

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ADVISER ON AFRICA (OSAA)

Support to NEPAD

Period of Report: August 2005 to August 2006

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

Advocacy and analysis

During the past year, OSAA has continued to support the work of the Secretary-General's Advisory Panel on International Support for NEPAD (SAPIS-NEPAD). In June 2006, the Panel submitted its second report entitled *From Commitments to Results: Moving Forward NEPAD Implementation*. The report has articulated a number of proposals for advancing the NEPAD agenda. The central message of the report is that African governments and their development partners need to continue sustained constructive dialogue and broad engagement on the current and emerging priorities on Africa's development agenda. Enhanced support for the development of the private sector by the international community and African governments remains an important priority, complemented by more outreach to the civil society and larger public. At the same time, there is a need for clear definition of responsibility in the formulation and implementation of programmes between the AU Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat. The UN system must review and reinforce its modalities of work, including the framework for coordination and collaboration in support of NEPAD. Monitoring is central to ensuring that commitments made are fully honoured.

Monitoring the flow of financial resources to Africa is one of the key components of the task of promoting international support for Africa. In 2005, OSAA released a report entitled *Resource Flows to Africa: An Update on Statistical Trends*. One of the major findings of that report was that while official development assistance remained the main external resource flow to Africa, remittances from Africans working abroad had overtaken foreign direct investment in the period 2000-2003. Remittances help the receiving households to increase expenditure on basic consumption and to offset the lack of access to insurance and credit systems in situations of severe income decline. Consequently, public policy should aim to facilitate an increase in remittances, in particular by reducing the cost of transfers to allow African countries to attract this category of resource flows.

A panel discussion on "Multi-Stakeholders' Perspectives on the Implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD): *Four Years After*" was held in October 2005 to coincide with the joint debate of the General Assembly on African issues. The main objective of the panel discussion was to allow participants of diverse expertise and policy experience to share their perspectives on the challenges and actions

needed to advance the implementation of NEPAD, with a view to deepen the process of involvement and commitment by all stakeholders. A report of the meeting was published on OSAA website.

Private sector

Private sector's critical role in the implementation of NEPAD is well acknowledged by the leaders of African countries and the private sector itself. OSAA has prepared and published a report on "*The contribution of the private sector to the implementation of NEPAD*", which analyses the progress of and obstacles to the private sector participation in the implementation of NEPAD in three subregions (West Africa, Southern Africa and East Africa). The review revealed that the participation of African private sector enterprises in the implementation of NEPAD regional projects has been limited due to a number of constraints, including in particular the lack of adequate financial resources, lack of appropriate policy and project environment, and weak capacity of the RECs.

The lessons learned from the study include the need to: (a) place more emphasis on PPPs in agriculture; (b) begin with joint PPPs in the formulation of the PPP policy itself; (c) foster the domestic private sector's mobilization of its own resources and increase its sense of ownership for NEPAD projects; (d) mobilize more regional financial resources to reduce reliance on foreign donors; and (e) improve the legal and regulatory frameworks for NEPAD regional projects. At the same time, it is necessary to address the following challenges: (a) harmonizing different legal and regulatory frameworks in the subregion; (b) involving small and medium-sized firms in the NEPAD implementation process; (c) developing a more sophisticated and better-structured NEPAD private sector programme, as well as clear channels for interaction on all levels, including particularly, between private sector and public entities supporting NEPAD programmes; (d) providing risk guarantee for investments and developing mechanisms to facilitate access to venture capital; and (e) improving the capacity of RECs, given their primary responsibility for NEPAD delivery and engagement of the private sector as partners.

Democratic governance

OSAA, in cooperation with the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI) of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), convened an Expert Group Meeting on "Democratic Governance in Africa: Strategies for Greater Participation of Women", in Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania, in December 2005.

The meeting contributed to deepening the commitment of stakeholders to promoting gender equality in democratic governance with a particular focus on post-conflict countries. The outcome of the meeting included a set of action-oriented recommendations to advance women's participation in the political process at the national and local levels based on the evaluation and analyses of papers and country case studies presented at the meeting. As a follow-up to the Expert Group Meeting, OSAA held consultations with the

Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) concerning gender mainstreaming in post-conflict peacebuilding efforts.

Peace and development

OSAA, in collaboration with the Government of Egypt and with the support of the Government of Sweden and UNDP, organized an Expert Group Meeting on “Natural Resources and Conflict in Africa: Transforming a Peace Liability into a Peace Asset”, in Cairo, Egypt from 17 to 19 June 2006. The meeting brought together representatives from African governments, UN organizations, other regional and international organizations including NGOs, donor countries, civil society, academia and the private sector to deliberate on and develop effective strategies for managing the continent’s abundant natural resources and the wealth generated therefrom, in order to promote durable peace and sustainable development.

The outcome of the meeting included a set of policy recommendations, a number of which have been incorporated in the progress report of the Secretary-General to the 61st Session of the General Assembly on the “Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa”. The proceedings of the meeting will be published in the form of a Conference report for public dissemination.

Peace consolidation

OSAA, in cooperation with the Government of Japan, the Global Coalition for Africa (GCA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank, co-organized the “TICAD (Tokyo International Conference on African Development) Conference on Peace Consolidation in Africa”, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 16 to 17 February 2006. The aim of the Conference was to review peace consolidation and peacebuilding experiences in Africa, as well as to formulate a set of recommendations for African policymakers and their development partners.

In preparation for the Conference, OSAA prepared a publication entitled “*Peace Consolidation in Africa – Challenges and Opportunities*” which emphasized the complexity of building and consolidating peace after violent conflict and the importance of enhancing existing peace consolidation efforts. The report identified key elements of peace consolidation, provided a comprehensive overview of political, policy, institutional and financial challenges faced by actors engaged in peacebuilding, and recommended ways to improve peace consolidation efforts in African countries emerging from conflict.

Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

The success of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programmes is central to achieving sustainable peace in Africa and preventing the recurrence of conflicts. Since a significant number of African countries have emerged from conflict in recent years and are now undertaking DDR programmes with varying degrees of success, it is critical to evaluate their efficacy and impact. In 2005, therefore, OSAA published an

“Overview of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Programmes in Africa”. The publication was based on the outcome of the 2005 International Conference on DDR and Stability in Africa which OSAA co-organized with the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone in June 2005. The Conference examined a wide range of post-conflict DDR programme experiences in Africa, identified best practices based on lessons learned and formulated a set of policy recommendations to maximize the effectiveness of DDR programmes. The Conference recommended, inter alia, that the network of African DDR practitioners be strengthened, and it supported the institution of a biennial consultative DDR process to facilitate capacity building.

Human security in Africa

One of the emerging issues relating to durable peace is human security in Africa; that is, protecting and empowering people at the individual and community levels. The State-centric concept of security no longer fully guarantees individual security in some regions. Inter-ethnic conflicts, regional instability, terrorist attacks, poverty and disease affect security at the community and household level. OSAA undertook a study “Human Security in Africa” in 2005 which drew on the perspectives elaborated in the report of the UN Commission on Human Security. OSAA’s publication underscored the need to address key issues such as political and social exclusion, involuntary and voluntary movements of people, protection and empowerment of women, recovery from conflict, food and health security, education, reconciliation and justice.