

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (DESA)

Support to AU/NEPAD (Period of July 2009 to June 2010)

Collaboration with other UN agencies in support of NEPAD

Development Policy and Analysis Division (DPAD)

DPAD assistance in collaboration with UNDP and the World Bank continued to focus on the UN Development Account Project “*Realizing the Millennium Development Goals through Socially Inclusive Macroeconomic Policies*” covering Senegal, South Africa and Uganda among the developing countries expected to be completed by December 2010.

Division for Sustainable Development (DSD)

The DSD capacity-building initiative is undertaken in collaboration with UNDP, the African Water Facility of the African Development Bank and the European Union. It is aimed at providing technical assistance and advisory services in the development and implementation of integrated water resources management (IWRM) plans, development and testing of water sector monitoring methodologies, and promoting the provision of water and energy services for rural poverty reduction. DSD has also implemented initiatives to improve the capacity of water and sanitation utilities with a view to expand service delivery and efficiency.

In collaboration with UNDP, DSD has contributed to an energy access paper that was prepared for launch during the World Bank Energy Week in 2009 and to the development of the energy component of the UN-Energy/GEF Strategic Programme for West Africa.

Statistics Division (SD)

SD in partnership with the African Center for Statistics in the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) continued its extensive capacity building efforts in collaboration with a number of African National Statistical Offices. SD also supported the formation of the African Statistical Commission – the highest regional intergovernmental body to provide leadership for the development of statistics in the continent – which was formed in 2008 and just held its second meeting in January 2010.

Financial support provided for NEPAD programmes and projects

Division of Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM)

DPADM, in partnership with UNDP and the government of Chad, is undertaking a multi-year, multi-million dollar initiative in Chad aiming to strengthen national capacities and to support national structures for the management of its economy toward the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Division for Sustainable Development (DSD)

DSD has assisted financially developing countries while implementing the two following projects:

- *Capacity-building for Inter-regional Electricity Access and Supply in Africa*
This project implementation is being undertaken in close cooperation with the African Union, UNECA, and the technical secretariats of power pools. The project activities are supportive of the NEPAD Short-term Action Plan on the development of regional infrastructure, particularly in the area of energy. DSD helped to enhance knowledge of trained experts by providing 70,000 USD for the implementation of the workshop on power purchase agreements that was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 4 to 6 November 2009.
- *Capacity-building for the integration of sustainable development principles into development strategies in countries emerging from conflict*

The project implemented an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) that was held in UNON-Nairobi, Kenya during the period 18-19 November 2009. The project provided 40,000 USD for the implementation of the EGM.

Advocacy work in support of Africa's development

Development Policy and Analysis Division (DPAD)

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

The regional outlook of the *World Economic Situation and Prospects Report 2010* comprises a section on Africa's economic outlook (prepared in close cooperation with UNECA), which discusses the main drivers of growth in 2009 and 2010 and the impacts of the economic and financial crisis on Africa. The global outlook of the *World Economic Situation and Prospects Report 2010* also comprises an update of the prospects for least developed countries, discussing growth expectations for 2010 and the risks and challenges for continued development and growth.

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

DPAD is also coordinating the Secretary-General's MDG Gap Task Force. The 2010 report will focus on measuring the gap between the actual delivery on global commitments and "estimated needs for support" by developing countries¹.

¹ The website can be found at <http://www.un.org/esa/policy/mdggap/>

Financing for Development Office (FFD)

The FFD has supported Africa's development in organizing (or participating in) three meetings that sought to improve tax systems for the benefit of developing countries and African countries in particular.

- *UN Tax Committee*

The fifth session of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters was organized in Geneva, Switzerland from 19 to 23 October 2009. The meeting debated a number of issues related to tax cooperation with the view of drawing more awareness on the challenges faced by developing countries including African countries. Active participation from African countries was stronger than in recent years.

- *Capacity Building*

The FFD participated in the Subcommittee's first meeting in Abuja, Nigeria from 14 to 15 January 2010. The participants noted the importance of understanding the target audience for tax-focused capacity building: the developing countries, with an emphasis on least developed countries.

- *Transfer Pricing*

An Ad Hoc EGM on *Transfer Pricing, Practical Issues for Developing Countries*, was held by the FFD Office from 19-20 January in New York. It was attended by 34 representatives from 16 countries, including several African countries.

Division for Sustainable Development (DSD)

The Division prepared two reports on Trends in Sustainable Development as background for discussions at the CSD, one focusing on Africa², and the other on the themes of the two-year cycle³.

DSD has also prepared a volume of case studies of innovative approaches to local sustainable development in Africa, including case studies on agricultural improvement, water supply and management, protection of ecosystems, strengthening of health care services, and ecotourism.⁴

DSD, in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of the Republic of Namibia, held a high-level inter-sessional meeting of the CSD on "African Agriculture in the 21st Century," from 9 to 10 February 2009 in Windhoek, Namibia. The Windhoek Declaration had a major influence on the content of the decision on Africa taken at CSD-17. It raised the profile of the agricultural development agenda in Africa, which is spearheaded by NEPAD through its CAADP (Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme), providing a framework inter alia for international support to agriculture in Africa.

² Available at http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/publications/trends_africa2008/fullreport.pdf

³ Available at <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/publications/trends2008/fullreport.pdf>

⁴ Available at http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/publications/africa_casestudies/publication.pdf

Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM)

- *Support for ministers of local governments and decentralized cooperation between European and African local governments:* A conference was held in Florence, Italy, which focused on decentralized cooperation between local governments in Africa and their counterparts in Europe.
- *Support to the Programme of Ministers of Public Service:* The DPADM has supported the establishment of the Africa Public Sector Human Resource Managers' Network (APS-HRMnet), which was launched on 27 February 2009 in Arusha, Tanzania.
- *Strengthened parliamentary capacities for the application of ICTs:* UNDESA and the Pan-African Parliament continued to collaborate in implementing the Africa Parliaments Action Plan.
- *Support to the African Association for Public Administration and Management:* UNDESA has continued to collaborate with AAPAM to enhance the knowledge and skills of public servants in Africa. In September 2009, representatives of UNDESA were among the resource people who facilitated the AAPAM Roundtable Conference in Nairobi, Kenya.
- *Maintaining information portals:* During 2009, DPADM continued to maintain a portal on conflict transformation and eventually handed it over to UNDP, where it will continue actively and with full support.
- *Strengthen institutional capacity for socioeconomic governance in Africa:* DPADM has implemented a number of technical cooperation initiatives, which include: Mali – Support to the Observatory on Sustainable Human Development and the Fight Against Poverty; Togo – Capacity Development for National Poverty Reduction Strategy Formulation and Implementation; Gabon – Support to the Finalization of the Poverty Reduction Strategy; Democratic Republic of the Congo - Support to the National Emergency Programme of Capacity Building for Economic Governance

Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD)

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

This report reviews the state of progress in the implementation of NEPAD as well as its social dimensions. The report also serves as an advocacy tool on behalf of the African Union's NEPAD programme. The current report examines the impact of the converging global crises of food and energy, financial and economic, as well as climate change on the implementation of NEPAD programmes.