

## **Department of Economics and Social Affairs (DESA)**

### **Support to the AU/NEPAD (Period of July 2010 to June 2011)**

#### **Collaboration with other UN agencies in support of NEPAD**

##### *Division for Sustainable Development (DSD)*

DSD collaborates with the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), as well as other regional organizations to advance Africa's sustainable development. As secretary to UN-Water and UN-Energy, DSD collaborates with members of the two coordination mechanisms to advance the sustainable development agenda in the two sectors in all regions of the world. In this connection, UN-Water, in collaboration with its other partners participated and supported the 3rd Africa Water Week that was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 22 to 26 November 2010. The UN-Water's 2010 publication, entitled "The Global Annual Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS)" focused on African countries and is geared towards targeting resources for better results.

##### *Development Policy and Analysis Division (DPAD)*

DPAD has been executing since 2006, in collaboration with UNDP and the World Bank, a Development Account Project (code 0607U) called "*Realizing the Millennium Development Goals through Socially Inclusive Macroeconomic Policies*" covering Senegal, South Africa and Uganda among the developing countries. The Project focuses on a core set of MDGs related to extreme poverty reduction, education, health, and water and sanitation. The results of the project will be published during the first half of 2011.

A follow-up project called "Strengthening Macroeconomic and Social Policy Coherence through Integrated Macro-micro modelling" aims to institutionalize an improved and revised version of the policy analysis tools designed in the above project in Uganda and South Africa. Revisions would include the addition of the analysis of MDG 6 on HIV/AIDS. The project is expected to be completed in December 2013.

##### *Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM)*

Collaboration between DPADM/DMB and other UN agencies includes the following three areas of focus: strengthening of Economic and Social Councils, technical assistance on macroeconomic and specific policies to advance towards the millennium development goals in Chad (CHD-/06/001), and cooperation with UNECA. In this area of collaboration, the efforts of DPADM/PACB were dedicated to public sector capacity building. These activities for the period under review are succinctly reported, as follows:

- *Strengthening of Economic and Social Councils in Africa.*

The project is focused on enhancing contributions to development policies from participatory institutions that engage non-government actors from the private sector and civil society, specifically, Economic and Social Councils (ESCs). This capacity building project also benefits from bilateral cooperation between UNDESA and the International Association of Economic and

Social Councils and Similar Institutions (AICESIS), which brings the experiences of ESC from other regions of the world for consideration by ESCs from African countries.

- *Cooperation between DPADM and UNECA.*

DPADM and UNECA, together with UNDP, participated in an Expert Group Meeting that took place in Addis Ababa in September, 2010 to explore the viability of revitalizing the Arusha Declaration on the engagement of civil society in development management. Civil society leaders and academic researchers from about 20 countries participated. Building on this 'kick-start' of inter-institutional cooperation on citizens' engagement, in October 2010, DPADM and UNECA submitted a new proposal under the UN Development Account to fund another project on building capacities in government and civil society in African countries that would be focused on managing participatory approaches to the delivery of public services related to the Millennium Development Goals.

### **Financial support provided for NEPAD programmes and projects**

#### *Division for Sustainable Development (DSD)*

The Division for Sustainable Development has assisted developing countries in the African region while implementing the following projects. The third project in the list is just launched and therefore its activities have not yet been implemented:

- *Capacity-building for Inter-regional Electricity Access and Supply in Africa*

This project aims to strengthen the capacity of regional economic communities (RECs) and their member States to establish the appropriate policy, institutional and regulatory frameworks for regional electricity grid interconnection, in order to increase access to electricity and security of supply. During the period under review, the following activities were implemented: (i) A capacity building study tour was organized for 16 participants from Eastern and Central Africa Power Pools to enable them to go learn from the Southern Africa Power Pool. (ii) A Capacity Building Workshop on the Preparation of Power Purchase Agreements was also organized from 4 to 6 November 2009 in Addis Ababa that, Ethiopia.

- *Strengthening national capacity for the integration of sustainable development principles into development strategies in countries emerging from conflict*

The project aims at assisting governments in post-conflict situations in their efforts to create a path towards sustainable development and lasting peace. Project activities are focusing on adapting and developing methodologies related to the process, content, implementation and monitoring of sustainable development strategies in countries emerging from conflict, test their applicability and make them available to all interested countries.

- *Strengthening National Capacities to Adapt to Climate Change through Improving Management of Water Variability and other Climate-Driven Changes in Africa*

The project aims to strengthen the capacity of African countries – confronted with high water variability and stress from climatic changes – to better integrate and adapt national and local development strategies and practices, thereby increasing the opportunities for sustainable development and conflict prevention.

In addition to the above three projects, the Division for Sustainable Development implemented the following using other resources:

- *Regional Capacity Building Workshop on Expanding Waste Management Services in African Countries*

DSD, in cooperation with the Government of Morocco, organized the above meeting on expanding waste management services in African countries which was in Rabat, Morocco from 25 to 26 November 2010. Fifty eight participants attended the meeting.

### **Advocacy work in support of Africa's development**

#### *Division for Sustainable Development (DSD)*

The Division developed a programme to promote the establishment and development of partnerships for sustainable development in support of the implementation of agreed commitments in the African region. The CSD Secretariat database contains 50 registered partnerships out of a total of 344 currently registered, which have identified the sustainable development for Africa as the primary focus of their activities. (<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships/partnerships.htm>).

DESA's UN - Office to support the International Decade for Action, "Water for life" 2005-2015 in Zaragoza, Spain continues to focus on advocacy and awareness-raising on water and sanitation issues. The Decade has identified Africa as a priority region for action.

#### *Development Policy and Analysis Division*

- *Coordination of the Secretary-General's MDG Gap Task Force*

DPAD is coordinating the Secretary-General's MDG Gap Task Force. Since 2008, the annual reports have contributed to improve monitoring of MDG-8 (the Global Partnership for Development) by providing a systematic information system and an analytical framework and serves as an advocacy tool to promote development in developing regions, including Africa. Following recommendations of the Outcome Document of the 2010 MDG Summit, the 2011 Report will focus on analyzing the coherence of policies at both the international and domestic levels. The website can be found at <http://www.un.org/esa/policy/mdggap/>.

- *African Regional Economic Outlook and Prospects for Least Developed Countries*

The regional outlook of the *World Economic Situation and Prospects Report 2011* comprises a section on Africa's economic outlook (prepared in close cooperation with UNECA), which discusses the main drivers of growth in 2010 and 2011 and the recovery of African economies after the economic and financial crisis. The global outlook of the *World Economic Situation and Prospects Report 2011* also contains an update of the prospects for least developed countries, discussing growth expectations for 2011 and the risks and challenges for continued development and growth.

#### *Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD)*

- *Social Dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development*

The Division for Social Policy and Development contributes to the advocacy work in support of Africa's development through the Secretary-General's report on the Social Dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development. This report is prepared annually for ECOSOC's Third Committee (Commission for Social Development). The report presents initiatives and activities being undertaken and assesses their social dimensions. It concludes with an examination of the challenges to implementing AU/NEPAD priorities and suggests a number of policy recommendations.

- *Support to the Regional Coordination Mechanism-Africa (RCM-Africa)*

The Division for Social Development also provides support to NEPAD through its participation in the annual sessions of the UN Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa (RCM-Africa). The discussions of the RCM concern UN system-wide support to AU/NEPAD. In 2010, the Division also participated in an ad-hoc Expert Group Meeting involving experts from various UN organizations, the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and the Regional Economic Communities that assessed and validated the draft report on the comprehensive review of the Ten Year Capacity Building Programme that was presented to the 11th Session of the UN Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa (RCM-Africa) in November 2010.

#### *Population Division (PD)*

The Population Division has undertaken numerous studies outlining the impediment high population growth poses to developing countries. The Population Division provided recommendations to stem population growth as outlined in the August 2010 issue of "Population Facts" (No. 2010/5). Those recommendations were:

- *Prioritize universal access to reproductive health*

Urge Governments and development partners to prioritize universal access to reproductive health care, including family planning.

- *Provide access to a variety of family planning methods*

Ensure that all women and men and young people have information about and access to the widest possible range of safe, effective, affordable, evidence based and acceptable methods of family planning.

- *Fund family planning programmes*

Increase financial commitments from donors for family planning to ensure predictable resources for reducing unmet need for family planning. Ensure that funding lines for family planning programmes and commodities are included in national budget formulations.