

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)

Support to NEPAD

Period of report: May 2003 – August 2004

Orientation of work in support of NEPAD

- As member of the UN / NEPAD Cluster on HRD, Employment and HIV/AIDS, and the lead agency for the sub-cluster including reversing the brain drain, IOM works closely with other UN Agencies and development partners in coordinating initiatives and programs within its core mandates to strengthen collaboration with UN Agencies, the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities in designing joint programs for implementation; specifically on health, education, science and technology.
- IOM has also been very active in conflict prevention, management and peace building initiatives through the provision of relevant and timely information for conflict prevention and management, participation in peace talks / initiatives and community stabilization programs through the return and integration of ex-combatants and implementation of amnesty initiatives with national governments.
- Within the context of IOM's regional program for Africa, the organization is active in other NEPAD related program areas such as peace, security and good governance, humanitarian assistance, sustainable development and poverty reduction, capital/resource flow, private sector development, etc.

Areas of support for NEPAD

1. Facilitating and promoting South-South cooperation;
 - IOM promotes south-south co-operation through its migration and development programs, technical co-operation on migration management and capacity building initiatives for political, economic and social development.
 - Initiated dialogue for technical cooperation amongst African countries through regional consultations on migration management and inter / intra state co-operation. E.g. Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA), International Migration Policy Conference (IMP) for Eastern and Greater Horn of Africa etc.
 - Developing programs for technical co-operation amongst developing countries through the exchange of experts and institutions from the South to promote wider use of universities/technical institutions, ICT, e-learning etc within the framework of the NEPAD priorities and other potential South-south cooperation initiatives.
 - Providing technical support towards strengthening partnerships between the public, private and civil society organizations in Africa and the Western hemisphere Diaspora in the Caribbean and Latin America through the development of scientific knowledge and technical networks for development.

2. Promoting coordination and coherence in support of NEPAD priorities;

- IOM is also a member of the Group of Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGO's) accredited to the African Union which was formed in November 2003, and meets informally in Addis Ababa to discuss opportunities for coordination and support to the AU and NEPAD activities, and amongst the IGO's in order to avoid unnecessary duplication and to increase coherence and coordination to the work of the AU and NEPAD.
- IOM provides technical assistance towards the harmonization and coherent coordination of the Safari Safi project of the Great Lakes Initiative on HIV/Aids (GLIA) which is expected to contribute to the reduction of the HIV infection and to mitigate the socio-economic impact of the epidemic in the Great Lakes Region by developing regional collaboration and implementing interventions that can add value to the efforts of each of the 6 countries of Burundi, DRC, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

3. Supporting simplification and harmonization of planning, disbursement and reporting procedures as a means of enhancing support for NEPAD;

4. Supporting and strengthening sub-regional consultation mechanisms as a vehicle for fostering collaboration and coordination for NEPAD at the regional level;

- Within the Strategic Framework for a Policy on Migration for Africa, IOM in collaboration with the African Union is working towards organizing regional workshops with the RECs, NEPAD, UN

Agencies, Civil Society Organizations and other relevant stakeholders to develop regional action plans for the implementation of the strategic framework. The NEPAD being a program of the African Union, the migration policy framework would serve as a reference document for the NEPAD Secretariat; which will also be guided by the conclusions of these regional consultations.

- IOM, through its Memorandum of Understanding signed with COMESA in Nov/Dec 2003, has created a platform for cooperation with COMESA Secretariat on capacity building in migration management through technical co-operation.

5. Developing and implementing joint programs in support of NEPAD;

- IOM, WHO and UNFPA are working closely to support the establishment of the Health and Social Affairs Desks (HeSADs) within the RECs (e.g. AMU, CEN-SAD, COMESA, and ECCAS); and in particular towards operationalizing the establishment of the HeSAD within the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). This initiative is part of the work plan to be undertaken within the framework of the Human Resource Development, Employment and HIV/AIDS cluster group of the UN/NEPAD consultation. The RECs are strategically well placed to support the implementation of the NEPAD program including the NEPAD Health Strategy at sub-regional level.

- Following recommendations of the 52nd WHO Regional Conference for Africa (AFRO) that took place in Harare, Zimbabwe in October 2002, IOM and WHO established a

database on African health professionals in the diaspora to assist African governments address the problem of brain drain among the health professionals in the health sector. The results of the database was presented at the 53rd WHO Regional Conference for Africa held in Johannesburg, South Africa in September 2003. IOM and WHO are also organizing a Seminar on Health and Migration in June 2004, where topics on health worker migration will be discussed.

- As the lead agency for the NEPAD priority area on Human Resources Development, IOM is working closely with AU and its NEPAD Secretariat in initiating informal discussions with AU and NEPAD to formulate the Terms of Reference for a Plan of Action and Strategy on Human Resources Development. A tripartite meeting towards this joint initiative is scheduled to take place in 2004 in Addis Ababa.
6. Support the NEPAD Secretariat and to African countries in developing NEPAD projects and programs.
- The Co-operation Agreement signed between the then OAU and IOM in November 1998 provides a framework for cooperation and collaboration between the NEPAD Secretariat and IOM; and offers a coherent and clear platform for promoting the Migration Agenda at the regional and sub-regional level within the NEPAD context through consultations between AU-NEPAD-IOM.
 - IOM provides direct support to African countries in sensitization and advocacy in the priority sectors and areas identified by NEPAD, develop

specific projects in the area of human resource development, human security, post conflict reconstruction, peace and security and humanitarian affairs including programs for refugee resettlement, internally displaced persons and reversing the brain drain e.g. Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA).

- IOM's Migration for Development in Africa (MIDA) Programs assist in strengthening the institutional capacities of African Governments to manage and achieve their development goals through transfer of relevant skills, financial and other resources of African Nationals in the Diaspora; including MIDA health, MIDA Great Lakes and MIDA EAC which has been adopted by the EAC Council of Ministers as a regional program for the EAC. Other similar MIDA country initiatives include Ghana, Guinea, Ethiopia, etc.
- IOM is part of the technical working group and providing technical support to the AU on the creation of a network of experts from the continent and the diaspora that can assist the various portfolios of the NEPAD Secretariat and the African Union in key sectors in line with the mission and vision of the Commission and the four year strategic framework.
- In support of NEPAD programs, IOM is working in close collaboration with the AU (CSSDCA), African Governments, the Western Hemisphere Diaspora Network, (WHADN), Foundation for Democracy in Africa (ADF), Talent Search, Africa Recruit and other relevant diaspora associations towards a program to reinforce the capacity of African countries and RECs as well as harnessing the skills and financial

resources (remittances etc) of the diaspora including the creation of a diaspora investment and Development Fund for the development of Africa.

- ECOWAS and IOM signed a co-operation agreement in July 2002 to implement migration programs in the West African region, of which a Permanent Observatory on International Migration in West Africa has been established under this initiative. This was followed by a joint regional workshop with ECOWAS within the framework of the *Migration Dialogue for Western Africa (MIDWA)*; held in October 2002 to discuss migration concepts, data collection and analysis on International Migration in West Africa.
 - Within the framework of the co-operation agreement signed between IOM and OAU/AU, IOM provides direct support to the AU in addressing its migration related developmental challenges. Since the adoption of the NEPAD program, IOM has put the NEPAD priorities at the center of its continental program planning, coordination and implementation; which avails IOM an opportunity to provide technical support to the NEPAD Secretariat through its Field missions notably the IOM office in Pretoria.
7. Supporting and strengthening regional and sub-regional organizations in their ability and capacity to support conflict prevention, management as well as peace-building programs;
- IOM provides technical support in capacity building to regional and sub-regional organizations to strengthen their capabilities to reduce irregular migration in the respective regions, particularly transit migration by third country nationals, in order to contribute to national and bilateral efforts to enhance regional security and conflict prevention initiatives.
 - IOM supports training to national and regional institutions to strengthen their capacities for border assessments with a view to develop specific areas of possible Technical Cooperation in Migration programming in sub regions (e.g. EAC - Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda), with particular focus on core Capacity Building in Migration Management type activities; notably; border improvement, related policy and law, human resource development and / or training to support those sectors which focuses on migration management actions which are supportive of conflict prevention, management and peace building.
 - IOM provides training in migration data management to strengthen national and regional working groups to facilitate information exchange, coordinate operations, and the sharing of best practices for addressing irregular migration and international security matters.
 - IOM is working closely with AU, IGAD and its related agencies such as CWARN to create a migration data base and information on cross-border migration and establish an early warning indicators on migration flows, dynamics and its potential ramifications for national, regional or sub-regional insecurity as a tool for conflict prevention and management. Similar programs will be initiated with other sub-regional organizations (Regional Economic Communities (REC's) through IOM's Migration Dialogue Process to collect, analyze

and disseminate migration information on regional cross-border migration and its impact on human security, peace and security, conflict prevention and management, health particularly HIV/AIDS, environment and food security.

3. Show the inter-linkage between the NEPAD program and the AU Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in order to enable the UN agencies, international organizations and donor community consolidate their support.

IOM's financial commitment to NEPAD

Thus far, IOM's financial support traditionally provides directly support to National governments through project or programs funded through IOM 1035 funding facility. In 2003, IOM allocated USD 1,430,000 out of its discretionary funds towards the 1035 facility which includes IOM developing member states in Africa as well as countries in transition in Africa. In due course, IOM hopes to extend its fund raising activities in support of NEPAD activities and initiate direct collaboration with the secretariat.

Recommendations for strengthening NEPAD implementation

The NEPAD Reference Document (October 2001) and the NEPAD Initial Action Plans, submitted in July 2002, do not contain a clear program on migration. To this end, IOM recommends that migration be accorded high priority as it is inextricably linked with all priority areas of the NEPAD program.

1. As a program of the African Union and in view of the relevant decisions on integrating the Initiatives into the AU structures and processes, the collaboration between the NEPAD Secretariat and IOM has not been fully operationalized yet.

2. Define modalities of cooperation through which the UN Agencies and international organizations could support the NEPAD Secretariat and the AU without duplicating efforts.

Additional comments

Role of civil society in implementing the NEPAD program seems very weak. As part of its contribution to harnessing the skills and resources of the diaspora, the NEPAD Secretariat could initiate and/or participate in a dialogue with African governments and other stakeholders, mainly the private business sector with a view to assisting in promoting the transfer of African skills back to the continent.