

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)

Support to NEPAD

Period of report: May 2003 – October 2004

Areas of support for NEPAD

- a. Human Resources Development (Health, Education)
- b. Science and technology
- c. Environment
- d. Infrastructure (Transportation, Energy, Water and Sanitation, ICTs)
- e. Governance – Political, Economic and Corporate
- f. Peace and Security
- g. Culture

Priority areas of support for NEPAD

Advocacy

UNESCO is pursuing the dissemination of NEPAD's priorities for a proper appropriation. In this regard, UNESCO is mobilizing its institutional partners (National Commissions, NGO, etc.), and continuing to conduct future-oriented studies, reflections and analyses. It is also organizing conferences in order to contribute to a better understanding of the African Union Programme, thus providing greater guidance for the action taken by the Organization and its partners in favour of NEPAD.

UNESCO organised the Seminar entitled "*UNESCO and NEPAD: from vision to action*" in Ouagadougou, 5-7 March 2003. UNESCO's Executive Board at its 166th session (April 2003) endorsed the recommendations of the UNESCO/NEPAD seminar and requested the Director-General to take into account these recommendations when finalizing the Programme and Budget for 2004-2005 and formulating the related

work plans by all programme sectors. UNESCO has made NEPAD the platform for its cooperation with Africa. In this regard, the Organization reinforced its political and institutional cooperation with NEPAD and African Union authorities. Therefore, major activities undertaken came as a response to meet the recommendations made in Ouagadougou.

- UNESCO committee for NEPAD

In order to ensure an appropriate articulation of its action with NEPAD, a UNESCO Committee for NEPAD was established, following the International Seminar on "Forward-looking Approaches and Innovative Strategies to Promote the Development of Africa in the Twenty-first Century" (8-9 November, 2001). This UNESCO Committee for NEPAD is an advisory Committee composed of nine external personalities selected by the Director-General for their knowledge of the different sub-regions of Africa and of UNESCO's fields of competence as well as of members of the Secretariat (Assistant Directors-General of Programme Sectors and Director, Bureau of Strategic Planning). The first meeting took place in March 2003 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

The Committee's consultative role is to follow up the strategies, programmes and activities carried out by the Organization in the implementation of NEPAD and to make recommendations and give advice to the Director-General on the sustainable development of Africa in general, and on the support which UNESCO should provide, within its fields of competence, to the New

Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

- National commissions for UNESCO in Africa

It is to be recalled that the National Commissions as an institutional UNESCO partner, have indeed a critical role to play in the conceptualization, implementation and delivery of UNESCO's programmes. Efforts are being made to help them to play a central role for consultation, liaison, information, evaluation and programme execution, while expanding their field of action to include the fund-raising and mobilization of new partnerships. UNESCO is one of the only organizations within the UN system to benefit from such a wide and important "relay".

- Parliamentarians

Special emphasis is being placed on cooperation with African Parliamentarians, as a key relay between civil society and governments. The Dakar Framework for Education calls for the commitment of governments in attaining the 6 Dakar Goals and the 8 Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Equally, the role of Parliamentarians as policy makers in contributing to attaining these goals has been emphasized. A Contact Group of nine countries in Africa met in Dakar, Senegal in January 2002, to conceive The Forum for African Parliamentarians for Education (FAPED). FAPED was established at the General Constitutive Conference, which was held in Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania during MINEDAF VIII (Conference of Ministers of Education of Africa, Dar-es-Salaam, December 2002). The second meeting for SADC/FAPED Parliamentarians was held in Windhoek, Namibia on 13 and 14 February 2004. FAPED Parliamentarians from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe benefited from the Workshop.

- Non-governmental organisations

In addition, UNESCO is working to expand its cooperation with non-governmental organizations in Africa through networking, affiliation to international NGOs, national NGO forums/coalitions, etc.

Areas of cooperation

- Cooperation in the field of education (*Activities included in the sub-cluster education*)

In this regard, the Education Sector of UNESCO co-operated with the NEPAD Secretariat with a view to providing technical support. A Task Team was set up to serve as a consultative body to assist AU Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat in revising and finalizing the Education Action Plan.

The Sector of Education seconded an expert to the Secretariat of NEPAD from mid September 2003 up to February 2004, and provided financial support to organize the meeting of the Task Team which has just taken place in Johannesburg (22-23 March 2004).

A recommendation was made to complete the study in order to take into account the specificities of North Africa countries. In this regard the blueprint document on the education sector would be completed after taking on board the interests of the northern part of the continent and thereafter will be submitted to the Commission of the African Union. The NEPAD Secretariat hopes to encourage the initiation of an African inter-governmental process to scrutinize the document with the aim of taking it up at the highest possible level for its adoption prior to the Summit of the African Union scheduled to take place in Khartoum in 2005. The Summit will focus on Education and Culture.

- Cooperation in the field of culture
(*Important field of co-operation which does not appear yet in the thematic clusters activities*)

One of the main recommendations addressed to the Secretariat of NEPAD by the last two international seminars organized by UNESCO on NEPAD (2001 and 2003) was the need to put more emphasis on the cultural aspect in NEPAD. In this regard, the UNESCO's assistance had been solicited to prepare an African regional consultation around the theme relating to the contribution of culture to development in the context of NEPAD. This was by way of enriching the reference document of October 2001.

It is in this context that a workshop was organized in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) by UNESCO in September 2003 in order to contribute to the preparation of a Regional Consultation scheduled to be held in 2004/2005 under the auspices of AU, NEPAD's secretariat and UNESCO with a view to reinforcing the place and role of culture in the guidelines and implementation of NEPAD's programme of action. The outcomes of this workshop were transmitted to the AU Commission, the NEPAD Secretariat and the RECs for their comments and inputs. This will also help to revisit the African Cultural Charter.

- Cooperation in the field of science and technology

UNESCO, through cooperation with the Department of Science and Technology of South Africa and the NEPAD Secretariat, provided financial and technical support for the organization of the preparatory meeting (held in Nairobi, 13-15 October 2003) and the First NEPAD Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology (held in Johannesburg from 3 to 7 November, 2003) which resulted in the adoption of the Outline Plan of Action on S&T for Africa and the establishment of the Council of Ministers.

Another important measure undertaken was the development of a cooperation framework to ensure quantifiable linkages between the Organization's regular programme activities in Africa and NEPAD priorities. This framework includes flagship programmes in the following areas: governance of the national science, technology and innovation systems; capacity building for planning development programmes, technical entrepreneurship and innovation for SMEs, and financing S&T activities in Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC). Support will also be provided in preparing the business plan for the elaboration of the full Plan of Action on Science and Technology

- Natural sciences /environment

Intergovernmental Oceanic Commission (IOC) is leading, with the Support of African countries and relevant UN Agencies, the development of two NEPAD projects of the NEPAD Environmental Action Plan aimed at building capacities for sustainable development of coastal and marine environment in Africa. The first project "Regional Ocean Observing and forecasting System for Integrated Management of Ocean and Coastal Environment and Natural Disaster in Africa (ROOFS-AFRICA) is aimed at implementing the Global Ocean Observing Systems in the African Context. IOC, together with the NEPAD Secretariat organized a Workshop on Stakeholders and Resources Mobilisation towards Implementation of the ROOFS-AFRICA, in Johannesburg in November 2004. The project was one of the priority projects selected for presentation to the donors community at the NEPAD Partnership Conference Initiative held in Algiers in December 2003. The second project Shoreline Protection through Integrated Coastal area Management is aimed at providing science-based strategies and policies for protecting coastal habitats from the impacts of coastal erosion climate change in North Western Africa.

Secondly, the \$6 million UNESCO/UNEP/GEF sub-regional project on "*Building Scientific and Technical Capacity for Effective Management and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Dryland Biosphere Reserves in West Africa*" was launched in January 2004 and will be executed over a four year period.

- Energy

Capacity building and networking are important elements of the energy chapter of the Action Plan for Infrastructure. During the last semester of 2003, UNESCO, within the framework of the African Chapter of the Global Renewable Energy Education and Training (GREET) programme and in cooperation with ISESCO, organised in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) a training workshop on renewable energy systems for experts from nine West African countries. The Organization and the Energy Institute for French-speaking countries (IEPF) initiated in June 2003 the launching of the International Network for Sustainable Energies. UNESCO is also engaged in partnership with the African Energy Commission (AFREC) and as a first step participated in the seminar on energy information system.

UNESCO's financial commitment to NEPAD

In addition to sectors' regular programmes which include programmes to be implemented in Africa (20 per cent of the organization budget), to further strengthen the Organization's support to the NEPAD process, the General Conference of UNESCO at its 32nd session in September-October 2003 approved the allocation of an extra amount of US \$ 1,000,000 to support activities for the NEPAD process.

Strategy: Through the Africa Department and in cooperation with relevant programme sectors, bearing in mind the importance of

the sub-regional and regional dimension, UNESCO will reinforce its response capacities and extend reinforcement in certain critical areas, such as teacher training, education, science and technology, culture and follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development. A serious effort is also made to mobilize extra-budgetary funds in favour of NEPAD priorities.

Cooperation with African Union and RECs

- Cooperation with African Union

The Director-General of UNESCO received, President Alpha Oumar Konaré, President of the AU Commission on 21 January 2004. They discussed issues related to NEPAD, the RECs as pillars of NEPAD and the cooperation in education and culture.

President Alpha Oumar Konaré visited UNESCO on the occasion of the Africa Day celebrations taking place at the Organization's Headquarters. The Chairman of the Commission of the African Union presented a plea in favor of a united and indivisible Africa "where no African will be made to feel a foreigner". Highlighting the importance of African integration, "the only framework for truly endogenous development," Mr Konaré defined the African Union as "an organization of regional integration", which is evolving towards the establishment of the "United States of Africa."

The Director-General attended the 3rd African Union Summit which was held in Addis Ababa (6-8 July 2004) and he addressed the XIth Session of the implementation Committee of NEPAD (HSGIC) on 7 July 2004 on the cooperation on the cooperation between NEPAD and UNESCO. The Assembly expressed its satisfaction for the work that has been done in support of the Human Resource Development aspects of the NEPAD

programme. This excellent cooperation is finally illustrated by the decision made by the African Union to devote its next annual Summit, to be held in Khartoum (July 2005) in partnership with UNESCO, to Education and Culture.

- Cooperation with sub-regional organizations

UNESCO has been cooperating actively also with a number of sub-regional organizations in developing and carrying out joint priority programmes and projects. UNESCO has just signed an agreement with the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) (12th August 2003). Three conferences of Ministers of Education, organized by UNESCO, focused on education as an efficient tool for regional integration-regional- namely, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), held in Ghana; the Portuguese-speaking Countries of Africa (PALOPS) and Equatorial Guinea, held in Sao Tomé and Principe; and the Monetary and Economic Union of Central Africa (CEMAC), held in Cameroon.

The FOSRASUN: Forum of Sub-regional Organisations (to support cooperation between UNESCO and NEPAD)

The Seminar “UNESCO-NEPAD: from Vision to Action” (Ouagadougou, 5-7 March 2003), recommended the creation of the FOSRASUN and the designation of a focal point for the Forum in each sub-regional institution. The FOSRASUN will meet every two years in ordinary session, with a view to achieving a better coordination between the different partners and for UNESCO to elaborate a priority framework in its partnership with the African sub-regional and regional organizations. The first meeting of the FOSRASUN will take place from 13 to 14 September 2004. The purpose of this meeting will, inter alia, be to study the ways and means to use UNESCO fields of competence to reinforce the African integration.