

## DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (DESA)

### Support to NEPAD

**Period of Report: 2005 to 2006**

#### **Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW)**

DAW has worked in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to develop the capacity of national machineries for the advancement of women to more effectively use ICT to achieve their goals of gender equality and empowerment of women. A series of sub-regional meetings were held for representatives of 40 countries in Africa. A regional meeting was held to consolidate the lessons learned to develop a strategy for enhanced use of ICT for knowledge management, networking and advocacy, as well as for influencing national ICT policy and strategy development from a gender perspective. A panel was organized at WSIS in Tunis in November 2005 to discuss the challenges facing national machineries in Africa in accessing and utilizing ICTs effectively.

#### **Development Policy Analysis Division (DPAD)**

DPAD does not have any specific budgetary allocation or programme of work specifically targeted at supporting NEPAD's goals and activities. However, within the framework of its overall mandate, DPAD is involved in research and policy analysis of key issues of relevance to NEPAD. DPAD actively monitors and reports on economic and social development in Africa and the role of NEPAD in that process. Activities in this regard contribute to a better understanding of NEPAD's goals and priorities and progress in its implementation. Specific issues, such as political and economic governance, ODA flows and infrastructure development were covered in the *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2006* (WESP2006) and touched upon in the *World Economic and Social Survey 2006* (WESS 2006) in the following areas:

- **Political and Economic Governance:** Chapter 4 of WESP 2006 reported on the status of the implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism (ARPM) in the broader context of coverage of recent economic developments in Africa. Also, as part of the preparations for WESS 2006, DPAD commissioned two background papers that review the role of governance and conflicts in explaining the divergence in performance across developing countries.
- **International Financial Support for Africa's Development:** Chapter 3 of the WESP 2006, which deals with financial flows to developing and transition economies, also discussed the trends in official development assistance and analyzed progress and issues in implementing the HIPC Initiative. This exercise amounts, to some degree, to reviewing some of the commitments of the international community in terms of mobilizing financial resources in support of NEPAD objectives.

DPAD also actively participates in a research network of African policymakers that originated in the Research Network for Development Policy Analysis (RNDPA) project funded by the Development Account and managed by DESA/DPAD. The project successfully built a core network of representatives from 15 African countries with significant expertise in quantitative research and analysis based on modern econometric models and techniques. The RNDPA project matured, in 2005, into the African Institute for Economic Modelling (AFRINEM), which is based at the University of Pretoria in South Africa. AFRINEM now serves as an independent network of expertise in Africa that enhances the ability of national policy makers to use internationally accepted techniques and frameworks to examine and forecast the macroeconomic performance of their countries and to improve coordinated policy analysis on a regional basis. The research network also allows policymakers to evaluate the impact of world economic conditions on the regional economy and individual African countries. Several African members of AFRINEM participate in Project LINK, which is a global network of economic modeling experts jointly managed by DESA and the University of Toronto. The network therefore supports some of key partnership objectives of NEPAD.

### **Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM)**

Support to NEPAD by DPADM falls broadly under two categories: the application of innovative tools and approaches and advocacy; and dissemination of good practices in governance and public administration.

The Africa Governance Inventory (AGI) Portal is a facility developed by DPADM in 2003 and placed at the service of African states to support ongoing governance efforts in the region. It is a self-service portal which is available through DPADM's website, [www.unpan.org](http://www.unpan.org). The AGI Portal assists African Governments and their development partners to improve programming, coordination, monitoring, evaluation and mobilization of resources in governance. Since its inception, the AGI has been highly effective in promoting dialogue with donors on the adoption of reliable tools for assessing governance performance.

The AGI portal is funded from resources provided by the United Nations Development Programme and the Government of Italy. Cuts in the Government of Italy contributions pose significant challenges to further development and utilization of the AGI Portal.

#### Advocacy and awareness-raising

DESA/DPADM has been sending notification messages to participating countries, and posting information on the AGI Portal homepage highlighting the importance of updating AGI national governance databases to support the APRM process. It has also been communicating with the NEPAD/APRM Secretariat, keeping it informed of AGI achievements.

In addition to placing the AGI at the disposal of NEPAD/APRM, DESA/DPADM has engaged the Partnership at other levels. In August 2005, the Department collaborated

with the NEPAD Secretariat in back-stopping the formal inauguration of the African Management Development Institute Network (AMDIN). Besides presenting a keynote address at the launching of the Network, the Department also tabled concrete proposals on the enhancement of the capacity of management development institutes to plan and execute a comprehensive ethics and professionalism mainstreaming programme targeted at the African public service.

DPADM has been supporting NEPAD in implementing its governance programme. First, the design of the NEPAD governance programme was done with the participation and substantive facilitation of UNDESA. In its on-going implementation DPADM has been supporting eight African Parliaments to strengthen their capacities (Angola, Kenya, Mozambique, Cameroon, Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda, Ghana and the Pan African Parliament). DPADM has also supported the formation of the Pan African Conference of Ministers of Local Government in Africa and substantively facilitating on-going policy dialogue for decentralization in Africa and capacity building for local governance.

### **Division for Sustainable Development (DSD)**

The Division for Sustainable Development has been working closely with Africa in the Marrakech process on sustainable development. The results of the second African meeting which DESA/DSD organized in this context were approved at the Second Partners Conference for the implementation of the action plan for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in Dakar, Senegal from 15 to 16 March 2005. This resulted in both an "African Strategy on the Implementation of the 10 Year Framework Programme (10YFP) on Sustainable Consumption and Production" and a Task Force for Cooperation with Africa under the Marrakech Process, which held its first official meeting in May 2006. As managers of the Marrakech Process, DESA/DSD is in part responsible for the implementation of this strategy and for ensuring its place within the overall international process. For that DESA/DSD plans to work closely with the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) Secretariat at UNEP Regional Office for Africa.

### **Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination (OESC/DESA)**

The UN Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development (UNPPA) was established in Madagascar in 2004 with the following objectives: to work as a catalyst and facilitator for the creation of partnerships; to identify and promote business and commercial relations in several activities; to provide platform for collaboration between public sector and other rural development actors; and to bring the results of these efforts to the attention of the international community. OESC/DESA has undertaken preparation of advocacy products, including brochures on the UN Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development and Statistical Profile of Madagascar. Also, the recently launched UNPPA website provides a wealth of information, including the progress in implementation of the UNPPA. The OESC/DESA also assisted to link UN system organizations and NGO/civil society organizations to the Alliance Madagascar for trade and investment promotion, fish farming, ICT, poverty eradication and human resource development. OESC furthermore

organized a roundtable in Algiers between African Economic and Social Council's civil society and Governments. The roundtable addressed NEPAD and the link with peer reviews.

#### ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on African countries emerging from conflicts

The Office has continued to provide substantive and organizational secretariat support to the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on Guinea-Bissau and Burundi, whose mandate has been extended until the substantive session of the Council for 2006. These Groups promote a comprehensive approach to peace and development for the two countries and advocate for sustained and long term support to their development efforts, in line with the approach promoted by NEPAD. The Groups held high-level meetings in the period under review, including with the Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Burundi, as well as technical meetings with UN officials at Headquarters.

### **Division for Social Policy and Development**

#### Commission for Social Development

Support to NEPAD by DSPD falls consistently under the Commission for Social Development, where the social dimension of NEPAD has been elaborated since the Commission's 41<sup>st</sup> session in 2003. Decisions on implementation of the social dimension of NEPAD have been adopted by ECOSOC each subsequent year. In particular, the 43<sup>rd</sup> session of the Commission in 2005, which celebrated the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development, renewed its commitment to support national efforts to promote a favourable environment for social and economic development, which specified the provision of technical and financial assistance through NEPAD.

#### The 2005 Report on the World Social Situation (RWSS)

*The Inequality Predicament*, the subject of the flagship RWSS, addressed the inequality gap between Africa and the rest of the world, as well as the social, economic and political dangers associated with the marginalization of Africa and the lack of development in the region. Foremost among the key areas identified for international action include the commitment that technical and financial assistance be earmarked in explicit quantitative targets to guarantee a favourable environment for social and economic development in Africa, within the framework of NEPAD.

#### DSPD Project with Government of South Africa Department of Social Development

A technical cooperation project is in the proposal stage with the NEPAD Secretariat regarding a Ministerial meeting of SADC countries on social dimensions of NEPAD/AU: "SADC cooperation for social development – a programme of action [in light of NEPAD and AU priorities]". This is a capacity development activity focused on social policy, in preparation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the SADC Forum for Ministers responsible for Social Development, 2006. The meeting is scheduled for 26-29 September 2006.