



**Office of the Special Adviser on Africa  
Department of Public Information**

## **PROCEEDINGS**

**of the**

**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NEPAD Programme: Reflecting on a Decade of  
Change/Progress – Moving Forward Africa’s Development Agenda Through  
Strengthening NEPAD and United Nations Partnership**

**October 2011  
New York**

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## Overview

This report provides a summary of the proceedings from the series of events that took place during the commemorative week which marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) held at the United Nations; the United Nations Headquarters in New York, the African Union Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations and Columbia University; respectively. The NEPAD commemorative week took place from 6 to 11 October 2011.

The commemoration provided an opportunity for a deeper reflection at all levels on the decade of change/progress and how to move Africa's development agenda forward to ensure that Africa claims the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The celebrations offered an opportunity to further engage the global development community including the United Nations system in strengthening the partnerships for the implementation of NEPAD as the flagship socio-economic development programme of the African Union, achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and raise awareness on the NEPAD agenda and its achievements and remaining challenges among UN member states, private sector, civil society and academia.

The NEPAD is a programme of the African Union (AU), adopted at the 37th session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity in 2001. It provides an overarching policy framework and vision for Africa's economic and political renaissance. The four primary objectives of NEPAD include: poverty eradication, promotion of sustainable growth and development, increasing Africa's integration into the world economy and the empowerment of women through building partnerships at country, regional and global levels.

In order to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this Africa-owned and led strategic framework for development, the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (UN-OSAA) co-organized in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Public Information (UN-DPI), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NEPAD Agency), and the African Union Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations a series of events featuring:

- Special Briefing to the African Group of Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives to the UN on “Advancing NEPAD Implementation over a decade of opportunities”;
- Launch of the 2011 MDGs Africa Report;
- High-Level Panel Discussion on “*NEPAD and the MDGs: Progress, Challenges and the Way Forward*”;
- Special Briefing to the United Nations Inter-Agency/Departmental Task Force on African Affairs on “Strengthening the UN-NEPAD Partnership”;
- Briefing to the UN member states on two reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of NEPAD and on the Causes of Conflict in Africa; on progress and forward looking approaches in NEPAD implementation; and improving governance in Africa through the Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM): progress and challenges;

## **I. Special Briefing of the African Group on NEPAD-African Union Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations (6 October 2011)**

### **Introduction**

The Special Briefing to the African Group on New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) was organized by the African Union/NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NEPAD Agency) and the African Union Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations on 6 October 2011, as part of the events marking the commemoration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NEPAD.

### **Objectives**

This unique briefing aimed at raising awareness on the implementation experience of NEPAD over the past decade and on the operation of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). The briefing also offered an opportunity to engage the African Group in New York to support the implementation phase of the NEPAD programme at the global level. Following the briefing session, the 2011 MDG Africa Report was launched by the African Union, African Development Bank (AfDB), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

### **Participation and Format**

The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Macharia Kamau, Chairman of the African Group for the month of October 2011 and Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations, and featured keynote presentations by H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer of NEPAD Agency; Dr. Assefa Shifa, Chief Executive Officer of the APRM Secretariat; Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa; Mr. Pedro Conceicao on behalf of Mr. Tegegnetwork Gettu, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa; and Mr. Emmanuel Nnadozie, on behalf of Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the UNECA.

The meeting included a short video documentary, an opening session, and keynote presentations on advancing NEPAD implementation over a decade of opportunities and on the APRM experience. The keynote presentations were followed by special remarks on Growth strategies for Africa-UN partnerships and then a session of discussion.

The Special Briefing was attended by African member states, representatives of the African Union, AU/NEPAD Agency, APRM, UNDP, UNECA, and UN-OSAA.

The event commenced with a short video documentary on: "NEPAD – The Journey so far". This was followed by welcome and opening remarks by the Ambassador of Kenya.

## **Briefing**

### **Keynote presentation on “Advancing NEPAD implementation over a Decade of Opportunities” by Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer of NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NEPAD Agency)**

Dr. Mayaki’s presentation provided an analysis of the 10-year experience of NEPAD while highlighting the challenges faced within the African Union and the ways NEPAD Agency intended to overcome these challenges.

At the outset, Dr. Mayaki recalled the context of the establishment of NEPAD in 2001 against two main reasons, which were the spirit of marginalization of Africa from the globalization process and the need to rebuild internal governmental capacities and reinstate Africa’s strategic capacity after its erosion during the long period of structural adjustment programmes. He emphasized the importance of the link between NEPAD and the African Union from the origins and observed that it took almost 10 years for NEPAD to be integrated into the African Union structures and processes. Dr. Mayaki stated that NEPAD gave the African Union a technical body, focusing on implementation and constituted a knowledge hub for strategic thinking on sectoral priorities.

Reflecting on the past decade, Dr. Mayaki noted the significant change and progress. He highlighted the sound reforms, improved domestic resource mobilization and high growth rates leading to positive economic development. He presented various success stories in Cape Verde for internet, Rwanda for investments and Algeria on infrastructure to depict a positive and dynamic image of Africa.

Among the key developments and reforms of the decade, Dr. Mayaki cited the establishment of the APRM which focused specifically on governance. He also recalled the design of a unique and expansive strategic framework for agriculture development across the continent, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). NEPAD included consolidated action plans, subregional action plans and provided a framework for developing specific sectors such as fisheries and CAADP.

He also spoke about climate change, natural resources management and the African Mining Vision. Dr. Mayaki noted that Africa is the continent with the highest density of natural resources and it needs to be prepared strategically for further development of its natural resources and facing the global demand.

He also referred to the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) which is supporting regional integration processes. He noted the importance of addressing national problems with regional solution as in the case of sound electrical systems.

Dr. Mayaki pointed out that NEPAD was at the forefront of biotechnologies in both health and agriculture. He announced the launch of the Africa Biosafety Network Expertise Center in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

He also mentioned that a key objective of NEPAD was to shift from aid effectiveness to development effectiveness since aid had to be considered as a catalytical factor. This shift should give due recognition to the empowerment of women at the grassroots level.

On the ICT and NEPAD e-schools programme, Dr. Mayaki explained that the objective was to transform the pedagogy so that African students adapt to modern technology.

Regarding mutual accountability issues, he noted that Africa had delivered more on its commitments than the G8 countries had done.

Turning to the main challenges for the future of NEPAD, Dr. Mayaki noted technical capacity, adequate resources, global commitment and establishment of strong synergies between the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Agency and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). Among the key challenges, he also raised the awareness on NEPAD and the mobilization of domestic resources.

On the way forward, Dr. Mayaki underscored the importance of developing regional integration, going beyond aid and making development more effective for the coming decade based on new development models. He insisted on the importance of ownership of the strategy and regional integration with a focus on agriculture and infrastructure development, the underlying message being for Africa to achieve true economic independence.

**Presentation on “Innovation in transforming the Continent Governance: The APRM Experience” by Dr. Assefa Shifa, Chief Executive Officer, APRM Secretariat**

In his presentation, Dr. Shifa elaborated on the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) noting that it was a mutually agreed instrument. There were four main areas, namely: Democracy and political governance, Economic governance and management, Corporate Governance and Socio-Economic development. The establishment of the APRM reflected a paradigm shift from non-interference to non-indifference as well as a linkage between poverty reduction, development and democracy, and good governance.

He outlined the APRM vision and principles, its structures, including the make up of the African Peer Review (APR) Panel and the APRM organization at country level. He mentioned that thirty (30) countries have acceded to the APRM, fourteen (14) of which had completed their peer reviews. Kenya is the first country to have begun its 2<sup>nd</sup> generation review. Zambia and Sierra Leone have received country review missions and are slated for Peer review by the APR Forum in January 2012.

While appreciating the contribution of APRM, Dr. Shifa mentioned that APRM had increased the democratic space and promoted policy dialogue and civil society participation. He further noted that the country review reports served as early warning, such as in the case of the ethnic-related violence which broke out in Kenya and the xenophobic violence in South Africa that erupted in May 2008. One of the highlights of the APRM is its position to identify systemic issues and common African problems such as land and resource management, corruption, managing diversities, and elections. He also mentioned that APRM contributed significantly to the “African Charter for Popular Participation in Development” also known as the Arusha Declaration.

To enhance the constructive and non-punitive nature of the APRM, APR reports showcased best practices such as gender equality in Rwanda, the culture of national dialogue and tolerance in Mali, promotion of regional peace and security in Nigeria, decreasing dependence on foreign aid in Kenya, and deepening of democratic culture in Ghana.

Turning to the challenges, Dr. Shifa raised the voluntary nature of the mechanism and political will at the highest level, the complexity of the instruments and processes, the capacity constraints, the financial constraints, the implementation of the National Programme of Action which are not integrated into existing development plans, and the inclusiveness of the participation of stakeholders.

In moving forward, he noted that there was need for more countries to join the mechanism. There was also need for capacity building and to harmonize processes. He also mentioned the on-going work on a communication strategy for the APRM. In conclusion, he noted that the APRM was an African home-grown initiative; that it involved the political hierarchy at the highest level and that it embraced all stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector. This was its main strength and gave credibility to the process.

### **Special Remarks on “Growth Strategies for Africa-UN Partnership”**

#### **(a) Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa**

Mr. Diarra noted the historic adoption of NEPAD ten years ago as the continent’s premier framework for economic, social and political advancement, and that over the years NEPAD had served to increase the confidence and hope about what is feasible and achievable on the continent. He also noted the improvements in education and health and commendable economic growth rates which he attributed to political and socio-economic reforms, increasing regional integration and the strengthening of regional and continental institutions such as NEPAD. He underlined the fact that increased South-South cooperation had brought more opportunities to Africa.

Mr. Diarra, noted, however that many challenges still remain and that the anniversary celebration was the opportunity to reflect on how things could be overcome in the decade ahead. In this regard, he stressed that Africa had to start thinking “Beyond Aid”. It could not simply rely on external donor support but must mobilize its own domestic resources to develop the continent.

He also outlined how the UN system and his own United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (UN-OSAA) supported and assisted NEPAD in the transformation, which it has done by streamlining its programmes and aligning them with the AU and NEPAD priorities.

He commended the progress made so far in the APRM process on governance to which thirty (30) African countries have acceded and the support given to it by the UN system. He noted the cooperation between the UN, the African Union and the RECs in the maintenance of peace and security which has intensified in recent years, citing the work in Darfur, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Guinea and Niger.

He also pointed out UN-AU cooperation and in particular implementation of the United Nations Ten-Year Capacity-Building programme for the AU, a framework agreement reached between the two organizations in 2006. Also, he also pointed out the newly expanded UN Office to the African Union in Addis Ababa which allowed the UN to work more closely with the AU and other subregional organizations to build the necessary capacity to prevent, manage and resolve conflict.

Mr. Diarra then highlighted on the work of UN-OSAA within its mandate to enhance international support for Africa’s development and security through its advocacy and analytical work. He noted the role of the Office in preparing annual reports of the Secretary-General, one highlighting the work of the

different UN system organizations in support of NEPAD and a progress report on International Support for the Implementation of NEPAD, as well as organizing and hosting expert group meetings, workshops and reports on critical issues affecting the continent, including developments in the various South-South partnerships emerging on the continent.

He pointed out that UN-OSAA is the convener of the Advocacy and Communications Cluster within the framework of the Regional Coordination Mechanism aimed at coordinating UN system-wide support to NEPAD at the regional and subregional levels. UN-OSAA also convenes the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on African affairs, an important mechanism for promoting linkages and synergies between peace and development and exchange of information among UN system organizations on their programmes and strategies in support to Africa's development.

The remaining challenges include fragility and violent conflict and, the yet to be achieved, Millennium Development Goals by 2015, Mr. Diarra pledged the continued support of the United Nations to the African Union and the NEPAD Agency to address those challenges and the priorities that Africa has set for itself.

**(b) Mr. Pedro Conceicao, on behalf of Mr. Tegegnetwork Gettu, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa**

In his intervention, Mr. Conceicao commended the achievements of NEPAD and APRM. He outlined the areas of support UNDP provided to both initiatives and explained the strategy, followed by UNDP, in this endeavour. He indicated a three-fold objective pursued by UNDP in its support to Africa's development:

1. The challenge of making economic growth transformative in poverty reduction and increasing agriculture and the management of natural resources.
2. Making societies in Africa more resilient against shocks, including food prices on external markets. In this regard, UNDP was helping with social protection and elections.
3. Climate change – Africa was likely to be among the worst affected and the aim was to produce clean fuels so as to reduce carbon emissions

At the end of his presentation, Mr. Conceicao noted that UNDP will continue supporting NEPAD, announcing that UNDP/RBA is about to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the NEPAD Agency to strengthen this partnership.

**(c) Mr. Emmanuel Nnadozie on behalf of Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)**

In his statement, Mr. Nnadozie noted that African leaders were visionary in establishing NEPAD ten years ago. He praised NEPAD for linking economic development and growth to peace and security as well as for improved good governance and accountability across Africa. With greater participation in issues of peace and security as a precondition for development, there has been a reduction in conflict on the continent.

While assessing the progress achieved by NEPAD, Mr. Nnadozie pointed to the mobilization of international support and resources through creative partnerships for infrastructure development and the mobilization of internal resources for agriculture development. He also noted that NEPAD pushed for the cancellation of African debt within the framework of its engagement with the G8 and G20. UNECA commended flagship programmes such as CAADP, the Capacity Development Strategic Framework (CDSF), the E-Africa Programme and the African Platform for Development Effectiveness (APDev). Mr. Nnadozie further listed concrete projects related to NEPAD including the TerrAfrica Programme, NEPAD's African Bioscience Initiative and a system harmonizing the registration of medicines in Africa.

He then outlined the support provided by UNECA to NEPAD since its inception including the development of the business plan and a knowledge management platform, and the assistance in the restructuring of NEPAD communication and advocacy programme. He further highlighted the coordinating role of UNECA within the Africa Regional Coordination Mechanism framework. On the way forward, Mr. Nnadozie looked to strengthening future partnerships with NEPAD as well as to enhancing and promoting private sector participation in the implementation of NEPAD, and to raising awareness and stakeholder buy-in of NEPAD.

## **Discussion**

Several countries participated in the Question & Answer session. Central African Republic, Chad, Morocco, Nigeria and Tunisia took the floor and congratulated NEPAD on its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and commended the speakers. They raised the following issues and concerns:

- African member states raised the issue of resource mobilization for regional projects and underscored the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation. Interests were expressed on efforts to improve domestic resource mobilization. Member states also expressed interest on what was being done regarding Africa's highest density of natural resources. It was observed that most of the investment in infrastructure is funded from domestic rather than external resources.
- In addition, the influence of the media on the image of Africa was also raised as a concern. It was noted that western media priorities and information management were detrimental to the interests of African governments. For instance, the recent Zambian democratic and peaceful transfer of power did not make the international headlines. Tunisian's economic development model propagated by the western media ended up not being a model anymore in view of the socio-political uprisings. It was noted that some of the negative images were used at some point to mobilize foreign resources. However, at the financial level, the negative image did not matter much since markets already knew the difference in perception of performance of countries; for example, Ghana and Nigeria are currently paying 7 percent interest versus Greece's 15 percent on ten-year bonds. A more fair and balanced image of Africa has to be portrayed by western and continental media. It was suggested to develop a communication strategy that would promote governance, transparency, and inclusive decision-making processes like in the case of Rwanda. Indeed, Africa had several positive stories to showcase including the well-organized FIFA World Cup by South Africa in 2010.
- Regarding the APRM, it was suggested to enhance the focus on unemployment, inequality and corruption in the peer reviews in order to improve the early warning capacity, particularly in view of the socio-political uprising in Tunisia. It was highlighted that despite high economic growth rates, political and security issues were at stake once unemployment, inequality and corruption prevailed. The problem of inequality was emphasized in the context of non-inclusive growth. A major challenge facing African leaders and governments is the youth, and particularly youth

unemployment. A solution could be found in an agricultural led industrialization that would generate jobs.

- Questions were raised on the link between the voluntary accession nature and the capacity to conduct peer reviews for all fifty-four (54) African countries. To improve the effectiveness of the APRM, it was suggested to address issues of its capacity as well as that of member states.

## **II. Launch of the Assessing Progress in Africa toward the Millennium Development Goals, MDG Report 2011**

### **Opening Statement by Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, UN Under-Secretary General and UNDP Associate Administrator**

In her statement, Ms. Grynspan recalled the broad and steadfast commitment of governments, citizens, civil society, and development partners to achieve the MDGs in Africa. While introducing the report, she noted that it offered not only a scorecard of where we stand, but also an analysis of the challenges faced by Africa, and some of the policies and initiatives that could help overcome these challenges. She highlighted the focus of the report on inclusive and sustained growth particularly on the contribution of social protection to accelerate MDG progress. Indeed, she mentioned that social protection systems were an investment in the human capital needed to break the inter-generational transmission of poverty, protect assets during shocks and strengthen the capabilities of the poor. After pointing at successful African stories in Namibia, South Africa, Ethiopia and Malawi, Ms. Grynspan called upon the African Group of Ambassadors to carry the key messages from the report to help countries achieve the MDGs, by translating its findings into concrete local and national action. In the end she acknowledged and encouraged the fruitful collaboration between UNDP, UNECA and the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the African Union in serving the people of Africa on the ground.

### **Remarks by Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, UN Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary of UNECA delivered by Mr. Emmanuel Nnadozie, Director, Economic Development and NEPAD Division, UNECA**

In his remarks, Mr. Nnadozie on behalf of Mr. Janneh introduced the report as a rigorous assessment of progress in Africa toward the achievement of the MDGs. After expressing appreciation to partnering institutions, he noted that the report provided basis for policy discussion, peer learning, and advocacy; as well as impetus for policy decisions and actions by Africa's highest political organs and for new strategies by member states.

Mr. Nnadozie highlighted key achievements on some MDGs targets such as attaining gender parity, enhancing women's empowerment and responding to HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. He also noted some of the remaining challenges including maternal, child and infant mortality. While looking forward, Mr. Nnadozie invited all the stakeholders to start the process of building consensus around the post-2015 development agenda. He then briefed on the ongoing work of UNECA in formulating a unified African perspective on the post-2015 agenda. This will constitute the input to the UN report entitled "Beyond 2015: A Future UN Development Agenda".

## **Presentation of the key messages of the Report: Assessing Progress in Africa toward Achieving the Millennium Development Goals, by Mr. Bartholomew Armah, Chief MDGs and LDCs, UNECA**

In his presentation, Mr. Armah stated that Africa had made progress, but not enough to achieve many targets. To accelerate progress, he stressed the importance of sustained efforts on all fronts. He highlighted some priorities to be followed by governments such as budgetary allocations to lagging MDGs. He noted some of the key challenges to progress on the MDGs including the global financial crisis and pointed to the need to address equity in the delivery of social services. Mr. Armah then provided a state of progress of achievement for each MDG target. Among the areas of progress, he listed primary enrolment targets, gender parity in primary schools, women empowerment as well as their political representation, prevention of new HIV/AIDS infections through increased reported condom-use, particularly among youth, provision of antiretroviral treatment and continent-wide behaviour change. He also noted the significant progress of debt sustainability with a considerable number of African countries that had reached post-HIPC completion point. Among the key area of concerns, Mr. Armah highlighted the fact that economic growth had not translated into reduction in absolute poverty, unemployment (youth, feminized), and hunger.

In the sector of primary education, he noted that quality was of concern. He regretted that progress to reduce child mortality had been too slow and that levels of child and infant mortality remained high in most countries. He noted that conditions for African mothers remain dire and Malaria continued to be a major cause of morbidity and mortality. Lastly, progress to increase access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation had been slow. On the way forward, Mr. Armah recommended to focus public interventions on lagging MDGs, design policies to create employment and reduce poverty, prioritize social protection programmes, address data gaps, scale-up ODA and budgetary allocations to MDG priorities, and reflect on the post 2015 development agenda.

### **Closing remarks by Ms. Asha-Rose Migiro, UN Deputy-Secretary General**

In her closing remarks, Ms. Migiro acknowledged the fruitful collaboration by the partnering institutions and the quality of the report. While discussing the report, she noted that despite the fact that Africa was on the right track, progress was very unequal and not moving forward quickly enough. She stressed the importance of translating the knowledge captured in the report into policies that would make a difference in people's lives. She indicated the area of focus for action on children, youth, women and other vulnerable groups. She called upon governments to allocate resources for social services while acting on their commitment to good governance, and donors to complement national efforts and scale-up their support. Ms. Migiro observed that the report confirmed the findings of the MDG Africa Steering Group, which identified agriculture and food security; health; education, infrastructure and trade facilitation; and national statistical systems as key areas to make a real difference. After presenting the work of the MDG Steering Group's Working Group, Ms. Migiro underscored the importance of sustainable development and urged African member states to engage decisively in the preparatory process for the "Rio+20" Conference scheduled for 2012 in Brazil.

## **III. High-Level Panel Discussion on "NEPAD and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): Progress, Challenges and the Way Forward" (7 October 2011)**

### **Introduction**

The High-Level Panel Discussion on "NEPAD and the MDGs: Progress, Challenges and the Way Forward" was co-organized by UN-OSAA, UN-DPI and the African Union's NEPAD Agency as part of

the events marking the commemoration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) at the United Nations Headquarters.

## **Objectives**

The Panel Discussion provided a unique opportunity to take stock of the achievements, progress and challenges of NEPAD over the past 10 years and its contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and to chart the way forward for a successful implementation of this comprehensive Africa-owned and Africa-led development programme in the coming decade.

Specifically, the Panel discussion aimed at raising awareness of the NEPAD Agency within the UN system and with other international development partners, including foundations, the private sector, NGOs, think tanks, and academia; at sharing lessons learned from the partnerships and at exploring new ways to strengthen these partnerships between the NEPAD Agency and international development partners. The Panel discussion also entailed reflection on the success and remaining challenges for actualizing Africa's transformation agenda, including the necessity of mobilizing domestic and external resources; and to encourage the implementation of NEPAD Agency's priorities through reliable monitoring and assessment mechanism on shared goals and commitments in support of the continent's sustainable development. Furthermore, the discussion was expected to identify how the international community, including the UN system, could better support this flagship programme.

## **Participation and Format**

The Panel was moderated by Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa; and was addressed by high-level panellists including H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, President of the 66<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly; Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General; Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD Agency; H.E. Prof. Amos Sawyer, Member of the Panel of Eminent Personalities of the APRM; Dr. Namanga A. Ngongi, President of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA); and Mr. Emmanuel Nnadozie, Director of Economic Development and NEPAD Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (on behalf of Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa).

Following the statements and presentations delivered by the panellists, the moderator opened the floor to all participants for an interactive discussion. The participants included UN member states, members of the NEPAD Steering Committee, representatives from the African Union Commission, NEPAD Agency, APRM Secretariat, representatives of the UN system, civil society, academia and the private sector.

## **Panel Discussion**

After welcoming the panellists and participants, Mr. Diarra recalled the special occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and commended the CEO of the NEPAD Agency and his team for a successful first decade. He then briefly shared his views on the topic "NEPAD and the MDGs: Progress, Challenges and the Way Forward" to set the stage for the discussion. Mr. Diarra emphasized that the 10th anniversary was an opportune time to reflect on achievements of the NEPAD programme in its first decade, the remaining challenges and the way forward. He then stressed that Africa remained a top priority of the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and reminded the audience that the NEPAD initiative drew on the Millennium Declaration and shared many of its goals including the MDGs. In this regard, he valued the choice of both development frameworks for the exercises. On the way forward, Mr. Diarra

highlighted the importance of supporting African resource mobilization and public-private-partnerships to finance the implementation of NEPAD priorities. Mr. Diarra proceeded with the introduction of the keynote speakers and panellists.

## **Keynote addresses**

### **(a) H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, President of the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly**

In his statement, Mr. Al-Nasser congratulated NEPAD, Africa's flagship programme for socio-economic development, for its contribution to remarkable economic success and social progress in Africa over the past decade. While acknowledging the remaining challenges, he illustrated his commitment to address them by the focus given to sustainable development and global prosperity at the 66<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly. He acknowledged the role of NEPAD in mobilizing political and financial commitments for Africa's development.

He then announced the launch of informal consultations, co-facilitated by Kenya and Sweden, on a proposed monitoring mechanism to review commitments towards Africa's development needs. Mr. Al-Nasser also highlighted the need to look beyond aid while strengthening partnerships with NEPAD in the context of a productive global partnership which includes mutually beneficial trade and investment relationships as well as global climate protection. At the end, he reaffirmed the commitment of the United Nations General Assembly to address Africa's development needs, achieve the MDGs and strengthen global partnership within the NEPAD framework.

### **(b) Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy-Secretary-General, United Nations**

In her statement, Dr. Migiro expressed her appreciation on the examination of Africa's progress towards the achievement of the MDGs. She then provided a brief historical background on NEPAD insisting on its home-grown nature, mentioning that it was designed as a launch pad to move Africa to a prosperous future and address poverty eradication and sustainable growth. She highlighted that it was built around Africa's own human resources, in particular women. While appreciating the efforts of Africans and their development partners, Dr. Migiro highlighted the contributions of the CAADP and the APRM. As she was praising the achievements, Dr. Migiro noted the commendable economic progress reached in Africa, progress in health, education, agriculture and food security, and gender empowerment, together contributing to MDG gains.

Dr. Migiro, however, noted the limited progress in halving poverty and highlighted key challenges including access to decent employment, maternal mortality, poor water sanitation, conflict, climate change, drought and desertification. Dr. Migiro reaffirmed the commitment of the United Nations' support for Africa's development and elaborated on the actions taken in this regard. She highlighted the efforts by the United Nations Secretary-General and herself within the MDG Africa Steering group and working group in mobilizing support for financing and partnerships to work on goals that Africa is off track. She introduced the role of the MDG Acceleration framework in assisting national governments to overcome key obstacles to progress. At the end, Dr. Migiro emphasized the importance of leadership and called for the implementation of commitments towards NEPAD and the achievement of the MDGs.

## Statements

### **(a) Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency**

In his intervention, Dr. Mayaki expressed gratitude to all the partners of NEPAD. He briefed the meeting on the role and efforts of NEPAD as a strategy to attain the MDGs. He highlighted the various achievements of NEPAD by linking them to specific MDGs such as CAADP to MDG 1, NEPAD e-school initiative and NEPAD school feeding programme to MDG 2, NEPAD Gender framework to MDG 3, health policies such as the harmonization of medicines regulations to MDGs 4 and 5, several initiatives like the NEPAD TerrAfrica programme, the NEPAD environment initiative, the great green wall and the activities of the African Ministers Conference on Environment (AMCEN) in support of MDG 7 and the efforts in strengthening partnerships through regional integration and the participation to Global Fora like the G8 and G20 meetings to meet MDG 8.

While raising the key challenges to implementation, Dr. Mayaki emphasized the need to revert to economic planning to cover the multi-sectoral challenges to sustainable development. He appreciated the critical support provided by the United Nations over the past decade and recognized the increasing contribution of South-South Cooperation to Africa's development efforts.

### **(b) Prof. Amos Sawyer, Member of the Panel of Eminent Personalities of the African Peer Review Mechanism**

In his presentation, Prof. Sawyer elaborated on the origins, objectives and structure of the APRM as well as on the peer review process. Prof. Sawyer emphasised the inclusiveness and voluntary nature of this African initiative. While encouraging African member states to join the mechanism, he noted that the membership comprised thirty (30) African countries among which fourteen (14) had been reviewed. He highlighted some of the positive impacts brought by the APRM reviews such as the broadening of political space as well as the promotion of social and inclusive dialogue and gave concrete examples such as the deepening of democratic culture in Ghana and the reduction in foreign aid dependency in Kenya.

Prof. Sawyer presented some of the key challenges including the voluntary nature of the mechanism and the related failure of some countries to accede to the process, resource constraints and insufficient implementation of the National Programme of Action. While acknowledging the support received from the partners and specifically the strategic partners (African Development Bank, UNDP, UNECA), he called for a stronger partnership between APRM and NEPAD to align practical and institutional arrangements in the deliverables.

### **(c) Dr. Namanga Ngongi, President of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)**

After appreciating the innovative role of NEPAD, Dr. Namanga explained the alignment of the work of AGRA to NEPAD's goals and CAADP framework and their partnership to accelerate development in agriculture. He emphasized the catalyzing factor of CAADP in establishing the green revolution across Africa based on tangible results in Rwanda, Ghana, Malawi, Mali, Tanzania, Zambia and others. Dr. Namanga highlighted the positive changes taking place on the African agricultural sector to address food security. He also advocated for an African-led agriculture transformation based on research led by African scientists and political leadership.

After reaffirming AGRA's commitment to a strengthened partnership with NEPAD, Dr. Namanga highlighted some of the key achievements, including the establishment of an African Fertilizer Agribusiness Partnership to address the supply side constraints of the fertilizer value-chain. On the way forward, he outlined three areas to strengthen AGRA's partnership with NEPAD, including (i) increasing political commitment and resources for African agriculture; (ii) advocacy for increased financing for African agriculture; and (iii) development of financing mechanisms in collaboration with the private financial sector to improve agricultural financing.

**(d) Mr. Emmanuel Nnadozie, Director of Economic Development and NEPAD Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (on behalf of Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa)**

In the statement delivered on behalf of the Executive Secretary of UNECA, Mr. Nnadozie emphasized the importance of the nexus between NEPAD and the MDGs in achieving sustainable development in Africa noting that the former could be described as the framework to achieve the latter in Africa. Mr. Nnadozie gave a few examples to illustrate the common purposes and mutuality of objectives such as poverty reduction through agriculture and food security, or the Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA) for Science and Technology intended to provide knowledge that will backstop the educational, health and environmental aims of the MDGs in Africa. He then recalled the success of the MDGs in galvanizing political support for human development in the sense of influencing policy discourse and as a basis for measuring progress in achieving consensually agreed goals, targets and indicators. He highlighted some of the key progress in both development goals, including poverty, hunger, education, and gender empowerment notably raised in the joint UNECA-AUC-AfDB and UNDP annual regional report on Africa's progress towards the MDGs.

Mr. Nnadozie then presented some of the significant remaining challenges to the implementation of NEPAD, including the level of international support to Africa, the role of the private sector, mobilization of domestic resources, the role and state of other institutions governing development in Africa. He highlighted the main initiatives and mechanisms through which UNECA plays a critical role in extending support to the African Union Commission and its NEPAD Agency such as the Regional Consultation Mechanism for Africa and the Ten-Year Capacity-Building initiative. On the way forward, Mr. Nnadozie underscored the need for coherence in policy-making and partnerships with Africa, as well as for the United Nations support to NEPAD. At the end, he mentioned the ongoing discussion on post-2015 development agenda and noted the need to translate the strategic vision and objectives of NEPAD into deliberations and eventual outcomes. He commended Dr. Mayaki on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and reaffirmed UNECA's continued strong commitment to supporting Africa's regional, subregional and national efforts to achieve the MDGs and implement the NEPAD agenda.

### **Interactive Discussion**

- All the participants welcomed and congratulated the panellists on their presentations. They also expressed their congratulations for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NEPAD. Development partners seized the opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to support NEPAD and Africa's development.
- During the discussion, the impact of the global economic and financial crises on Africa's development strategy was discussed, and the consequences of the shift towards a green economy were raised. Interest was also expressed on a broad range of issues affecting Africa's development, including the post-2015 development agenda of the UN, mobilization of support from non-traditional donors and the use of innovative financing, involvement of academia and civil society organizations in the implementation of NEPAD priorities, the need for orienting domestic resource

mobilized towards agriculture and infrastructure, the importance of meeting commitments and pledges such as capacity building of African institutions by development partners and the ratification and implementation of African Union decisions by African member states and the involvement of Regional Economic Communities in NEPAD implementation. The contribution of the diaspora, and in particular the issues of brain-drain and brain-gain were also raised. The discussion also covered the establishment of financing mechanisms for agriculture.

- Concerns on the potential threats posed by the ongoing global financial and economic crises to Africa's development and development financing in particular were raised. This adverse situation could be regarded as an opportunity for Africa because the crises led to a shift of global economic activity focus from the virtual to the real economy. In this context, Africa's high density of natural resources was considered a key potential asset.
- Along the same lines, the low level of aid delivery and aid effectiveness were highlighted in the context of the massive resource requirements for the implementation of the NEPAD programme. Domestic resource mobilization, the mobilization of resources from non-traditional donors in the framework of South-South Cooperation, as well as the use of innovative financing were raised as important sources to explore.
- Domestic resource mobilization should supplement the shortfalls in the financing of the partnership to improve policy space in Africa. This could be achieved by improving public revenue collection and orient the spending towards agriculture and infrastructure development.
- It was noted that domestic resource mobilization was making great strides in Africa, especially in light of the impacts of the global financial and economic crises on the continent. The number of countries where resources from development assistance exceed domestically mobilized resources has fallen dramatically in recent years. Furthermore, domestic resource mobilization is a way to shift from aid dependency to development effectiveness and for this reason will remain a priority of NEPAD.
- The following key challenges of domestic resource mobilization were raised: taxing natural resources; capacity for tax administration; and the deepening of the tax base. Regarding non-traditional donors, it was noted that they invested more in non-social sectors such as infrastructure. NEPAD was already considering innovative financing as a key area to work on.
- Another concern focused on the shift towards the green economy and its implication on Africa's development. It was noted that NEPAD should promote green growth on a continent where less than 7 percent of the population has access to modern energy. The promotion of green energies cannot only accelerate growth, but also lead to more inclusive growth. In this regard, the African Union Commission and its NEPAD Agency were working on a strategic framework on biofuels. At the same time, climate change, which is not Africa's responsibility, will affect the continent strongly and adversely, so there were calls for more support for Africa in climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts.
- Development partners, traditional and non traditional, underscored their contributions in the area of agriculture, infrastructure, healthcare, human development. For example, the Spanish government has contributed €10 million through the five-year NEPAD Spanish Fund for African Women Empowerment.

- Regarding the implementation of NEPAD programme and Africa's development agenda, concerns over mutual accountability on commitments were raised. On the one hand, it was noted that the international community efforts had to be met, as in the case of capacity-building of African continental and subregional institutions. On the other hand, African countries were urged to ratify and implement African Union decisions. In this context, the forthcoming consultative process at the United Nations General Assembly on a monitoring mechanism to review Africa's development needs offered some potential solution to the mutual accountability on development commitments.
- As for the inclusiveness on the implementation of NEPAD, consideration was given to the involvement of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in translating plans into concrete action. Further, efforts were underway to raise awareness on NEPAD in the academia through lectures such as the one planned at Columbia University and in engaging with civil society and parliamentarians.
- The importance of security and governance nexus was highly considered as a prerequisite to sustainable development. In this context, food security has been raised as a potential challenge to which measures have been applied. Among the efforts towards food security, the roadmap to improve agricultural production in Africa was prepared through the cooperation with China. Within the G20 framework, price fluctuations of commodities as well as food and the establishment of a food supply reserve system were undertaken. For instance at the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), a system was put in place to own and collect food reserves for food crises outbreaks.
- Beyond, financing mechanisms to develop agriculture were highlighted, such as those promoting credit guarantee and risk sharing schemes for small farm holders. In this connection, the public sector could leverage its resources and involve the private sector in agriculture financing, leaving more public resources for research funding.
- On the way forward, the critical issue of reverting to development planning in Africa was raised to address the comprehensive multisectoral priorities including the MDGs. In this context, China's experience was highlighted as a useful example for Africa.
- On the APRM, it was noted that its comprehensive and broad approach to enhance good economic and political governance would contribute to the achievement of all the MDGs. The support that the APRM has received from strategic international partners such as the African Development Bank, UNDP and UNECA, was also noted.
- The critical role and contribution of the diaspora as the 6<sup>th</sup> African region was acknowledged and appreciated. Some issues for consideration to limit the brain drain included: dual citizenship, facilitation of relocation, institutions to safeguard investments of the diaspora, and the transmission of knowledge back to the continent. In this regard, it was noted that Africa is lagging behind other regions in the generation of knowledge because of the focus on primary education. To address this issue, the continent will have to invest in tertiary education and catch up with the rest of the world.
- The interactive discussions also raised the issues relating to the post-2015 development agenda. Africa has been engaged in defining this agenda. UNECA, in collaboration with the African Union, is supporting a dialogue driven by Africans in the spirit of NEPAD.

#### **IV. Briefing on New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) to the United Nations Inter-Agency/Departmental Task Force on Africa (7 October 2011)**

##### **Introduction**

On the occasion of the New Partnership for Africa's Development 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, UN-OSAA convened the Inter-Agency Task Force on African affairs for a briefing on NEPAD and the APRM.

##### **Objectives**

The briefing on NEPAD and APRM to the Inter-Agency Task Force on African affairs was organized by UN-OSAA to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NEPAD and raise awareness on both initiatives. The Briefing offered an opportunity to reinforce the partnership between the United Nations system and AU/NEPAD and APRM by improving understanding of key achievements and challenges related to the implementation of NEPAD programme and APRM.

##### **Participation and Format**

The briefing was moderated by Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra, the Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa. Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD Agency, briefed UN agencies on 'Strengthening the UN/NEPAD Partnership', and Dr. Assefa Shifa, Chief Executive Officer of the APRM Secretariat, briefed them on progress in the implementation of the APRM.

The Meeting was attended by high-level representatives of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Africa.

##### **Statements**

###### **(a) Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa**

The briefing was opened by Mr. Diarra. After thanking both Drs. Mayaki and Shifa for attending the briefing, he reassured them that the United Nations remained committed to using NEPAD as the framework to coordinate its support to Africa's development and its engagement in the continent, including in the area of peace and security. He briefly laid out the architecture of this cooperation, reminding the meeting of the coordination of the United Nations' support to Africa through the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) and of the Ten Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union, as well as UN-OSAA's role as focal point for NEPAD at the global level. He noted that this briefing will further engage the UN system in strengthening their support in the implementation of NEPAD priorities.

###### **(b) Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency**

In his statement, Dr. Mayaki recalled the founding of NEPAD in 2001 as a response to Africa's economic marginalization and the lack of national strategic capacity to formulate development plans, after nearly two decades of structural adjustment programmes. He stated that NEPAD was to address this gap and become, over the years, the development programme of the African Union. In its first decade, NEPAD formulated a number of continental policy frameworks, for example in the areas of agriculture – the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Plan (CAADP), infrastructure – the Short Term

Action Plan (STAP), and science and technology – the Consolidated Plan of Action in Science and Technology, which were to be implemented at the national level. In this regard, Dr. Mayaki stressed that NEPAD today fulfils two functions – it provides the strategic thinking, and the link between programme design and implementation, by building implementation capacity both at the regional and at the national level. He noted, for example, that low quality of information systems limits capacity to monitor programmes, and that capacity-building was needed for delivery of programmes.

Thanks to the full integration of NEPAD into the African Union structures, which was concluded in 2010, Dr. Mayaki further reported that the NEPAD Agency would facilitate the implementation of African Union Commission programmes, and, in this regard, will work very closely with the RECs. In terms of sectoral priorities, NEPAD would continue to focus on agriculture and infrastructure. With regards to the former, agriculture and rural development is seen as a cross-cutting issue, which also includes employment creation for the rural youth, for example, in the ‘Rural Futures’ initiative. He noted that youth employment will be a key component over the coming years. On infrastructure, NEPAD will continue to promote regional solutions to Africa’s infrastructure challenges. To bridge Africa’s infrastructure gap, NEPAD is involved in seven key regional projects, which include the North-South corridor, the Dakar-Djibouti railway project, and an optic-fibre project, among others.

Dr. Mayaki summarized that NEPAD has evolved from focusing purely on strategic thinking to a duo role which also emphasizes implementation, and in this transformation, he reminded the Inter-Agency Task Force that UN system support would remain critical, to build the NEPAD Agency’s capacity. He lauded the efforts already in place through the RCM, but stressed the need to go beyond these initiatives and focus on emerging critical challenges such as for the continent’s youth employment.

**(c) Dr. Assefa Shifa, Chief Executive Officer of the African Peer Review Mechanism Secretariat**

Dr. Assefa Shifa briefed the Inter-Agency Task Force on the APRM, and its progress and challenges in improving governance in the continent. The APRM was created in 2003 as part of NEPAD, as a “good governance initiative”, whose members commit themselves to an open and constructive dialogue on governance issues. Accession is voluntary and open to all member states of the African Union. It is a unique and innovative mechanism that represents a profound shift in attitude towards good governance in Africa, from a paradigm of non-interference to non-indifference, and which seeks to strengthen policies that lead to stability and high growth, through the sharing of experiences and reinforcement of best practices.

Dr. Shifa then went on to describe the APRM’s structure and process. At the continental level, the APR Forum, consisting of African Heads of State, provides leadership of the process, while the APRM Panel is the executive panel, led by eminent persons. The APR Secretariat supports the panel in administering and executing the process. These structures are mirrored at the country level, with national APRM focal points with direct access to the respective Head of State as key liaison. Upon accession to the APRM, a country commits to adopting the NEPAD Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance and to accepting the APRM principles. In a consultative process including all stakeholders, the country first produces a Country Self-Assessment Report based on the APRM questionnaire, as well as a draft National Programme of Action based on the findings of the assessment report. These are then followed by preparation of the Country Review Report resulting from the Country Review Mission of independent experts led by an APR Panel member, which is then submitted to the APR Forum of Heads of State and government for its consideration. and resulting in the Peer Review Report. These reports have managed to consistently highlight systemic and structural governance issues – for example, the Reports on Kenya and South Africa had anticipated political and xenophobic violence

respectively – and also highlighted best practices. A positive impact of the process has been the increased democratic space provided to stakeholders.

Dr. Shifa noted that 30 countries had acceded to the APRM, and 14 countries had concluded the peer review process to date. Zambia and Sierra Leone are scheduled for peer review in early 2012, after having received the country review missions recently. Nonetheless, the number of countries that have yet to accede to the mechanism remains one of the key challenges of the APRM. Mr. Shifa also highlighted the implementation of the National Programmes of Action and the costliness of the review process as among the most important challenges.

Lastly, he applauded the UN System for its consistent support to the APRM, and highlighted in particular the contributions of UNDP, the African Development Bank and the Economic Commission for Africa (its three strategic partners), for example to the country review missions, the dissemination of information, and the review of the APRM questionnaire. Moving forward, he stressed the importance of further coordinating support of the UN System to the APRM through the Regional Coordination Mechanism.

## **Discussion**

- In the ensuing discussion, UN Habitat, UN Peace Building Support Office, UNEP, UNDP, International Trade Centre, IFAD and UNESCO took the floor to appreciate both initiatives' efforts and raise several issues related to the APRM and NEPAD programme. Several agencies elaborated on their ongoing support delivered to the NEPAD Agency and reaffirmed their commitments to continue supporting the continent.
- Concerns were expressed on the involvement of the private sector in both initiatives. Despite ongoing efforts, levels of participation by the private sector remained a challenge. It was noted that the large share of the informal sector and a lack of integration of the private sector in policy making processes impeded a stronger involvement of the sector. In addition, the lack of economic background of the political elite in Africa was perceived as an obstacle. As a remedy, it was suggested to pursue the ongoing shift in attitudes towards the private sector.

## **NEPAD**

- Since urbanization in Africa was happening at a fast pace, inquiries were raised on the coverage of local governance and urbanization by NEPAD's priorities. It was noted that a majority of Africans still lived in rural areas, and would continue to do so in the foreseeable future. Similar concerns were expressed towards the integration of environmental issues into NEPAD's agricultural efforts and the CAADP. In this regard, emphasis was given to NEPAD's broad vision of rural development which not only simply looked at agricultural growth, but also included job creation for rural youth, a reallocation of resources towards rural areas, a decentralization of the policy-making process, and environmental issues.
- NEPAD's focus on agriculture including the prioritization of rural youth and its achievements in shifting attitudes and budgetary allocations towards a greater emphasis of agriculture were highly commended. It was acknowledged that the critical support to small-holder farmers and perception of agriculture as a business by IFAD helped transform the image of agriculture. Nowadays, agriculture appears as the only sector that can absorb the hundreds of thousands of youth that will enter Africa's labour markets every year.

- In order to scale-up support to NEPAD, a change in Africa's approach to development cooperation was suggested. After filling the policy gap and identifying the right projects, the focus should be to raise domestic resources and then look for development assistance to complement domestic efforts. A suggestion was made to increase the frequency of briefings on NEPAD activities to member states.

## **APRM**

- With reference to the APRM, interests were expressed on the prescient predictions of the APRM Peer Review Reports. Based on the cases of Kenya and South Africa, questions were raised on whether peer reviews had also contained predictions on Egypt. It was noted that Egypt had not progressed sufficiently in the process. Although it had received a first country mission, the review mission had yet to be completed. Among the key challenges, a lack of political will was partly responsible for the incomplete implementation of the APRM, in Egypt and in other African countries. In addition, peer review is a very costly process that sometimes exceeds member states' fiscal abilities.
- Following the suggestion made to include environmental issues to APRM coverage, it was confirmed that strong consideration was given to these issues in the ongoing revision of the APRM questionnaire.
- Interests were expressed for broader experience and lessons learnt sharing even including countries that did not accede to the APRM. It was acknowledged that peer learning was one of the key goals of the APRM, and lessons learnt were indeed brought together and shared widely and freely on the APRM website.

## **V. Briefing to the UN member states on two reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of NEPAD and on the Causes of Conflict in Africa; on progress and forward looking approaches in NEPAD implementation; and improving governance in Africa through the Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM): progress and challenges (10 October 2011)**

### **Introduction**

This briefing session was organized by the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (UN-OSAA), the African Union Liaison Office to the United Nations and the NEPAD Agency. The briefing was moderated by Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa.

### **Objectives**

The objectives of the briefings were to provide the latest information on the progress in the implementation of NEPAD priorities and the APRM, in light of the 10-Year Anniversary of the inception of NEPAD. The UN-OSAA believes it is very important to ensure that Member States are well informed on the developments in Africa, as per the mandate of the office, and in this regard organized the briefings to update African Ambassadors and their partner interlocutors on progress in the implementation of NEPAD and the APRM.

## **Participation and Format**

Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra presented the Secretary-General's two reports on "International Support for NEPAD" and "the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa" to the United Nations Member States. His presentation was followed by a briefing by Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki on "Progress and Forward looking approaches in NEPAD Implementation". In addition to these briefings were presentations by H.E. Prof. Amos Sawyer, Panel of Eminent Persons of the APRM, on "Improving Governance in Africa through the APRM: Progress and Challenges"; a presentation by H.E. Mr. Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations and H.E. Mr. Mårten Grunditz, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations, on the upcoming consultations on a monitoring mechanism to review commitments made towards Africa's development needs and, finally, a presentation by H.E. Mrs. Amina S. Ali, African Union Permanent Representative to the United States, on the Launch of the "Invest in Africa" Magazine.

The Briefing was attended by representatives of United Nations Member states, UN System agencies, African Union, NEPAD Agency, APRM Secretariat, civil society organizations and private sector.

### **Opening session:**

Mr. Diarra welcomed the presenters and participants to the briefing. He stated that Africa was at a critical juncture, adding that this year marked the 10th Anniversary of NEPAD. He stated that it was an opportune time to pause and reflect on the implementation of the NEPAD agenda. Mr. Diarra commended Dr. Mayaki for his excellent leadership in steering the work of the NEPAD Agency during the last three years. He also congratulated Dr. Shifa and Prof. Sawyer for the successful achievements in the APRM.

Mr. Diarra noted that during the first decade of the 21st Century, Africa's economy grew on average at around 5 percent annually. He added that this performance was experienced by most countries, including resource-rich and non-oil producing countries. He emphasized that this robust growth allowed the continent to quickly set itself back on the path to recovery following the 2008 global economic downturn. He noted that the performance was underpinned by sound macroeconomic and structural reforms, a more stable political environment, a decline in conflicts and an expanding role of the private sector in the African economy.

Mr. Diarra acknowledged that the NEPAD sector-specific interventions had been critical in this improved performance, noting that in the last decade, NEPAD had established itself as the Africa-owned and led development programme. He informed the meeting that during this period, the UN System and the international community had provided extensive support to NEPAD in the areas of peace, security, democracy, good governance, respect for human rights and sound economic management as preconditions for sustainable growth and development. He noted that this was evidenced by the alignment of the NEPAD priorities in the programmes of its development partners.

Mr. Diarra stated that much progress had been made in key priority sectors such as infrastructure, agriculture and food security and Information and Communication Technology (ICT), to name a few. However, he acknowledged that critical challenges remained, and stressed the need to capitalize on key achievements and ensure greater equitable growth. He called for a renewed commitment by the global community to leverage its partnership to further accelerate economic growth in Africa.

Mr. Diarra then briefed the meeting on the Secretary-General's two reports:

- New Partnership for Africa's Development: Ninth Consolidated Progress Report on Implementation and International Support (A/66/202)
- Implementation of the Recommendations Contained in the Report of the Secretary-General on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa (A/66/214 – S/2011/476)

Mr. Diarra noted that amongst the recent noteworthy developments had been the endorsement by the 16th AU Assembly of the AU-NEPAD Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative (PICI) aimed at accelerating the development of regional and continental infrastructure. He noted that the initiative comprised seven regional projects drawn from the AU/NEPAD Africa Action Plan and would go a long way in addressing the interconnectivity gap to unleash Africa's potential.

With respect to agriculture and food security, Mr. Diarra noted that six additional countries had signed their national CAADP compacts bringing the total number to 26 as of July 2011, of which 20 had prepared or finalized their national investment plans, and were now working on financing and implementation modalities. Mr. Diarra added that there had also been notable progress in meeting the Maputo 10 percent budgetary target for agriculture, as 10 countries had met the target, compared to only 5 countries in 2009.

Regarding ICT, Mr. Diarra stated that the "NEPAD e-Africa Commission" had been replaced by the "NEPAD e-Africa Programme" to drive the ICT priority sector following a decision by the 15th session of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee, in line with the new strategic orientation of the NEPAD Agency. He added that among the key achievements, 80 demonstrations of NEPAD e-Schools had been implemented in 16 African countries, where each school in the demonstration project had been equipped with a computer laboratory containing at least 20 personal computers.

Mr. Diarra noted that the NEPAD/Spanish Fund for African women's empowerment continued to develop essential tools for poverty alleviation by training women and girls in economically viable vocational, as well as business management skills, and by creating employment opportunities through public and private partnerships. In the area of governance, Mr. Diarra noted that over the last year, efforts had been made to expand and streamline the APR processes and instruments. He added that the APRM membership had grown to 30 African countries with the official accession of Liberia in January 2011. Moreover, he stated that as of the end of July 2011, 14 countries had been peer reviewed, including Mauritius and Ethiopia that were reviewed during the last 12 months.

As relates to the international community's support to Africa, Mr. Diarra stated that the past year had witnessed some renewed commitments and interest on Africa. He alluded to the UN Summit on the MDGs, held in September 2010 in New York, and the G8 Summits held in Canada, 2010 and in France, 2011. He noted that the international community had reaffirmed its partnership with Africa.

Mr. Diarra stated that in the Muskoka Initiative on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, G8 member countries had committed to spend an additional US\$ 5 billion between 2010 and 2015 to achieve MDGs 4 and 5 in developing countries. Moreover, he noted that the 2011 G8 summit in France reaffirmed the partnership with the adoption of the G8/Africa Joint Declaration on Shared Values and Shared Responsibilities. Mr. Diarra informed the meeting that in late 2010, the Group of 20 launched its

development initiative, the Seoul Development Consensus for Shared Growth, which put emphasis on promoting economic growth through infrastructure development and job creation.

Mr. Diarra also alluded to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in May 2011 in Turkey, where the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) and the Istanbul Declaration were adopted for the period 2011-2020. He added that to ensure sustained economic growth and poverty reduction for the LDCs, including in Africa, eight priority areas had been identified as follows: productive capacity including infrastructure, energy; science and technology; private sector development; agriculture, food security and rural development; resource mobilization for development and capacity-building; trade; commodities; human and social development including women's empowerment; addressing the impact of multiple crises and emerging challenges such as climate change and sustainability; and good governance at all levels.

Mr. Diarra noted that during the last 12 months, the world had witnessed a democratic and largely peaceful independence referendum in Southern Sudan and the transition into a sovereign nation, and the adoption of a new constitution in Kenya, the transition of Guinea and Niger from military to democratic civilian rule, and the people-driven changes in Egypt, Tunisia and Libya. Mr. Diarra noted that all these experiences had contributed to a change in old perceptions about the continent. He, however, recognized that pockets of armed conflict, fragile economies and weak states had a negative impact on the lives of citizens, in particular women and children. He informed the meeting that in Eastern DRC and Côte d'Ivoire, in particular, human rights violations, the targeting of civilians and the use of sexual violence in conflict was of grave concern.

Mr. Diarra expressed that good governance and political stability were critical to economic development and growth in Africa, and he proposed practical recommendations to address two of the most pressing issues, "youth education and employment" and "conflict and natural resources". Mr. Diarra stated that an estimated 60% of Africa's population was under 35 years old, and in this regard, it was very important for the General Assembly, the Security Council and the UN system to deepen its engagement with youth to facilitate their participation in the decision making processes.

To conclude, Mr. Diarra stated that the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) had to mainstream issues of the youth into all clusters and support sectoral priorities, as identified by NEPAD. With regard to conflicts and natural resources, Mr. Diarra emphasized that agencies and governments had to work together to include programmes to promote responsible, equitable, gender-responsive and economically-productive resource management in national poverty reduction strategies of conflict and post-conflict countries in Africa. He added that where conflict over natural resources already existed, the UN had to continue supporting a national dialogue on the role of natural resource revenues with a view to defining an inclusive growth and development strategy, and promoting a more accountable and transparent use of natural resources, including through the enforcement of effective anti-corruption policies.

**(a) Progress and Forward Looking Approaches in NEPAD Implementation – “10 Years On”, by Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency**

Dr. Mayaki stated that the NEPAD programme was moving from an old development model to a new paradigm. He informed the meeting about the inception of the African Union and NEPAD. He stressed the importance of ownership, leadership and partnership at the national, regional and global levels for the implementation of NEPAD. He noted that APRM represented the political dimension of NEPAD and highlighted Africa's major resources that are Youth and high density of resources. Dr.

Mayaki further elaborated on the NEPAD sectoral priorities as critical to helping the African continent move forward in its socio-economic development priorities.

On the scorecard to assess progress and change of NEPAD from 2001-2011, Dr. Mayaki informed the meeting about the APRM to advance good governance in Africa, the finalization of the African Union institutional architecture through the integration of NEPAD into AU Structure and processes. In this framework, the NEPAD agency has become the technical body linking strategy to policy and delivering at the regional level. He then briefed on key sector policy frameworks put in place by NEPAD, including CAADP, the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), the Short-Term Action Plan for Infrastructure (STAP), the Consolidated Plan for Action (CPA) for Africa's Science & Technology, the Environment Action Plan (EAP), the Sub-Regional Environment Action Plans (SREAPs), the Tourism Action Plan, and the Capacity Development Strategic Framework (CDSF).

Dr. Mayaki stated that NEPAD was focused on moving beyond boundaries through regional integration using the RECs as building blocks. Moreover, he noted that ownership and partnership were extremely important in moving the NEPAD agenda forward. Dr. Mayaki stressed that it was time to look beyond aid (away from aid dependence), and to forge true mutual partnerships between African countries and their development partners. He also informed the meeting of the importance of South-South Cooperation as a means to sharing best practices and lessons learned from the global South.

Dr. Mayaki noted that it was very important for the continent to mobilize domestic resources for its own development processes. In this regard, he stated that the NEPAD delivery process had to ensure that there was a Continental Strategic framework in place with a regional strategy to help African countries implement their national plans of action.

Dr. Mayaki also stressed the importance of joint implementation by all stakeholders. In this regard, he elaborated on the CAADP and its Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF); the Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA); the Partnership for African Fisheries (PAF); the Science & Technology Innovation Indicators (ASTII); the African Biosciences Network (ABNE) in Ouagadougou; the set up of Financing Facilities e.g. IPPF & Fertilizers Facility by the Africa Development Bank (AfDB); the NEPAD Spanish Fund for African Women Empowerment; the AU-NEPAD African Action Plan: 2010-2015; the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonization (AMRH); the Rural Futures Program (RFP); the Africa Platform for Development Effectiveness (APDev); and the ICT - Kigali Protocol – NEPAD e-Schools, Uhurunet & Umojanet.

Dr. Mayaki highlighted some of thematic performances in the past decade. On Agriculture and Food Security, he stated that a total of 28 countries had signed the CAADP national compacts, 19 countries had signed up to the Investment Plans and 8 countries had reached or surpassed 10% budgetary allocation. He also noted that there was a strategic engagement with stakeholders on the Rural Futures Program. On Climate Change and natural resource management, Dr. Mayaki informed the meeting on progress in the preparations for COP 17 in Durban and the ongoing work at the Natural Resource Charter (NRC).

Among the key challenges facing Africa's development, Dr. Mayaki noted the establishment of capable states, the demography and youth employment, mobilization of domestic resources, inclusion of private sector and civil society in public policy making, and development of infrastructure and agriculture through public financing. Private investment should also be directed to agriculture development.

On the way forward, Dr. Mayaki indicated to focus efforts around the following priorities: natural resource management, youth employment, sustainable development and capacity building for the AU/NEPAD Agency and AUC.

**(b) Improving Governance in Africa through the APRM: Progress and Challenges by Prof. Amos Sawyer, Panel of Eminent Persons of the APRM**

Prof. Sawyer informed the meeting that the APRM was the centrepiece of the “good governance initiative” for Africa and constitutes the most ambitious and innovative governance exercise ever undertaken in the world. He stated that the APRM was a self-monitoring instrument voluntarily acceded to by member states of the African Union. Moreover, Prof. Sawyer explained that through the APRM, Africa inaugurated a new paradigm to governance that recognises the relationship between economic development and good governance.

He stated that the primary purpose of the APRM was to foster the adoption of policies, standards and practices that led to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated sub-regional and continental economic integration through sharing of experiences and the reinforcement of successful and best practice, including identifying deficiencies and assessing the needs of capacity building. Prof. Sawyer added that the principles underpinning the APRM process were ownership and leadership of the APRM process and an open and participatory review process.

Prof. Sawyer informed the meeting that the thematic areas for review in the APRM focused on democracy and political governance and on economic management and governance. On democracy and political governance, he elaborated on areas such as addressing conflicts; strengthening constitutional democracy; protecting human rights including civil, political, economic and cultural rights; ensuring effective and efficient public service; combating corruption; and promoting the rights of women, children and other vulnerable groups. On economic management and governance, Prof. Sawyer informed the meeting that the APRM aimed at achieving macro-economic stability, sound public finance management, as well as promoting regional integration.

On progress in the implementation of the APRM, Prof. Sawyer noted that to date, 30 Member States<sup>1</sup> of the AU had acceded to the APRM. Moreover, he added that 14 countries had completed the first review process and had been peer reviewed by the APR Forum. These included: Ghana, Rwanda, Kenya, South Africa, Algeria, Benin, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Uganda, Mali, Mozambique, Lesotho, Mauritius and Ethiopia. Prof. Sawyer noted that Zambia and Sierra Leone had received their Country review Missions and were slated for peer review by the APR Forum in January 2012. He added that Tanzania had completed its self-assessment process in September 2011 and would receive an independent review mission soon. More importantly, Prof. Sawyer informed the meeting that Kenya became, in July 2011, the first APRM member to begin the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation review.

To conclude, Prof. Sawyer stated that common African problems or cross-cutting issues had emerged from APRM reports, chief among them were issues of land and resource management, corruption, managing diversities, and elections. He added that the APRM made a notable contribution to the realization of the “African Charter for Popular Participation in Development” popularly known as the “Arusha Declaration,” than any previous attempt in the past. Moreover, Prof. Sawyer noted that the APRM reports showcased and highlighted the best practices of governance within Africa.

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<sup>1</sup> The include: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia.

**(c) Upcoming consultations on a monitoring mechanism to review commitments towards Africa's development needs, by H.E. Mr. Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations and H.E. Mr. Mårten Grunditz, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations**

In his introductory remarks, Ambassador Kamau expressed his appreciation to be able to brief member states on the upcoming consultations he and Ambassador Grunditz are planning to undertake. He emphasized the importance of these consultations and encouraged the full engagement of member states in this process.

Ambassador Grunditz informed the meeting that on the occasion of the 2008 High-level meeting on "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward", the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 63/1, the "Political Declaration on Africa's Development Needs". He noted that this resolution sought to reaffirm all States' commitment to addressing Africa's development needs, and also requested the Secretary-General to explore a mechanism to review the full and timely implementation of all commitments related to Africa's development needs, building on existing mechanisms.

Ambassador Grunditz stated that in response to this request, the Secretary-General had submitted a comprehensive report on "A monitoring mechanism to review commitments made towards Africa's development needs" to the 65<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly. He added that the report further developed the concept of an improved monitoring mechanism which would enhance mutual accountability and strengthen the global partnership for Africa's development.

Ambassador Grunditz noted that in June 2011, the resolution on NEPAD (A/65/L.69/Rev.1) reaffirmed, in paragraph 51, the commitment by all States to establish a monitoring mechanism to follow up on all commitments related to the development of Africa, as stipulated in paragraph 39 of the Political Declaration on Africa's development needs, and in this regard requested the President of the General Assembly to continue informal consultations, led by member states with the participation of relevant stakeholders, on the nature, scope, priorities and institutional arrangements for a monitoring mechanism that builds on existing mechanisms, as well as building on the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General with a view to making it operational by the end of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

Ambassador Grunditz informed the meeting that there already existed an extensive range of monitoring mechanisms which addressed many of the needs of mutual accountability. However, he noted, limitations remained as most of the mechanisms only focused on a limited number of commitments, and therefore lacked comprehensiveness. Ambassador Grunditz stated that in light of these shortcomings, the Secretary-General proposed in his report to member states to develop a monitoring mechanism to review commitments of both development partners and African governments that was comprehensive in its thematic coverage, and included all relevant actors; focusing on outputs and outcomes rather than inputs; and building on existing arrangements, monitoring mechanisms and databases.

To conclude, Ambassador Grunditz stated that building on the recommendations of the Secretary-General's report, and following the request by member states in NEPAD resolution A/65/L.69/Rev.1, he, together with H.E. Mr. Macharia Kamau, had been tasked by the President of the 65th session of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Joseph Deiss, to conduct informal consultations with member states on this issue. He added that the President of the 66th session, H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, was also fully committed to this exercise and therefore they were now planning to conduct bilateral meetings with

regional groupings in order to get their perspectives, views and suggestions about the improved monitoring mechanism. Ambassador Grunditz noted that after the adoption of the NEPAD resolution in fall of 2011, he intends to call for informal consultations on the improved monitoring mechanism in the first quarter of 2012.

**(d) Launch of the “Invest in Africa” Magazine, by H.E. Ms. Amina Ali, African Union Permanent Representative to the United States:**

Ambassador Ali paid tribute to the work of NEPAD over the past 10 years. She stated that Africa had a lot of reasons to celebrate NEPAD’s 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in light of the success of the APRM, the CAADP, and the PIDA continental frameworks. Ambassador Ali noted that since the creation of NEPAD, the days of a paternalistic approach to Africa’s development agenda had changed for the better. She added that under the NEPAD framework, Africans were now taking the driver’s seat on African issues, be it on trade, climate change or issues of development aid. Ambassador Ali stated that measured in terms of improved governance and democratization, economic growth and overall development, Africa was on the rise.

Ambassador Ali informed the meeting that according to the Economist, six out of ten of the fastest growing economies in the world were from Africa. She noted that contrary to conventional assumption, natural resource extraction was not the only driving force behind this growth. She also alluded to the 2009 report by the Mckinsey Group which stated that economic growth in Africa had been rather widespread. She emphasized that natural resources directly accounted for only 24 percent of the continent’s GDP growth from 2000 through 2008, with the rest coming from a wide variety of sectors, including in finance, retail, agriculture, transportation, and telecommunications.

Ambassador Ali further stated that African countries had shown remarkable improvements in terms of doing business, with the World Bank’s 2011 Doing Business Report identifying three African countries on its list of top ten improved economies in the world. She added that Africa’s economic growth, coupled with a conducive business environment, was creating substantial new business opportunities with unparalleled returns on investment. Moreover, Ambassador Ali noted that there were serious studies out there that indicated that returns on investment in Africa were higher than any other region in the world.

To conclude, Ambassador Ali informed the meeting that the AU Mission in Washington had launched a publication entitled “Invest in Africa” to highlight Africa’s positive image for doing business. She noted that the publication was important for both its content and symbolism, in line with the spirit of NEPAD.

**Interactive discussion**

In the ensuing discussions that followed, representatives thanked the presenters for their presentations and thanked UN-OSAA for organizing the briefings. Representatives also congratulated NEPAD on 10 years of implementing its priorities and encouraged the Agency to continue with its good work. The following member states took the floor: Cameroon, Ghana, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia. ICT Africa also made an intervention.

Specifically, the representative of Indonesia noted that the APRM was based on voluntary accession. He suggested that the reports of the countries that have reviewed should be shared amongst all African countries, including with those who had not acceded to the mechanism. He congratulated the 14 countries that had been peer-reviewed as they were now looking beyond aid. In response, Prof. Sawyer

stated that the APRM process resulted in four main documents, including the Country Self-Assessment Report (CSAR) produced by the country based on the APRM questionnaire, the Draft National Program of Action (NPOA) based on the self-assessment to address the problems identified in the CSAR, the Country Review Report (CRR) produced independently by the Continental APRM Secretariat, and the Peer Review Report (PRR) that contains the deliberations of participating Heads of State and Government (HOSG).

Prof. Sawyer added that the APRM reports were serving as an early warning system of impending threats to peace and stability on the continent. For example, he informed the meeting that the APRM report for Kenya had anticipated potential political unrest before ethnic-related violence broke out in 2007, while the South Africa report had warned against xenophobic tensions that erupted in South Africa in May 2008. Prof. Sawyer noted that the Peer Review Report was available on the APRM website for the 14 countries that had undergone the peer review.

The Representative of ICT Africa, an initiative of the NEPAD Council, congratulated the NEPAD Agency on their work in increasing submarine fibre optics in the continent. He however noted that funding for these projects was a real problem. He also expressed the need to transfer ICT knowledge through the organization of training programmes. He stressed the need for the NEPAD Agency to build capacity in the area of ICT. In response, Dr. Mayaki elaborated on Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative (PICI) for which the NEPAD Agency was working on ICT Broadband and Optic Fibre in Rwanda and neighbouring states. He noted that the project included the UMOJANET (a cross-border terrestrial network that would connect African countries through broadband links) and UHURUNET (a submarine ring around the continent coastal countries linking Africa to the rest of the world).

Moreover, Dr. Mayaki alluded to the ACE (Africa Coast to Europe)/ Uhurunet on the west coast which was under development and would be completed by 2012. He stated that Phase 1 of the business plan of Umojanet covered 12 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa, and 12 in West and Central Africa. Dr. Mayaki also informed the meeting of the Optic Fibre from Algeria via Niger to Nigeria, a 4,500Km terrestrial fibre optic cable from Algiers (2,700Km) via Niger (950Km) to Nigeria (850Km). He added that a joint Declaration had been signed by the three states in June 2010. Dr. Mayaki noted that financing for the Algeria section was already in place, and the project was expected to start in 2012, with an expected completion and commercialization by 2013.

The Representative from Zambia noted that the progress of NEPAD had been impressive. He added that Zambia signed on to the APRM and was practicing good governance and democracy as evidenced by the recent elections in his country, where the opposition had won the elections. He stated that the NEPAD Agency should place emphasis on the quality of investments in the continent, noting that close supervision of investors was necessary to improve the quality of investments.

In response, Dr. Mayaki agreed that it was very important to monitor the quality of investments into the continent. He elaborated on the key outcomes of the 5th Ministerial Conference of NEPAD-OECD Africa Investment Initiative held in Dakar, Senegal in April 2011, including: accelerating reform to spur investment; enhancing investment in Africa's infrastructure; increasing investment in Africa's agriculture; and mobilizing green investment for growth and employment. Dr. Mayaki also discussed the work of the African Platform for Development Effectiveness (APDev) launched in March 2011 by AU Commission and the NEPAD Agency and the preparations underway for the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness to be held in Busan, South Korea on 29- 1 December, 2011.

The Representative from Ethiopia thanked Professor Sawyer for the briefing on the APRM. He then asked whether the recommendations of the APRM peer reviews were being enforced, and if so by what mechanism. The Representative also asked whether there had ever been a conference to assess progress in the implementation of the recommendations from the APRM peer reviews. In response, Prof. Sawyer stated that there had not been any conference to review the progress of the APRM. He noted that the complexity of the instrumentation and processes of the APRM resulted in challenges in implementation.

Prof. Sawyer added that capacity constraints, both at the continental and country levels, made it difficult to implement the recommendations of the APRM peer review. Prof. Sawyer stated that financial constraints were also being faced by national governments in their efforts to implement the APRM recommendations resulting in the lack of full integration of the recommendations into their respective national programs of action and existing development plans. He stressed, however, that every effort was being made to resolve these challenges to ensure full implementation of the APRM peer review recommendations.

The Representative from Cameroon congratulated NEPAD on its work and informed the meeting that his country was represented in the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC). He welcomed the presentation on the improved monitoring mechanism to hold both African countries and their donor partners accountable for their commitments. He added that it was important for Africa to participate in the G8 meetings, so that the priorities of Africa could feature more prominently in the international agenda. The representative from Cameroon also urged his fellow compatriots to align their respective national development plans with the continental strategies developed by NEPAD, such as PIDA, CAADP, etc and to participate in the APRM.

In response, Prof. Sawyer stated that the APRM was a credible litmus test of Africa's commitment to good governance, transparency and accountability in governance. He emphasized that the APRM was the strongest evidence yet that African governments were ready for a new way of doing business. Moreover, he stated that the APRM represented a bold new approach to policy reform by promoting African ownership and leadership and moving beyond aid.

The Representative from Uganda congratulated the NEPAD Agency on their progress over the last 10 years. He noted, however, that economic growth did not translate into higher HDI in many African countries. The Representative underscored that the economic growth did not trickle down to the people. He blamed structural adjustment policies for this trend. With regard to debt relief, he acknowledged that there had been progress through the HIPC and MDRI. However, he stressed the need for African governments to ensure that servicing debts did not compromise the government's responsibility to spend on social services and human development initiatives.

The representative from Uganda then suggested that efforts should be made to ensure that national projects were implemented irrespective of a change in government leadership. In response, Dr. Mayaki stressed the importance of the role of the developmental state, noting that it was incumbent on the leadership to align its national development plans with the continental frameworks through the NEPAD initiative. He underscored the need for African governments to strengthen national ownership of their development processes and invest in their people, particularly in the social sectors. Dr. Mayaki emphasized that it was very important to strengthen government capacity to mobilize domestic resources and attract private sector investment through public private partnerships (PPPs).

The Representative from Nigeria recalled the long journey NEPAD had been through since its inception. He congratulated the work of the NEPAD Agency for their dedication and perseverance in pushing the NEPAD agenda forward. He stated that the NEPAD Agency was a think tank responsible for policy design and an implementer of NEPAD priority projects at the regional and national levels. He stated that NEPAD was instrumental in moving the discussions from aid effectiveness to development effectiveness.

The Representative from Nigeria stressed the importance of mutual partnership between African governments and their donor partners. He alluded to the APRM process, and stressed the importance of aligning the recommendations of the peer reviews with the national development plans of the respective countries. Prof. Sawyer welcomed the remarks and stressed that the National Programmes of Action (NPOA) emanating from the APRM process constituted the critical link between the state and citizens, thereby enabling the citizens to construct visions and goals that were shared and implemented by the state. Prof. Sawyer informed the meeting that the value-added by the APRM was manifold, noting that the APRM had increased the democratic space and promoted policy dialogue and civil society participation. He also noted that the APRM promoted peer learning and sharing of best practices in good governance, and applied peer pressure for improving performance.

The Representative from Ghana commended the work of the Ambassadors of Sweden and Kenya on the improved monitoring mechanism. He underscored the importance of the mechanism to take stock of commitments made by both African countries and development partners. He also reflected on the APRM, in particular, its voluntary nature for accession. The Representative from Ghana asked what strategy was in place to ensure that the remaining African countries acceded to the mechanism. He also stressed the need for African governments to be made accountable to their people through good political and economic governance.

In response, Prof. Sawyer admitted that as the APRM was a voluntary mechanism, there was a great challenge in convincing all AU member states to sign up. He noted, however, that over time, the remaining countries would accede to the mechanism once they saw the progress being made by those countries that had successfully implemented the recommendations of the peer review.

The Representative of Ghana emphasized the importance of regional integration and called for the strengthening of RECs in all NEPAD processes. He asked what strategy was in place to resolve the institutional challenges being faced across the continent. The Representative of Ghana also called for greater involvement by the civil society in the implementation of NEPAD priorities. In response, Dr. Mayaki informed the meeting of the AU Capacity Development Strategy supported by the RECs Program. Dr. Mayaki stressed the need to strengthen the RECs to make them more efficient and to foster the creation of regional markets (e.g. FTA COMESA-EAC-SADC) and common policies and programmes (such as in Agriculture and Infrastructure etc). Moreover, Dr. Mayaki informed the meeting that the challenges faced by NEPAD included addressing the dynamics of demography, the need to build government capacity and accountability, moving beyond aid, and finding ways to engage the active participation of the private sector and civil society in the development process.

The Representative of Niger congratulated Mr. Diarra for organizing the briefing. He also congratulated the NEPAD Agency for the great deal of progress made over the last decade. He however called for more efforts to be made in mobilizing domestic resources in the continent. The Representative of Niger also stressed the importance of tackling the challenges of climate change through adaptation and mitigation. In response, Dr. Mayaki stated that the new priorities of NEPAD would be to find ways to better manage the continents resources, to empower the youth and women, to secure financing for climate

change mitigation and adaptation, to improve on Africa's infrastructure and skills base, and to strengthen the NPCA as the AU technical body.

The Representative of Libya recognized the initial difficulties faced by NEPAD, especially during the integration in to the AU structures and processes. He acknowledged the achievements gained over the last 10 years. The Representative highlighted the importance of regional integration, and in this regard, encouraged the NEPAD Agency to ensure that national governments initiated regional projects through their RECs. In response, Dr. Mayaki stated that progress was being made as evidenced by the PICI projects. To illustrate, he informed the meeting of the Kinshasa - Brazzaville Bridge Road/Rail (Republic of Congo). He noted that the project focused on the construction of a fixed crossing linking Kinshasa and Brazzaville (DRC and Republic of Congo) to ensure continuity in railway and road traffic to the eastern border of DRC and beyond.

Dr. Mayaki added that this regional project facilitated railway and road interconnections in Central, Eastern and Southern Africa. He added that the feasibility for the road section started in May 2011 and was expected to be completed in 2012. Another illustration he made was on Innovation Indicators in Science and Technology, and the collaboration between the AU Commission and Equatorial Guinea to make the African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators Initiative (ASTII) operational. He also elaborated on the NEPAD Nurses and Midwives Education program in Gabon, Chad and the Congo, which was currently being funded through a Chinese grant.

## ANNEX – PROGRAMMES

### I. Special Briefing of the African Group on NEPAD at the AU Mission October 6, 2011, 3:00-6:00 pm Permanent Mission of the African Union, followed by a reception

Venue: Conference Room of the Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union to the United Nations at 305 East 47th Street, 5th Floor, New York

Presentation: ‘Advancing NEPAD Implementation over a decade of opportunities’

Audience: African Group (African Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives to the United Nations), UN Agencies and UN media

- 3:00–3:03 pm Arrival of African Ambassadors/Permanent Representatives
- 3:03–3:13 pm Introductory Remarks and exposition of the Agenda by the Chairman of the African Group (for October 2011), H.E. Mr. Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya
- 3:13–3:18 pm Arrival of Special Guests
- 3:18–3:25 pm Short video documentary on “*the NEPAD Agency programmes and its integration into the African Union*”
- 3:25–3:30 pm Goodwill messages
- *Mr. Gebreab Newai, Co-Chair, NEPAD Steering Committee and Chief Economic Adviser to Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi;*
  - *Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Antonio Tete, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the UN on behalf of Dr. Maxwell Mkwezalamba, AU Commissioner of Economic Affairs and Representative of Chairperson, African Union Commission*
  - *High ranking member(s) of the NEPAD Steering Committee*
- 3:30–3:55 pm **Keynote presentation on “Advancing NEPAD implementation over a Decade of Opportunities” - Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer, NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency**
- 3:55–4:10 pm Presentation on “*Innovation in transforming the Continent Governance: The APRM Experience*” - Mr. Assefa Shifa, Chief Executive Officer, APRM Secretariat
- 4:10–4:30 pm Special Remarks on “*Growth Strategies for Africa-UN Partnership*”:
- *Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa*
  - *Mr. Emmanuel Nnadozie on behalf of Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)*
  - *Mr. Pedro Conceicao on behalf of Mr. Tegegnetwork Gettu, Assistant Secretary General, UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA)*
- 4:30–5:30 pm Q&A moderated by the Chairman of the African Group

**II. Launch of the 2011 MDGs Africa Report [insert the programme on this event (Insert program for this event)]**

5:30–5:50 pm Launch of the MDGs in Africa Report by UNECA/AUC/AfDB/UNDP

5:50–6:00 pm Wrap-up by the Chairman of the African Group

Reception hosted by UNECA

**III. High-Level Panel Discussion “NEPAD and the MDGs: Progress, Challenges and the Way Forward” 7 October 2011, 10:00 am to 12:15 pm UNHQ, ECOSOC Chamber, NLB**

10:00–10:15 am Opening remarks by the Chair, **Mr. Cheick Sidi DIARRA**, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa

10:15–10:30 am Welcome remarks by **H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz AL-NASSER**, President of the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly

10:30–10:45 am Keynote Address by **Dr. Asha-Rose MIGIRO**, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations

10:45–11:30 am *Interventions by four panellists for 8-10 minutes each*

**Dr. Ibrahim Assane MAYAKI**, Chief Executive Officer, NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency

**Mr. Abdoulie JANNEH**, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

**Dr. Namanga NGONGI**, President, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)

**Prof. Amos SAWYER**, Member, African Peer Review Panel of Eminent Persons

11:30 am–12:10 pm Questions and Answers Session

Starting with brief interventions by representatives of Chairperson, African Union Commission and high ranking members of NEPAD Steering Committee

12:10–12:15 pm Summary and Closing by the Chair

**IV. Inter-Agency/Departmental Task Force on Africa 7 October 2011, 3:30 to 5:30 pm, Conference Room DC1-1235**

- 3:30–3:40 pm: Welcome remarks by Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra,  
Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa
- 3:40–4:10 pm: Briefing by Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD  
Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) on **“Strengthening the UN - NEPAD  
Partnership”**
- 4:10–4:25pm: Remarks by Mr. Assefa Shifa, Chief Executive Officer, African Peer Review  
Mechanism Secretariat
- 4:25–5:25 pm: Tour de table - questions and answers
- 5:25–05:30pm: Closing remarks by Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra,  
Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa

**V. Briefing of the two Secretary-General’s reports and presentations on: (i) “Progress and forward looking approaches in the NEPAD implementation – 10 years On”; and (ii) “Improving Governance in Africa through the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM): Progress and Challenges” 10 October 2011, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, Conference Room 6, NLB**

- 10:00–10:05 am **Opening remarks**  
  
**Mr. Cheick Sidi DIARRA**, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa
- 10:05–10:30 am **Presentation of the two Secretary-General’s Reports**  
  
**Mr. Cheick Sidi DIARRA**, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa
- New Partnership for Africa’s Development: Ninth Consolidated Progress Report on Implementation and International Support (A/66/202)
  - Implementation of the Recommendations Contained in the Report of the Secretary-General on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa (A/66/214 – S/2011/476)
- 10:30–11:00 am **Presentation on ‘Progress and Forward Looking Approaches in NEPAD Implementation – 10 Years On’**  
  
**Dr. Ibrahim Assane MAYAKI**, Chief Executive Officer, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency

- 11:00–11:15 am     **Presentation on ‘Improving Governance in Africa through the APRM: Progress and Challenges’**
- Prof. Amos Sawyer**, Panel of Eminent Persons of the African Peer Review Mechanism Secretariat
- 11:15–11:30 am     **Introduction to the upcoming consultations on a monitoring mechanism to review commitments towards Africa’s development needs**
- H.E. Mr. Macharia KAMAU**, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations, and
- H.E. Mr. Mårten GRUNDITZ**, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations
- 11:30 am–12:45 pm     **Q&A Session and Open Discussion**
- Launch of the Official African Union publication “Invest in Africa 2011”**  
By H.E. Ms Amina Ali, AU Permanent Representative to the United States
- 12:45 pm–1:00 pm     **Closing Remarks**
- Mr. Cheick Sidi DIARRA**, Under-Secretary-General, Special Adviser on Africa

**VI. Commemorative lecture at Columbia University on “Africa’s Decade of Transformation: The NEPAD Perspective”; 10 October 2011, Columbia University,** Conference Room of the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) At Columbia University located 420 West 118th Street, 15th Floor, New York

*Lecture Title: Africa’s Decade of Transformation – The NEPAD perspective*

*Audience: Academics (Professors and Students from Columbia SIPA and African Studies and other Universities), UN partners, and other invited guests (NGOs, Foundations, Think Tanks)*

- 6:00–6:15 pm     Introduction and Welcome Remarks by Prof. Mamadou Diouf, Director of Institute for African Studies and Leitner Family Professor of African Studies (Moderator)
- <http://sipa.columbia.edu/academics/directory/md2573-fac.html>
- 6:15–6:25 pm     Short video documentary on ‘NEPAD – The Journey So Far’
- 6:25–6:45 pm     **Presentation of Lecture: “Africa’s Decade of Transformation – The NEPAD Perspective” by Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer, NEPAD Agency and former Prime Minister of the Republic of Niger**
- 6:45–7:20 pm     Strategic insights on Future of Africa’s development – Panel Discussants (5 minutes each)

- **Prof Amos Sawyer, Panel of Eminent Persons of the African Peer Review Mechanism Secretariat**

- **Prof. Glenn Denning, Professor of Professional Practice in International and Public Affairs**, Director of MPA in Development Practice Program, and Director of Center for Globalization and Sustainable Development at the Earth Institute  
<http://sipa.columbia.edu/academics/directory/gd2147-fac.html>
- **Prof. Ousmane Kane, Associate Professor of International and Public Affairs**  
<http://sipa.columbia.edu/academics/directory/ok2009-fac.html>
- **Dr. Lou Anna K Simon, President, Michigan State University**
- **Dr. Yassine Fall, Senior Economic Advisor, UN Women**
- **Mr. Anthony Ekpe, Group Chief Executive Officer, Ecobank Transnational (tbc)**
- **Mr. Patrick Hayford, Director, UN Office of the Special Adviser on Africa**

7:20–7:55 pm

Q&A moderated by Prof. Mamadou Diouf

Response by Dr. Mayaki

7:55–8:00 pm

Wrap-up by High level representative of Chairperson, African Union Commission and Members of the NEPAD Steering Committee

Cocktail hosted by NEPAD Agency and Columbia University