

# UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ADVISER ON AFRICA (UN-OSAA)

## Support to NEPAD

Period of report: 2003- 2004

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### Orientation of work in support of NEPAD

The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa provides support for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development through its reporting, advocacy and analytical work at the global level. During the year, it undertook a range of activities to contribute to the mobilisation of financial resources and technical cooperation for the implementation of NEPAD. In addition, it prepared a number of studies to share experiences on the implementation of NEPAD, organised briefings on topical issues, supported the TICAD process and undertook activities in support of micro-finance and civil society.

- **Activities directly addressing resource mobilization**

As a contribution to mobilising financial resources for Africa's development and the implementation of NEPAD in particular, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa convened a roundtable discussion on "*Capital Flows to Africa: Potentials for Financing NEPAD*" in October 2003, which reflected on long-term financing needs for Africa. The need for favourable policy measures and actions by Africa's developed country partners was underlined, in particular expanding trade liberalisation for Africa, increasing credit guarantee financing by OECD export credit agencies and providing support for small-and medium-scale enterprises development in Africa.

OSAA has also organized a panel discussion on "*Enabling Environment and Resource Mobilisation for the Least*

*Developed Countries Emerging from Conflict*" on 18 March 2004. The discussion reflected on the challenges faced by LDCs emerging from conflicts in resource mobilisation and in particular, assistance for post-conflict reconstruction and development. Consolidation of peace and stability was viewed as important both in restoring economic growth and promoting social cohesion as well as in garnering international financial support.

- **Sharing experiences on measures to promote the implementation of NEPAD**

OSAA prepared a report entitled "*Integrating the priorities of NEPAD into the national development process: experiences from selected African countries.*" The report starts from the premise that in order to succeed, regional development initiatives, such as NEPAD, must be embedded in the national development process. It notes that there is no single right approach to integrating the priorities of NEPAD into national development frameworks. The report, however, identifies 4 main issues that are central to the process of integration of NEPAD priorities into national development process. These are: (i) the organization of NEPAD focal points, (ii) mechanisms for decision-making and implementing NEPAD in each country, (iii) financial and budgetary allocations to NEPAD priorities, and (iv) the consultative process initiated within government and between the government and the private sector, civil society and NGOs. The report concludes that sustained progress in these areas and in the implementation of NEPAD calls for strong

national leadership and enhanced commitment, as well as support by Africa's development partners.

- **Promoting South-South cooperation**

OSAA issued a publication entitled: "*South-South Cooperation in Support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development: Experiences of Africa-Latin America and the Caribbean*", which highlights the depth and diversity of cooperation between the two regions in the key priority areas of NEPAD: peace and security, including governance; energy; information and communication technologies; market access; agriculture; health; education; and environment. The report assesses the congruence between NEPAD priorities and existing areas of cooperation and concludes that South-South cooperation has a great potential to contribute to the success of NEPAD and that the main regional development institutions in the two regions can play important catalytic role in that process.

- **Briefings**

As part of his advocacy role, the Special Adviser briefed ambassadors of the various regional groups (Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, European Union and Eastern Europe) on progress in the implementation of NEPAD in the first quarter of 2004. OSAA also organised 2 technical briefings for member states, UN staff and NGOs in New York. The first, which was organised in collaboration with UNCTAD, WIPO and DESA, was on the "*Science and Technology Programme of NEPAD*."

The second, which was organised jointly with UNCTAD, was on "*Recent trade and development issues and their implications for Africa*". OSAA intends to hold a number of such technical briefings, in collaboration with the appropriate UN entities, to discuss thematic issues being dealt with in the intergovernmental fora, as a means of

support to preparations, particularly of African countries, for the respective events.

In connection with the High-level Segment of ECOSOC 2004, OSAA organised two roundtable breakfast meetings. The first roundtable meeting focused on "*Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development in Madagascar*", while the second focused on the question of whether "*Current Practice in Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration leads to Stability and Development in Africa*."

- **Support to the Third International Conference on African Development (TICAD)**

As a co-organiser of TICAD since its inception, OSAA made substantive contributions to the preparatory process of TICAD III, which took place in Tokyo from 29 October to 1 November 2003. The Conference was attended by more than 1,000 participants from 50 African countries, 24 donor countries, 15 Asian and Latin American countries, 13 African regional and sub-regional organisations, 34 international organisations, 56 civil society organisations as observers. The participation of African countries was at a high level, with 23 Heads of State/ Government and about 90 Ministers attending. At the end of the Conference, the Tenth Anniversary Declaration and Chair's summary was adopted as the major outcome. OSAA has since published "*Third Tokyo International Conference on African Development - Summary Proceedings*." As part of the follow up to TICAD III, OSAA has assisted the UN Country Teams in some African countries to draw up projects for funding under the Human Security Fund established by the Government of Japan.

- **Promotion of micro-finance activities in African countries**

OSAA also contributed to the preparation of the United Nations International Year of Micro-credit (IYM 2005), by participating in the inter-agency activities including:

- facilitating a workshop for Francophone public servants from 9 West African countries on “*Micro-finance and Poverty Eradication in Africa*” (May 2004) in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire;
- updating and adjusting the Model of Micro-finance in Africa developed by the UN Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries (UN-OSCAL) in 2000, based on lessons learned from field testing the model in South Africa, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Cameroon, as well as recommendations of the workshop of Côte d'Ivoire. The outcome of this preparation is a publication entitled: “*Micro-finance in Africa: Poverty Eradication, Youth Employment and HIV/AIDS*”.

- **Promotion of African civil society**

OSAA continued to network with civil society organisations in Africa. Empowering African civil society in development was a key theme in the 1991 UN New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF), and has since been highlighted in numerous official statements, documents and reviews, including NEPAD. The first edition of the Directory of African NGOs was published in 1999, which was updated in 2002 and 2004. The number of NGOs listed increased from 1,896 in 1999 to 2,459 in 2002. A total of 3,550 organisations will feature in third edition in 2004.

In recognition of the important role played by African NGOs in conflict prevention, OSAA prepared a report on: “*Assessing the Role of Civil Society in the Prevention of Armed Conflict in Africa*.” This report will be complemented by a panel discussion co-organised by the UN-OSAA and the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, the NGO group which is organising an international conference on the subject in 2005.