

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (DESA)

Support to NEPAD

Period of Report: 2004 - 2005

Activities undertaken in support of NEPAD

Sustainable Development

The Moroccan Government, in collaboration with the Division for Sustainable Development, organized the 2nd International Forum on Partnership for Sustainable Development: Advancing Implementation on Water and Energy in March 2005. The Forum highlighted key elements of sustainable development partnerships related to water and energy, including establishing new and strengthening existing partnerships, particularly in developing countries.

The Division is implementing projects on integrated water management in a number of African countries, including Cameroon, Chad, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, and Niger; as well as projects on improving rural water supply in Ethiopia and the Gambia. In the energy area, the Division is supporting the Governments of Lesotho and the Gambia in renewable energy systems for water supply to rural areas; and executing projects for energy efficiency standards in South Africa.

Ministerial meeting of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) was held in Senegal in March 2005 to consider the implementation of NEPAD's Action Plan for the Environment. In support of this process, the Division, in cooperation with the UNEP Regional Office for Africa, organized a series of regional meetings with the aim of developing a framework for a regional strategy on sustainable consumption and production (SCP) under the Marrakech Process. The First African Expert Meeting on SCP held in Morocco in May 2004 identified regional and sub-regional priorities on SCP and explored the linkages between poverty and patterns of consumption and production in Africa. The second regional meeting on SCP was held in Nairobi, Kenya, in February 2005.

Public Administration and Development Management

The Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) has carried out a number of activities in support of the NEPAD governance programme, particularly in the areas of strengthening policy-making capacity and institutional and managerial resources for good governance.

In the area of policy formulation, DPADM has initiated a number of events bringing together high-level policy-makers from around the continent for information and experience-sharing events. The Division has been contributing to the organization of the

Pan African Conference of Ministers of Public Service, a biannual meeting held in conjunction with the NEPAD Secretariat. Other DPADM-sponsored events include three Ministerial meetings in 2004-2005: the first on Re-inventing Government in Africa for the Implementation of NEPAD, the second on Leadership Capacity-Building for Decentralized Governance for Poverty Reduction in Africa; and the Regional Forum on Reinventing Government in Africa: Repositioning the Public Sector for the Challenges of NEPAD. The Division has also supported the preparation of the African Public Service Charter.

DPADM has provided support to: (i) the design of the NEPAD governance and public administration capacity-building programme, (ii) the design of the leadership capacity-building programme for public sector performance in Africa, (iii) strategies for mainstreaming professionalism and ethics in the African Public Service, (iv) building capacities for managing conflict, (v) strengthening Africa's Parliaments, and (vi) the Africa Governance Inventory (AGI).

The AGI initiative, implemented in partnership with UNDP/Africa, has produced an Internet Portal with updated information on governance-related projects funded by African Governments, development partners, the private sector and civil society in 29 African countries. As a reliable base for assessing governance performance, the AGI is contributing to NEPAD's African Peer Review Mechanism and to the creation and strengthening of partnerships and dialogue with donors on governance priorities.

DPADM's capacity-building in conflict management work in Africa has been incorporated in NEPAD's Public Sector Leadership Capacity-Building Programme which was adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Pan African Conference of Ministers of Public Service, which met in Johannesburg in October 2004.

A workshop on Strategies for Mainstreaming Professionalism and Ethics in the African Public Service held in 2004 resulted in the production of mainstreaming strategies for countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and three training kits of material (in English and French) around which new curricula can be developed in Anglophone and Francophone countries.

Social Policy and Development

The Social Integration Branch of the Division for Social Policy and Development provided substantial support to the Western Africa Sub-regional Consultative Meeting on the draft Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities held in Burkina Faso in October 2004. The Ouagadougou meetings had an overall objective to provide an opportunity for Government and civil society representatives engaged in formulation and implementation of disability policy and programmes in Western Africa to share ideas and discuss priorities in order to better integrate the sub-regional perspective in the negotiations on the draft Convention currently on-going in New York.

Statistics

The Statistics Division is implementing a Development Account 3-year statistical project on “Strengthening statistical capacity-building in support of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the region of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)”. The overall goal of the project is to strengthen national statistical systems in the region and to improve the availability and quality of data required to develop and compile the millennium indicator list for the MDGs. The project will also strengthen the statistical capacity of the ECOWAS Secretariat, in particular, in the ICT with the aim of promoting regional statistical coordination.

Population

During the reporting period, relevant activities included: Demographic estimates and projections for all African countries for World Population Prospects; Compilation of Governmental policies on population and development issues for all African countries for World Population Policies; Compilation of data on African countries for the World Fertility Report, the World Contraceptive Report and the World Migration report; Preparation of "The Impact of AIDS" – a report on the socioeconomic and demographic consequences of the AIDS-epidemic in the most HIV/AIDS affected countries.

ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on African Countries Emerging from Conflict

The main contribution of the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination (OESC) to NEPAD is through the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on African Countries Emerging from Conflict. At its substantive session for 2004, the Council carried out an assessment of lessons learned from the Ad Hoc Advisory Groups and commended the Groups for their innovative and constructive work in support of the countries concerned and made suggestions to enhance the effectiveness of their work. Thus far, two Groups have been established under this mandate, one on Guinea-Bissau and one on Burundi.

Through the Ad Hoc Advisory Groups, the Secretariat supported advocacy efforts, which specifically focused on: (i) the transitional process following the military uprising on 6 October 2004 in Guinea-Bissau; (ii) financial assistance to address the locust plague in Guinea-Bissau; (iii) participation of the Group at the meeting of Guinea-Bissau’s development partners in Lisbon in February 2005; and (iv) disbursement of funds committed by donors to Burundi.

Collaboration with other UN agencies

In collaboration with ECA, UNEP, UNDP and ESCWA, the Division for Sustainable Development held a Regional Workshop on National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS) and Indicators of Sustainable Development (ISD) for the Arab Region in December 2004. The workshop, hosted by the Government of Egypt, focused on building inter-regional and national capacity for managing progress towards sustainable development through cooperation, networking and exchange of experiences.

Among main emerging issues, the workshop addressed the importance of an enabling environment for sustainable development, including good governance practices, financing schemes and a supportive legal framework. The workshop suggested a number of activities to be carried out at the national level and by international organizations to support the NSDS process. To this end, the Division for Sustainable Development continues its close collaboration with UN-System partners in the region, e.g. through its review of the ECA African regional sustainable development strategy.

The Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on African Countries Emerging from Conflict worked closely with the UN country team in Guinea-Bissau and Burundi. Furthermore, collaboration with the Bretton Woods Institutions has been extensive and highly constructive as well as with UNDP, OCHA, UNDG, DPA and DPKO at headquarters.

Advocacy work in support of African Development

African Development is also advocated in the context of preparations for and servicing of the High-level Segment of ECOSOC 2005, which is devoted to “Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration as well as the implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities”.