

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

Support to NEPAD

Period of Report: August 2004 to April 2005

Advocacy work and other activities undertaken

Health Ministers, WHO Representatives and other WHO staff have been continuously updated about the collaboration with NEPAD, including developments concerning the NEPAD Health Strategy's initial programme of action. In some countries, WHO representatives have supported meetings to create more awareness of the NEPAD health programme.

WHO participated in the first NEPAD Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue which was held in South Africa on 22-23 October 2004. The purpose of the Dialogue was to provide a platform for an objective assessment of the progress achieved during the three years of NEPAD's existence, to examine the present challenges and to chart the way forward. Significant health-related recommendations include the strengthening of the NEPAD Health Strategy and the establishment of a comprehensive Human Resources for Health Strategy to ensure the delivery of NEPAD priorities and programmes.

WHO also participated in, and provided technical support to, several AU/NEPAD related meetings, including: the Fifth Meeting of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in Kenya in November 2004; the Fourth Meeting of WHO's Regional Expert Committee on Traditional Medicine in the Republic of the Congo, November 2004; the Africa-World Business Congress in Senegal in November 2004; the 27th Conference of the African Parliamentary Union in Algeria in November/December 2004; the 2nd AU Ministerial Conference on Drug Control in Africa in Mauritius, December 2004; and the International Symposium on Building the Capacity and Resources of African Non-Governmental Organizations in Ethiopia, December 2004.

Collaboration with other UN agencies in support of NEPAD

WHO is a member of and participates in the Human Development Cluster. Recognizing the need to push for implementation of the NEPAD Health Strategy, WHO was catalytic in the formation of the Health sub-cluster. Consultations were held with the NEPAD health expert on priority projects and other actions to take. Unfortunately, due to changes in key staff in agencies who are members of the sub-cluster, no formal meeting has been held to date.

Institutional support to NEPAD

WHO collaborated closely with NEPAD in the development of the NEPAD Health Strategy as well as the initial programme of action. WHO worked with NEPAD to host

the Organisation de Coordination pour la lutte contre les Endemies en Afrique Centrale (OCEAC) meeting to integrate the NEPAD Health Strategy into national health development plans. Support has also been provided in developing an African perspective on the implementation of the HRH plan of action as adopted at the Abuja High Level Forum on MDGs.

Financial and technical support for NEPAD programmes

The NEPAD health strategy advocates for scaling up health interventions already being implemented in most countries. Beyond this, there is no specific NEPAD health programme on the ground. Proposals that have been jointly prepared with NEPAD are awaiting funding. It is pertinent to repeat that WHO is a technical agency and not a funding agency. All funds WHO allocates to the African Region are, however, spent in Africa to support various health interventions.