



Office of the Special Adviser on Africa

**Report on the Expert Group Meeting on the Contribution of
UN System support to the implementation of NEPAD**

New York

(7 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 States¹ 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 2nd 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.

(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.

¹ 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.

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 65th 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 10th 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 continent's 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.