

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (ECA)

Support to NEPAD

Period of Report: 2002-2004

Orientation of work in support of NEPAD

ECA provides technical expertise and services in furtherance of the goals of NEPAD. ECA promotes coordination and coherence of UN activities in support of NEPAD priorities at the regional level, by facilitating, developing and implementing joint programmes in support of NEPAD, and supporting the NEPAD Secretariat and to African countries in developing NEPAD projects and programmes.

Areas of support for NEPAD

- a. Infrastructure development
[transportation, energy, water and sanitation, Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)]
- b. African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)

As one of the four Strategic Partner Institutions, ECA is participating in the preliminary phase of the APR process, through country support missions. ECA also continues to provide other technical expertise and services in the APR process, by assisting the APR secretariat to build and maintain a customized database of information on participating countries. ECA, through its Governance Indicators Project provides information required for the analysis of country profiles. The project aims at defining and measuring governance on the African continent through a number of country studies, each of which would provide several indicators on the

nature and quality of governance, and provide background on key governance and development issues addressed by the APRM, such as political representation institutional effectiveness; and economic management and corporate governance. ECA's annual *Economic Report on Africa* provides indices on "sustainability" and "economic policy stance" for instance, to the APR Secretariat to enable APRM implementation. ECA is also committed to participate in the various country review processes, including assistance in undertaking technical assessments.

ECA's financial commitment to NEPAD

ECA mobilised resources to fund its participation in the APR process in all the various stages outlined above, as well as in additional areas to be defined as the process evolves. ECA's regular budget resources are also utilised to support various aspects of the implementation of NEPAD.

Recommendations for strengthening NEPAD implementation

More needs to be done to enhance the coherence and coordination of the UN system support of NEPAD. For instance, the thematic clusters need to identify areas where cross-sectoral synergies can be built to further enhance collaboration, and to mainstream cross-cutting issues such as HIV/AIDS, gender and human rights into all their activities. There is a growing need for the UN system to assist in strengthening the

capacities of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the AU and NEPAD secretariat. There is need to provide the UN with additional resources required to facilitate implementation of NEPAD priorities.

The Regional Consultations mechanism needs to be strengthened by clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of the various agencies operating at the regional and sub-regional levels in Africa, in order to ensure complementarity and to avoid duplication.

Additional comments

The NEPAD process provides a new impetus to Africa's development in the 21st century, and an African-owned plan to lift the continent out of poverty into the global mainstream of sustainable development. However, the plan needs to be adequately funded in order to achieve its objectives.