertaken in the past years analyzing "The contribution of the Private Sector to the Implementation of NEPAD" (2004-2005) and "The private Sector's Institutional Response to NEPAD: A Review of Current Experience and Practice" (2006-2007), a study was conducted by OSAA in 2009 on "Economic Diversification in Africa: a Review of selected countries".

The study seeks to explore how governments and private sector, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and international bodies could improve and coordinate their actions to foster economic diversification in African countries. The study was based on a group of four African countries (South Africa, Tunisia, Kenya and Angola) that managed to diversify their economies mainly by using regional integration and/or using their natural resources. A variety of

factors allowing diversification were put forward, namely government leadership, industrialization, and trade policies. Emphasis was made on the role of both large economic players and critical global economic partners for Africa such as China, India, Japan, the European Union and USA. South-South cooperation was also presented as a catalysis element for economic diversification. The study will be discussed at an Expert Group Meeting on the same subject to be held in November 2009.

Peace and Security

During its plenary session of Thursday, 23 July 2009, the General Assembly adopted, without a vote, draft resolution A/63/L.61/Rev.1 on the “Implementation of the recommendations contained in the Report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa”. Operative Paragraph 24 of the resolution requests the Secretary-General to conduct a review of the recommendations of the 1998 report covering the commitments made, the actions taken, the progress achieved and the lessons learned focusing on new and emerging challenges and persistent obstacles, as well as innovative solutions, gains and accomplishments, in the attainment of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa.

Africa and Terrorism

OSAA is mandated to ensure that appropriate linkages are established between the peace, security and sustainable development agendas in Africa. OSAA provides a forum for the African perspective to be heard and represented within the UN agenda. Within this context, the Office took several initiatives to promote collaboration with various stakeholders in the collective fight against international terrorism in Africa, including regular meetings with the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) and the Office of the UN Secretary-General. In order to support the coordination of the counter-terrorism actions within and beyond the UN system, OSAA convened an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on “African Perspectives on International Terrorism” in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 3 to 4 June 2009. Participants included representatives from the African Union, RECs, UN entities members of the CTITF, as well as a representative of the Task Force secretariat and nongovernmental experts.

The EGM was designed to be a first step in a process of consultations designed to enrich the ongoing global debate on terrorism and to suggest ways in which the global and African perspectives could reinforce each other. Participants in the meeting emphasized the need of addressing terrorism and counter-terrorism issues within the context of many other complex security challenges facing the continent, in particular, trafficking in drugs, firearms and persons, ongoing civil wars, post-conflict reconstruction, small arms and light weapons proliferation, chronic poverty and underdevelopment. To promote the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the African Union counter-terrorism framework, the EGM led to a series of recommendations aimed at strengthening cooperation between the African Union and regional institutions within Africa, as well as between African institutions and the UN.

Advocacy work

OSAA in its role of promoting global advocacy in support of Africa’s development, continued to work closely with the UN-AU Liaison Office in Addis Ababa to push forward the

implementation of the UN ten-year capacity-building programme for the AU. OSAA's work complements what is being done at the regional level and in full cooperation with African regional organizations, including the NEPAD secretariat itself.

Within the framework of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) and as convener of the Advocacy and Communication Cluster of the RCM, OSAA organized, in cooperation with other Cluster members, a Regional Media Dialogue on NEPAD in The Vaal, Guateng, South Africa on 19-20 February 2009 involving senior media persons from Africa. The purpose of the meeting was to enhance media reporting and advocacy efforts in support of NEPAD by providing information and clarification on NEPAD programmes, projects and activities and a platform for media professionals and policy makers to exchange views and have frank and open discussions on NEPAD. The final outcome of the meeting was "The Vaal Consensus – Partnering the media for Africa's development" which was adopted by participants along with a comprehensive list of recommendations on the way forward in enhancing cooperation and information sharing between media personnel and policy makers.

TICAD IV (Tokyo International Conference on Africa's Development)

TICAD IV was held from 28 to 30 May 2008 in Yokohama, Japan with participation of 3,000 high level representatives from 51 African countries, 34 donor and Asian countries and 77 regional and international organizations including 41 African Heads of State and governments. A number of Japanese agencies and United Nations programmes organized side events on a variety of topics. The United Nations was represented by the Deputy Secretary-General. TICAD IV focused on four major issues, including: 1) boosting economic growth; 2) achieving the MDGs; 3) consolidation of peace and good governance; and 4) addressing environmental issues/climate change. The conference adopted the Yokohama Declaration, the Yokohama Plan of Action and the follow up mechanism.

OSAA chaired the group on peace and good governance and actively contributed to the Conference as a member of the TICAD Steering Committee. As follow-up, OSAA issued a publication on the Proceedings of TICAD IV. The Office also supported the UN system wide support to the implementation of the Yokoyama Action Plan through the Inter-agency Task Force on Africa. The first annual ministerial review meeting of the implementation of the Plan was held from 21 to 22 March, 2009 in Botswana.

OSAA co-organized with the Governments of Japan and Uganda, World Bank and UNDP Africa-Asia Business Forum V in Kampala from 15-17 June, 2009 focusing on the theme "Forging Business Linkages for Sustainable Tourism Development in Africa". The Forum brought together over 250 participants from more than 30 countries in Africa and Asia, representing business, government, international organizations, civil society and the media.