

# UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS (UN-DPKO)

## Support to NEPAD

Period of report: June 2003-June 2004

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### Areas of support for NEPAD

#### *Peace and security*

The UN-DPKO's support to NEPAD comes in the form of assisting individual African countries, the AU and sub-regional organisations in enhancing their capacity to effectively participate in or undertake peace support activities, primarily in their own region.

Peacekeeping activities are essential to help create a conducive peaceful environment for the implementation of the AU/NEPAD strategic goals for Africa's development. The UN will continue to work with other partners and donors to support the enhancement of African capacity in the management and resolution of conflicts. Enabling Africans to take the lead in peace support activities in their region is an important aspect of NEPAD's objective of promoting African ownership in the affairs of the continent including in building sustainable peace. DPKO has also carried out a number of training projects and seminars on peacekeeping, including training of African trainers in enhancing African peacekeeping capabilities and strengthening the coordination of training for participation in peacekeeping operations.

### Recommendations for strengthening NEPAD implementation

#### *Peace as basis for attaining NEPAD's goals:*

Conflicts destabilize societies and drain their resources. Managing and resolving conflicts enables States to stop the diversion of scarce resources to the acquisition of weapons and instead finance much needed developmental activities. Efforts to develop governance and to ensure the prevalence of the rule of law together with the campaigns against corruption, embezzlement and mismanagement will help to create conditions conducive for investment in African countries.

#### **Additional comments**

NEPAD is a comprehensive strategy for Africa's development in which Africans have committed themselves to assume primary responsibility for their affairs, including for the first time a resolve under the AU to intervene in conflict situations, if necessary, deploying their own peacekeeping forces.

Realizing the imperative for streamlining developmental activities and efforts for building sustainable peace, African States have decided to merge the structures and processes for implementing NEPAD with those of the AU within 3 years. This will enable the African States to carry out their

major priorities regarding peace and development in complementarity and with less competition for scarce resources.

The AU/NEPAD priorities are more focused than earlier intentions and their objectives are aligned with the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). They also compliment other multilateral efforts, including those indicated in the South-South cooperation. The United Nations has welcomed these developments

and committed itself to fully cooperate with the AU and to rally international support for Africa's own endeavours in a spirit of partnership. It is hoped that these efforts will assist African States in uplifting their continent from the abject poverty and perennial security crisis that continue to afflict their peoples.