

**REPORT OF THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON MOBILIZING SUPPORT
FOR THE NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT:**

The Role of the Private Sector and Civil Society

Accra, Ghana, 28 – 30 May 2003

Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA)



United Nations * New York, 2003

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I. Introduction

Background

The United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA) in accordance with its global advocacy role for African development, and in particular support for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), organized, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Ghana, a regional workshop on “ ***Mobilizing Support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development: The Role of the Private Sector and Civil Society***”, which was held in Accra, Ghana, from 28-30 May 2003. The workshop was organized in the context of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 57/7 of 20 December 2002, which welcomed NEPAD as a programme of the African Union embodying the vision and commitment of all African Governments and peoples for peace and development. The resolution, among others, recognized the important role of the private sector and civil society in the implementation of NEPAD and to this effect strongly encouraged their involvement.

Objectives

The main objective of the meeting was to provide a forum for dialogue among representatives of the private sector and civil society in order to assess the role of their organizations in supporting and to explore mechanisms for their greater involvement in the implementation of NEPAD. The specific objectives of the meeting included, among others, the following:

- Share the views of the private sector and civil society about their understanding of the global partnership approach as articulated in NEPAD;
- Explore the role of civil society, including women's organizations, in sensitizing grassroots organizations and the general public at large about the objectives and priorities of NEPAD;
- Share information on the planned and current activities/initiatives of the private sector and civil society in supporting NEPAD;
- Articulate strategies/ mechanisms of support for NEPAD for an effective partnership between African countries, the private sector and civil society; and
- Establish mechanisms for dialogue, consultations, and interface with the private sector and civil society regarding their effective involvement and support for the implementation of NEPAD.

The conclusions and recommendations of the workshop are expected to serve as input to the appropriate sections of the Secretary-General's report on support to the implementation of NEPAD, which will be submitted to the 58th session of the General Assembly.

Participation and Thematic Focus

The meeting was attended by more than 36 participants drawn from the public and private sectors, civil society, including women's organizations, from 15 countries in the five-sub-regions of Africa; and the United Nations system organizations, including the World Bank (list of participants attached to this report as annex III). The meeting, organized in plenary and working group sessions, allowed for interactive dialogue and debate among the participants on the strategies and mechanisms for strengthening the involvement of the private sector and civil society to support the implementation of the priorities of NEPAD.

The resource persons presented papers on the role of the private sector, civil society, and women's organizations in the implementation of NEPAD; and the sharing of Ghana's experience in forging partnerships with the private sector and civil society. The presentations formed the basis for plenary discussions, as well as in-depth discussions in the working groups. In addition, background papers on the role of the various private sector and civil society organizations represented at the meeting were shared and these also contributed to enriching the discussions.

The meeting was conducted under the chairmanship of Mr. J.E. Quarshie, Acting Chief Director of the Ministry of Regional Cooperation & NEPAD in Ghana.

Opening Session

Mr. Kwame Nkwaku, Special Assistant to Hon. Dr. K.K. Apraku, Ghana's Minister of Regional Cooperation and NEPAD, delivered the opening statement on behalf of the Minister, who had travelled to Abuja, Nigeria, on official business. Mr. Nkwaku extended a very warm welcome to participants on behalf of the Minister.

In his message, Hon Dr. K.K. Apraku commended the organizers of the meeting for their initiative in putting together the programme for the meeting, which clearly demonstrated the commitment of the United Nations and its agencies to establish practical mechanisms to support NEPAD and Africa's development. He also commended the practical assistance that UNDP had rendered to Ghana by facilitating the setting up of the NEPAD secretariat at the national level to enable the Government of Ghana to effectively demonstrate the importance of NEPAD to its citizens.

He alluded to the establishment in Ghana of the Ministry of Regional Cooperation and NEPAD to move the NEPAD implementation process forward and articulate the link between the country's national development efforts, the integration measures being forged with its neighbours in both the sub-region and the African continent. This had also been done in response to the fact that African markets were in general quite small and needed to move towards regional economic integration to mitigate the impact of globalization.

The Hon. Minister underscored the four conditions-- Peace, security, democracy and good political governance, necessary to reduce poverty and attain socio-economic development in Africa. In this regard, the Minister alluded to the efforts of Government of Ghana in involving the private sector and civil society through the National Economic Dialogue and the Ghana

Poverty Reduction Strategy. He reminded the participants that it was important to be mindful of enhancing the capacities of the private sector and civil society to enable them to support the implementation of the NEPAD priorities. In this regard, he hoped that the United Nations could be helpful in facilitating this process and encouraged the meeting to develop appropriate solutions to reverse the challenges hindering the contribution of the private sector and civil society to NEPAD.

The UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Ghana, Mr. Alfred Sallia Fawundu, in his opening remarks welcomed the participants to the meeting. He alluded to NEPAD's focus on poverty eradication and the fact that it provided an opportunity to accelerate the pace and sustainability of development efforts. To this end, the momentum of NEPAD depended on the sensitization, participation and commitment of the private sector and civil society. He went on to say that UNDP had made serious efforts to support NEPAD at both the regional and national levels of African countries. For example, in Ghana the support of the UNDP was instrumental in setting up and running the NEPAD secretariat. Advocacy efforts were also influential in raising awareness of this initiative and thereby mobilizing support from various sources.

He stated that the UNDP welcomed this meeting as an opportunity for the private sector and civil society to explore innovative ways of enhancing their role in the NEPAD implementation processes. He went on to say that sustained dialogue was critical to build and consolidate participatory mechanisms and commended OSAA for its initiative to spearhead this workshop to further demonstrate the United Nations commitment to the challenges of Africa's development.

Ms. Yvette Stevens, Director of OSAA, also made some remarks at the opening session. She stated that NEPAD provided an opportunity to take a fresh look at the African continent. Ms. Stevens was pleased to note that NEPAD had a strong political commitment. More, however, needed to be done with respect to the ownership of this process by private sector and civil society. She encouraged the participants to embrace NEPAD as a programme that was addressing Africa's development issues irrespective of whether or not they had been involved with the process from the outset. There was ample room for the private sector and civil society to be actively involved in the implementation phase of NEPAD.

She reminded the participants of the main objective of this meeting, which was to provide a forum for representatives of the private sector and civil society from various parts of the African continent to be able to reflect on obstacles, determine specific steps to be taken to address these challenges and make practical recommendations. She went on to say that the main reason why Ghana had been selected as the venue for this meeting was due to the serious steps that the country had taken to operationalize NEPAD within a very short period. This, she added, could provide other African countries with insight into how to make NEPAD, which at present seemed abstract, operational.

The three statements delivered at the opening session are included in annex I to this report.

II. Summary of Plenary Sessions

Before starting the substantive part of the meeting, the Chairman invited Ms. Raj Bardouille, Senior Economic Affairs Officer in OSAA, who coordinated this workshop, to brief the participants on the conduct of the meeting. In light of the work programme (attached to this report as annex II), she reminded the participants of the busy 3 days of deliberations in plenary and group discussions on the role of the private sector, civil society and women's organizations to support NEPAD, including the sharing of Ghana's experience in this regard. She underscored the importance of national level coordinating mechanisms for bringing together information on the activities of the private sector and civil society for support to NEPAD. She urged the participants to reflect on such mechanisms and to make appropriate recommendations.

Plenary Session I: Overview of NEPAD

Ms. Yvette Stevens, Director of OSAA, conveyed the apology of the NEPAD secretariat for not being able to come to the meeting and make a presentation on NEPAD. She gave a comprehensive overview of NEPAD. In her presentation Ms. Stevens started off by referring to the two pre-conditions for sustainable development as articulated in NEPAD: peace and security; and democracy and good governance, and then on to the priorities of NEPAD, which included, among others, infrastructure (energy, transport, water and sanitation, ICT), human resources development (poverty reduction, education, reversing the brain drain and health), agriculture, the environment, culture, science and technology. She also alluded to some of the projects, which were being developed in some of the critical areas of NEPAD such as infrastructure, agriculture and the promotion of the private sector. The presentation was to set the context for exploring the priority areas in which the private sector and civil society could strengthen their activities in the framework of NEPAD.

The ensuing debate was lively, focusing on the issues of the relationship between NEPAD and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); the top down approach pushed by certain African leaders and donors in the introduction of the NEPAD initiative, which is currently not well known among African people; and the time frame for the implementation of NEPAD.

It was agreed that the MDGs were now incorporated within the framework of NEPAD. They are increasingly being viewed as the poverty alleviation components of NEPAD.

As regards the top down approach in initiating the NEPAD, Ms. Stevens responded that NEPAD had the support of powerful African leaders and that nearly every country had signed on. She said while NEPAD was initiated by a few African leaders, it had been widely accepted by a cross section of African societies and their international partners as a framework for Africa's transformation in the coming years. She added that the fact that NEPAD was backed by African leaders had its own advantages. The previous initiatives, such as UN-NADAF, the United Nations Special Initiative on Africa (UNSI), failed partly because they did not have the backing and support of African leaders. As NEPAD is a home-grown initiative, it has generated a lot of support from a cross – section of Africans, including the political leadership. Thus, the

enthusiastic support of the African leaders is one of the reasons why there is hope for a good chance of success.

She said that the issue now was not whether NEPAD had been developed top-down or bottom-up, but rather how we can make it work, so that it would transform Africa. She stressed that African leaders must now try to popularize NEPAD among their people and try to reach out to all segments of society, including the private sector and civil society. As regards the time frame for the implementation of NEPAD, Ms. Stevens clarified that NEPAD was a development framework and as such it had no fixed timetable. She went on to say that there was a whole range of activities under way in a number of African countries. How well the NEPAD is implemented is a question we all should ask ourselves and work towards enhancing our effort to improve our people's conditions.

Plenary Session II: Role of the Private Sector to Support the Implementation of NEPAD

The paper presented by a resource person, Dr. Karamo Sonko, reviewed the role of the private sector in economic development. He alluded to the varying sizes of the private sector operations in Africa and noted that the bulk of the private sector in most African countries comprised the informal and micro enterprises, which operated generally at low levels of productivity. The paper also pointed out the many problems that the private sector faced in Africa, including, among others, the lack of or inadequate infrastructure and support services, corruption and bureaucracy, policies that did not encourage savings and investment, opaque legal framework, small and segmented markets.

He cited some examples of how the private sector was supporting the implementation of NEPAD. However, he underscored the urgent need to demystify some of the negative perceptions about the socio-economic and political situations of the continent in order to mobilize the resources of the private sector—domestic as well as foreign. In this regard, the media had an important role to play. He also stressed on the need to build NEPAD's credibility and financial capacity in order to mobilize the support of the private sector. The paper made recommendations on ways to strengthen the involvement of the private sector at national, sub-regional and regional levels. In this regard, the need to put in place appropriate mechanisms for interface between government and the private sector was underscored. The public private partnership was viewed as an important mechanism for mobilizing the resources of the private sector to support NEPAD. The paper underscored the importance of self-reliance in terms of mobilizing financial resources through, for example, setting up a NEPAD fund to promote public private partnerships.

The ensuing discussion covered the following:

- The challenge of mobilizing domestic finance for development, and reducing dependence on foreign aid. This calls for creating conducive business environment and confidence in the domestic economy to attract private resources. In this regard, it was proposed to carry out a study on mechanisms for mobilizing domestic resources for implementing the NEPAD priorities;

- Need to find an urgent solution to Africa's external debt problem, so as to minimize leakages of resources and diverting these for development;
- Need to set a time frame for the implementation of the NEPAD objectives. In this regard, a mechanism for monitoring the implementation of NEPAD needed to be put in place;
- The macroeconomic fundamentals needed to be improved, including reducing domestic interest rates which were quite high, making investment difficult.

Plenary Session III: Mobilizing Civil Society Support for the Implementation of NEPAD

The paper was introduced by a resource person, Dr. Gatachew Demeke. The paper alluded to an innovative partnership approach in NEPAD, which provided an opportunity for the African civil society community to genuinely engage with governments in carrying out the goals and priorities of Africa's recovery and development. The paper argued that the legitimacy and sustainability of NEPAD would depend on the extent to which the African people, civil society and the private sector were involved in the process. Recognizing this imperative, African governments had made strong commitment to work in partnership with civil society and other partners in NEPAD-related activities.

The paper identified a number of ways civil society could engage in the NEPAD related processes at the national, regional and international levels. For example, civil society engagement in several African countries in formulating the PRSPs had positive results and there were expectations of significant involvement of civil society in monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) indicators in the future. In addition, civil society could be involved in other areas of NEPAD, such as combating HIV/AIDS, protection of environment and culture and promoting the democratization process and the good governance campaign.

At the regional level, civil society engagement at the African Union (AU) level can utilize such mechanisms as the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and CSSDCA. They can participate in the Peer Review process and also help the CSSDCA in its conflict prevention and peace building efforts. At the International level, civil society can work, with their northern counterparts lobbying and advocating on behalf of Africa in such areas as debt relief, increased official development assistance, market access.

The paper also dealt with the constraints for effective civil society participation in the NEPAD related activities. These included, among others, the lack of the political and developmental space to operate effectively, mistrust of governments towards civil society and thus limiting their activities by imposing prohibitively complex administrative rules and regulations, resource constraints. While recognizing that African civil society was still in its embryonic stage and lacked the technical and organizational know how to engage effectively in NEPAD, the paper underscored the need for governments to improve the legal environment for the operation of civil society and to recognize the role of civil society in political change and public policy as legitimate and fundamental. The presenter said that in order for African civil society community to have any meaningful role in NEPAD programmes and projects, African governments need to adhere to the political commitments made in the adoption of NEPAD.

One of the major challenges for NEPAD, he added, was to broaden consultations and dialogue with various stakeholders and to encourage higher levels of inclusiveness than had hitherto been the case. Whereas awareness at senior and international level was high, public participation in Africa was still very limited. He went on to say that the communication strategy would need to be ongoing and contain provisions for input in the support for the entire NEPAD process, including setting up national and sectoral networks that promoted and monitored civil society engagement at national levels and in the different sectoral priority areas. On the other hand, African civil society organizations would need to enhance their development management capacity and professionalise their technical and organizational skills, including project management capability including the conception, design, implementation, evaluation, administration and accounting of projects as well as acquiring sector specific skills, methods and techniques.

In the area of policy advocacy, civil society organizations should strengthen and broaden their understanding of the policy environment and process, including their analytical and advocacy skills to add value and influence to national policy priorities. They must be able to undertake prudent and professional advocacy by framing their agenda in the national/macro context and mobilizing public opinion in support of the poor and grassroots agenda. He added that African civil society organizations needed to lessen their dependence on foreign sources of funds so as not to compromise its independence and legitimacy as advocates of African grassroots communities and also for their sustainability.

The presentation was followed by general debate. Among the points raised were:

- Clarification on CSSDCA, which is not a political component of NEPAD, rather it is a policy development forum, and a monitoring and evaluation mechanism for the AU;
- Observed that the AU Civil Society provisional working group was not actively working for civil society participation in NEPAD regional activities. It should be more oriented towards promoting civil society engagement with NEPAD;
- There is a great deal of confusion about the role and responsibility of the AU and the NEPAD secretariat regarding the implementation of NEPAD related activities. Participants pointed out that it was increasingly becoming confusing as to what the mandate of the AU was and how it related to the NEPAD process. It was agreed that the role of the AU regarding NEPAD needed to be clarified;
- A number of participants shared their countries' experience regarding civil society engagement with NEPAD at the national level. However, they all cited that there was a need to establish a focal point in each of the countries for promoting and monitoring civil society participation in NEPAD related activities nationally;
- The issue of organization of civil society in Africa is problematic. If civil society was better organized and informed, it could better respond to the NEPAD process.

Plenary Session IV: Role of Women's Organizations to Support NEPAD

The paper was presented by a resource person, Dr. Adele Marthe Manguelle. Against a brief historical overview of the advent of NEPAD, the paper asserted that the NEPAD initiative was not well known by the public, including women's organizations in Africa, though women had long been involved in the areas which were an integral part of NEPAD priorities, including agriculture, infrastructure, environment, political and economic governance, new technologies of information and communication, energy, education and health sectors.

Based on a case study of Cameroon, the paper illustrated the involvement of individual women and women's groups/ associations in different activities. It referred to women religious associations which undertook education campaigns for disease prevention, notably HIV/AIDS and training; some professional women and women's groups had established scholarship programmes, earmarked for female students keen to pursue studies in science and technology; free counselling relating to improved agricultural production; participation in intensive cultivation and processing of local staples; credit and savings schemes for business activities. All such activities, she added, were aimed for the economic empowerment of women.

The paper also underscored the constraints facing women's organisations, including the difficulties in accessing credit, education and health care, the negligible women influence in the decision-making process.

As for the relation between women organisations and government in the process of the dissemination of NEPAD principles, the paper asserted that dialogue barely existed in Cameroon. The paper noted that it was not surprising that civil society, including women organisations, were not invited to attend the meeting convened in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in June 2003 by the NEPAD secretariat section in charge of communications. However, the paper alluded to the efforts deployed by the UN Resident Coordinator in Cameroon to address the deficit of dialogue between all stakeholders that should be involved in the diffusion and the implementation of NEPAD priorities.

The debate that followed focused on the following:

- The need to popularise NEPAD among women's organizations, especially grassroots organizations, by involving them in the NEPAD process;
- Need to set up a tripartite mechanism at the national level to involve government, private sector and the civil society, including women's organizations, in the planning and implementation of NEPAD priorities;
- Following the recommendation of the AU Heads of State and Government meeting in Durban in 2002 on gender parity (50% of women) in the appointment of commissioners within NEPAD, civil society and women's organizations should follow up the progress made in the implementation of this recommendation;

- The capacity of women's organizations needs to be strengthened to enable them to effectively engage in the NEPAD implementation process.

Plenary Session V: Ghana's Experience in Forging Partnerships with the Private Sector and Civil Society in the Implementation of the Priorities of NEPAD

The paper presented by Dr. Francis Appiah, Technical Adviser in the Ministry of Regional Cooperation and NEPAD in Ghana, spelt out the practical steps that the Government of Ghana had taken to forge partnership with the private sector and civil society for the implementation of NEPAD. The paper was comprehensive and discussed how the Government of Ghana had integrated the NEPAD priority areas into its national policy; the organizational and institutional arrangements put in place for the implementation of NEPAD; experiences in forging partnerships with the private sector and civil society; and the challenges in the implementation of NEPAD.

The paper asserted that the priority areas identified in Ghana's national development converged with those in NEPAD, namely good governance, infrastructure development, modernization of agriculture and rural development, enhancing social services, including education, health, gender mainstreaming, and private sector development. The paper referred to the various structures established in the bureaucracy to deal with NEPAD related activities, including the creation of the Ministry of Regional Cooperation and NEPAD, aimed at rationalizing the efforts of the government and the pan-African vision and aspirations of NEPAD.

As regards the involvement of the private sector in the implementation of NEPAD, the paper highlighted the government's political will to support the private sector to grow, and in this regard its effort to institutionalise the relationship between the private sector and government. The creation of a Ministry of Private Sector Development with the mandate to create an enabling environment was a practical expression of the political will for the development of the private sector in Ghana. The paper referred to the various arrangements that were in place to facilitate dialogue between government and the private sector: for example, the President had a standing arrangement to meet the representatives of the private sector twice a year; other arrangements included: meetings with the Minister of Private Sector Development; Presidential Special Initiatives for the promotion of the private sector, including government financial support for the private sector; export development and investment funds; public-private partnership; capacity building and utilization in support of the private sector.

The paper also shared Ghana's experience in forging partnership with civil society in the implementation of NEPAD, which had been wide and varied. There is government support for the active role for civil society in the implementation of NEPAD. This has taken the form of both the initiatives taken by civil society organizations on their own as well as those in partnership with government. Notwithstanding the good intentions and support of the government and the vibrancy of civil society, presenter went on to say that the relationship in forging partnership with civil society in Ghana was at a formative stage. The same was also true of the private sector relationship with government in the implementation of NEPAD. However, the paper cautioned

about the challenges that needed to be overcome to strengthen partnerships between government, the private sector and civil society in the implementation of NEPAD.

Ghana's experience provided a concrete example of the best practice relating to mobilizing support of the private sector and civil society in the national level NEPAD process. The discussion that ensued focused on the following:

- It was noted that the special attention Ghana had paid to ensuring that the NEPAD pre-conditions for development were entrenched in the country was important to understand the strides the country had made in the implementation of NEPAD;
- The political will demonstrated by the government in integrating NEPAD into its own development plans was crucial;
- Ghana is unique in having an Inter-ministerial Committee on NEPAD. This is critical in ensuring coordination and making the multi-sectoral nature of NEPAD focused as well as making the various Ministers aware of their NEPAD responsibilities and commitments;
- Both in terms of Ministerial structure and leadership and the creation of a Ministry of NEPAD, Ghana's efforts deserve commendation and should be emulated by other African countries;
- The appointment of a Minister in charge of Private Sector Development and the President initiating enterprises that are given to the private sector to run and develop are unique;
- The implementation strategy adopted by Ghana provides best practices that should be made known and shared with other African countries. In this respect participants requested that OSAA commission a study on Ghana's experience in the implementation of NEPAD;
- The link that the presentation established between NEPAD as an African development framework and how this had been made practical at the country level and integrated into the national development agenda of Ghana succeeded in "demystifying" NEPAD, brought it home and made it relevant to the socio-economic development at the level of ordinary people.

Plenary Session VI: Wrap-up: Day 1

This session summed up some of the main points of the first day's deliberations, which included five presentations followed by general debate. It also provided clarifications on some of the concepts used in the presentations, including the NEPAD initiative, which should be viewed as a development framework. The presentations were well received. In particular, the experience of Ghana in the NEPAD process was commended. Participants proposed that as a follow-up activity, OSAA organize a regional workshop devoted to learning from the experience of Ghana.

Plenary Session VII: Reports of Working Groups

On the second day, the meeting broke into two parallel groups—private sector; and civil society, including women's organizations, to discuss in detail and make appropriate recommendations on strengthening the role of the private sector and civil society in the implementation of NEPAD. Each group was given the terms of reference as guidelines. The working group reports were presented by the respective chairmen of the groups. The quality and coverage of the presentations were well received. The reports generated further discussion, including observations, clarifications, comments, additional recommendations and follow-up activities on the issues discussed in the working group reports. The main highlights of the discussions including recommendations and follow-up activities are reported below.

Group I: Recommendations on how to mobilize private sector support for the implementation of NEPAD

The private sector group chaired by Mr. Osei Boeh-Ocansey (a participant representing the private sector in Ghana) discussed a number of issues and the reporting on these is arranged under five thematic areas.

(i) Mechanisms and nature of the engagement / dialogue of the private sector in the implementation of NEPAD at the national level

Participants shared the experiences of their countries with regard to mechanisms for engaging the private sector in the implementation of NEPAD. Representatives from Nigeria, South Africa, Ghana, Senegal and Gabon informed that there were specific ways the private sector was involved in supporting the implementation of NEPAD. However, representatives from Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Congo – Brazzaville, Burkina Faso, among others, stated that no formal mechanisms existed in their respective countries at present to engage the private sector in the implementation of NEPAD. Representatives noted that although some kind of structures dealing with the private sector existed in their countries, these were not necessarily in the framework of NEPAD. This was largely due to the fact that most countries were still in the process of articulating national level NEPAD implementation plans.

As regards the nature of the dialogue, representatives reported on the various ways the organized private sector interacted with government, through, for example, periodic meetings with relevant ministries, business consultative forums, joint committees, etc. to reflect on the problems affecting the growth and development of the private sector. Some representatives reported that such dialogue was often frank and constructive in the interest of promoting private sector development in their countries. However, most participants noted that such dialogue had yet to be developed in their countries in the context of NEPAD.

Ghana's experience in this regard was noted as instructive. Ghana had the most developed mechanism, which encompassed the national, sub-regional and continental levels. Of particular interest was the presence of a dynamic secretariat, a Ministry of Regional Cooperation and NEPAD, an Inter-Ministerial Committee and an Inter-Technical Committee specifically for NEPAD. The South African business sector, which had been closely associated with the entire

evolutionary process that led up to NEPAD, had set up a NEPAD Business Group; Nigerian businessmen and women were working hard to raise the awareness of NEPAD amongst various stakeholders and Burkina Faso had a Ministry of Integration responsible for the coordination of NEPAD.

Recommendations

- Need to establish an effective formal mechanism at the national level to engage the private sector in the implementation of NEPAD;
- The capacity of the public sector dealing with the private sector needs to be strengthened to make the former more sensitive and receptive to the needs and concerns of the private sector.

(ii) Sectoral priorities of NEPAD being emphasized by the private sector

The representatives reported that although the private sector in their countries had not selected specific sectoral priorities of NEPAD, it was engaged in the critical areas of transportation, energy and telecommunications, especially mobile telephones. Some representatives noted that the private sector was also supporting other priority areas of NEPAD, such as human resources development, including the issue of HIV/AIDS. They underscored the potential of public/ private partnerships in the critical areas of infrastructure and telecommunications. However, they noted that experience in public/ private partnerships in most African countries was limited. Moreover, legal framework with regard to such partnerships also did not exist in many African countries. A major issue emphasized in the discussion was the importance of developing policies conducive to motivating the private sector to become more involved in the critical areas of infrastructure and telecommunications.

Recommendations

- The ICT sector should be opened up in the hands of the private sector;
- Appropriate legal framework for public private partnerships should be put in place for the success of such partnerships.

(iii) How to mobilize the resources of the private sector

Representatives noted that mobilizing private sector resources for NEPAD was not easy. The private sector must be sensitized about NEPAD and the important role it can play to support the implementation of NEPAD. Representatives underscored the need for a genuine partnership in African development, which also took into account the interest, concerns and needs of the private sector. They also stressed the need for creating a climate of mutual accountability and transparency, if the resources of the private sector were to be mobilized to support NEPAD.

Recommendations

- Reduction in taxation to attract the resources of the private sector. In some cases, there could be tax exemptions, for example, for agro-businesses, as an incentive;
- Creating business friendly and supportive environment, including minimizing administrative procedures for establishing businesses;
- Joint ventures between domestic and international private investors;
- Resources could be mobilized through a “solidarity tax for the implementation of NEPAD”;
- Need for the courts to handle commercial matters expeditiously;
- Putting in place mechanisms to attract remittances from Africans living abroad. In the case of Ghana, remittances amount to about \$1.5 billion a year.
- Venture capital;
- Government should make budgetary provisions to support NEPAD as a reflection of its commitment, in order to attract support from the private sector and other development partners.

(iv) How to improve productivity of the informal sector

It was underscored that micro and informal sector enterprises were the backbone and future of African economies. Participants pointed out that in most countries, including Kenya, Ghana, Congo, Senegal, such enterprises were essential in employment creation, poverty alleviation and providing services and inputs for the small and medium enterprises. Therefore, they must be at the forefront of efforts to promote economic development in Africa in the framework of NEPAD.

Recommendations

- Need to develop the human resources capacity (including managerial and technical skills) of informal entrepreneurs to improve their productivity;
- Organize informal enterprises into associations to encourage them to formalize their activities;
- Simplifying procedures for business registration to encourage informal businesses to register and make use of the business related facilities;
- There is a need to recognize the role of the informal sector and to provide appropriate incentives to unleash the entrepreneurial potentials of the sector;

- Establish “guarantee fund” to assist informal sector operators access credit for business operations;
- Replicate business practices through programmes such as the EMPREC (Enterprise Africa) headquartered in Accra;
- Strengthening linkages between the organized private sector and the informal sector through sub-contracting;
- Encouraging value-added alliances between the informal sector and the organized business sector;
- Debt relief, through the HIPC initiative, as a means of raising resources (as in the case of Ghana), which can be channelled to the private sector, particularly micro and informal sector enterprises.

(v) How to create synergy between the NEPAD Business Groups and national/sub-regional business associations

It was observed that there were two NEPAD Business Groups and this was of some concern to participants who strongly felt that a single continental group with perhaps sub-regional groups or offices would be a practical option. However, the NEPAD Business Groups had currently no formal relationship with the business associations, including the chambers of commerce, in African countries. It was underscored that the chambers of commerce were the focal points for businesses in Africa, and any attempt by the NEPAD Business Groups to exclude such organizations was tantamount to derailing the NEPAD principles of African ownership and broader partnership. Participants felt that the NEPAD Business Groups were essentially a club of few individuals and that any regional organization must have its roots in and association with all African countries.

Recommendations

- It was proposed that the membership and objectives of the NEPAD Business Groups be reviewed so that they adequately reflect African private sector interests, including small, medium enterprises and the informal sector;
- The NEPAD Business Groups were urged to tour the sub-regions in order to meet private representatives at the national level;
- Ways and means of setting up a single continental NEPAD Business Group and/or Business Association be explored pursuant to this workshop.

Group II: Recommendations on how to effectively mobilize the role of civil society, including women's organizations, to support NEPAD

This group met under the chairmanship of Dr. Olumde Ajayi, a participant representing the civil society. The group discussed three main issues and a summary of the discussion and recommendations is reported below.

(i) Popularising NEPAD

Participants discussed the efforts of their organizations and the methods they used to popularise NEPAD. The representative of Zimbabwe reported that a number of workshops were being organized both in Zimbabwe and the Southern African region to popularise NEPAD. However, in certain sections of the Zimbabwean society, NEPAD had been criticized for being spearheaded by Nigeria and South Africa for the international community.

The Trade Union representative reported on various initiatives to popularise NEPAD in their constituency. These initiatives included workshops, presentations of papers and convening meetings and dialogue forums. Worthy of special mention was the Trade Union declaration on NEPAD that was developed and submitted to the Heads of State Implementation Committee (HSIC) during their meeting at Abuja.

In Ethiopia, it was reported that a consortium of civil society organizations had been constituted to monitor the implementation and progress on NEPAD. The Development Management Policy Forum (DMPF) has also been able to set up initiatives around NEPAD in partnership with the Ethiopia Institute of Peace and Development. At Governmental level it could not be confirmed what activities were taking place.

The Cameroon representative reported that at the civil society level there appeared to be no initiatives and the average person, academics and general public had little or no knowledge of NEPAD. The Burkina Faso representative reported that Government organized a forum in September 2002 on NEPAD to inform the population and the private sector on the implementation of NEPAD. This was one of the major occasions that civil societies were called to participate in any NEPAD programme.

In Algeria, there were initiatives by both civil society and government to popularise NEPAD through meetings. In June 2001 the government organized a large forum of about 3000 people to popularise NEPAD. Afterwards, a coalition of 19 civil society organizations initiated a programme to popularise NEPAD at literacy centers, among students and at grassroots organizations level.

While Government activities as they relate to NEPAD could not be reported for South Africa, it was clear that various civil society organizations were attempting to popularise NEPAD. The African Center for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), in partnership with African gender networks and peace and development organizations, had been involved in gender mainstreaming within the continental structures and programmes such as the African Union (AU), NEPAD, CSSDCA, and the draft protocol on the rights of women. These

initiatives were convened under the network of Femmes Africa Solidarte (FAS). Recommendations for the achievement of gender mainstreaming in NEPAD included the establishment of a technical gender task team in the NEPAD secretariat, and the possible establishment of a gender unit within the NEPAD secretariat. It was also reported that within the peace security and governance sector, for which South Africa was the focal point, a civil society organization SAFER Africa was drafting the framework document for the Peace and Security initiative for NEPAD.

Nigeria being the chair of the HSIC had set up an office to co-ordinate and popularise NEPAD. Efforts were being made to reach out to various segments of civil society and the private sector, although the problem of delivery capacity needed to be addressed. The African Leadership Forum (ALF) had been organizing various meetings and dialogues at regional and continental levels to popularise NEPAD. In addition it had also been providing technical backstopping to the Federal Government of Nigeria on issues relating to NEPAD. ALF had recently been appointed as the strategic partner to the Nigerian NEPAD office.

It was reported that GERDDES, the Research Group on Democracy and Development in Africa, had organized workshops with the civil society and private sector to explore ways to incorporate the NEPAD programme into national development plans in West and Central Francophone African States. Ghana had developed a number of initiatives to facilitate the implementation of NEPAD at the national level, which included an institutional framework consisting of the following:

- NEPAD secretariat;
- Inter-Ministerial Committee on NEPAD;
- Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee on NEPAD;
- The Ministry of Regional Cooperation and NEPAD.
- In addition, the following popularisation initiatives had also been undertaken:
- Stakeholders meeting including the civil society and the private sector;
- Media strategy meeting;
- Sub regional conference for Trade Union and NEPAD;
- Train the Trainers conference for local government officials;
- Role of human rights in NEPAD;
- Campaign on NEPAD in schools, universities, churches and rural communities

From the sharing of the experiences and discussion, it was clear that various efforts were being made by civil society to popularise NEPAD. While participants felt more comfortable speaking about the initiatives that their particular organizations were involved in, general comments on other initiatives known to participants were also shared. However there was a feeling that civil society organizations were not adequately informed about government positions and directives on NEPAD, and there was a need to enlarge the space of engagement at this level.

Recommendations

- It was agreed that civil society utilize every available opportunity or create opportunities to popularise NEPAD;
 - That multiple means of popularising NEPAD should be used including workshops, media (both visual and print), conferences, seminars, dialogue, policy, and research analysis s and advocacy;
 - That civil society should lead a process of simplifying and translating the NEPAD documentation into a more user friendly and accessible document. The private sector and government can provide financial support for this project;
 - Each country should set-up a National NEPAD Forum (NNF) consisting of representatives from civil society, private sector and government to:
 - Popularise NEPAD;
 - Convene stakeholders strategy and consultative meetings at various levels and within the various constituencies;
 - Develop national development plans using the NEPAD framework;
 - Initiate mechanisms that can be used for monitoring, evaluation and identification of national priorities within the NEPAD document.
 - The proposed tripartite National NEPAD Forum (NNF) at country level should feed into a regional process and continental process both at the AU and NEPAD secretariats.
- (ii) *Role of civil society including women's organization in implementing the goals and objectives of NEPAD*

It was noted that most of the civil society organizations represented at this meeting were currently engaged in a number of activities to support NEPAD. Although they had not specifically re-orientated their activities in support of the goals and objectives of NEPAD, it was clear that their current programmes and activities did cover some of the priorities of NEPAD. Civil society organizations were using various mechanisms to engage in the NEPAD process despite the limited space to do so, and hence the difficulty in coming up with the best practices for strengthening NEPAD. However, the decentralization method adopted by Ghana as well as

the involvement of civil society organizations in Nigeria and South Africa were cited as examples of best practices that could be emulated for strengthening the involvement of civil society in the NEPAD process.

(iii) Problems and constraints of civil society engagement in NEPAD related activities

After much discussion it was clear that the NEPAD secretariat appeared not particularly receptive to civil society involvement and therefore, attempts to identify opportunities to collaborate must be explored. It was recognized that a number of civil society organizations were engaged in activities within the current initiatives to ensure that the goals of NEPAD were met. However, they faced a number of problems and constraints, for example:

- Lack of communication between and amongst civil society organizations, government and the private sector on one hand and between civil society organizations and the NEPAD secretariat on the other;
- Resource constraints in implementing NEPAD;
- Poor coordination and synergy at country, regional and continental levels in terms of civil society engagement with NEPAD;
- Governments tend to align with civil society organizations and NGOs created / financed by donors or government departments to the exclusion of those promoted by other interest groups.

Recommendations

- Greater involvement of civil society in the NEPAD process through enhanced dialogue and meetings;
- Central to civil societies involvement with NEPAD must be the creation of an enabling environment. In this regard, it was recommended that a Civil Society Desk at the NEPAD secretariat be created;
- Government should ensure inclusivity in all the activities that deal with NEPAD;
- While it is appreciated that donors are providing financial support to the NEPAD secretariat, the same should be accorded to those CSOs with the critical mass to engage in the implementation of NEPAD and its subsequent evaluation.

iv) Follow-up Activities

As the way forward, the group proposed the following activities:

- Each civil society organization represented at this meeting should push the recommendations of this meeting to their national governments. In this regard, OSA should link these organizations with UNDP country offices in Africa to partner with

them in concretising these recommendations at the country level, especially those relating to the setting-up of the proposed National NEPAD Forums;

- OSAA organize an annual meeting of both civil society and the private sector to review the role of these partners in the implementation of NEPAD and to also provide other possible ways which can advance the NEPAD process;
- Need to put in place mechanisms by the private sector and civil society in collaboration with OSAA to sustain the momentum generated at this meeting;
- The Ghana Ministry of Regional Cooperation and NEPAD be requested to prepare a paper incorporating the actions taken by Ghana in popularising NEPAD among the various stakeholders. This could be shared with other African countries as a tool for advocacy.

Plenary session VIII: Summary of recommendations and way forward

In this session, participants made an attempt to consolidate some of the major recommendations emanating from the plenary and working group sessions. In view of the recognition that the recommendations of such meetings are often general in nature and difficult to implement, the following concrete actionable proposals were made:

- The meeting underscored the importance of self-reliance for the implementation of NEPAD. In this regard, it was proposed to set up a NEPAD fund under the auspices of the NEPAD secretariat, which should sell the idea to the stakeholders on the importance of using domestic resources for the implementation of NEPAD;
- It was proposed that a study on the mobilization of domestic resources be carried out in the context of the proposed NEPAD fund. It was further proposed that OSAA be given the responsibility to commission this study within a year. This should essentially be a concept paper;
- Considering that Ghana had made headway in the NEPAD process at the national level, it would be useful to share its experience. In this regard, it was proposed that OSAA make a formal request to Ghana's Ministry of Regional Cooperation and to prepare a paper on Ghana's experience in the NEPAD process, including forging partnerships with the private sector and civil society. The case study would be part of OSAA's flagship publication on an "Overview of African Development", for which case studies were under preparation capturing national experiences of five African countries in the implementation of NEPAD;
- Noting the successful experiences of certain business associations/ organizations, such as the Kenya Manufacturers' Association, the Black Management Forum of South Africa and the Uganda Manufacturers Association, also NEPAD with their respective members, it was proposed that these associations share their experiences with other

business associations in the continent. In this case, information sharing could be done through continued dialogue, e.g. workshops, seminars, meetings and publications;

- Private sector organizations should strengthen networking activities as well as develop thematic areas for follow-up in future engagement;
- Participants of the meeting should work closely with the UNDP country offices on thematic areas for future engagement. In this context, it is important to initiate a networking forum of business associations/ organizations in a year's time;
- It was proposed that participants be encouraged to continue sharing information through e-mails highlighting the contribution of their organizations in the implementation of the goals and objectives of NEPAD;
- It was also proposed that OSAA organize meetings with the private sector and civil society annually. The meetings should have a clear thematic focus as well as concrete outputs. It was proposed that the next year's meeting could consider, among others, the proposed concept paper on mobilization of domestic resources for the implementation of NEPAD;
- The recommendations of this Workshop should be shared with African Governments through their missions in New York. NEPAD and AU secretariats, private sector associations and all other stakeholders in African development;
- The report of this meeting should also be shared with UNDP country offices in Africa, and where possible, they could be involved in the implementation of some of the recommendations of this meeting;
- National structures/ mechanisms need to be created to support the goals and objectives of NEPAD;
- In view of the fact that African countries are moving towards democratization and good governance (a key precondition of NEPAD) at a different pace, it was important that indicators on certain key areas, such as governance, be available to assess progress made in this regard.

III. Closing Session

In closing the meeting, the Chairman brought out some of the highlights of the meeting, underscoring that NEPAD was an African initiative, which needed to be popularised on the ground. In this regard, civil society had an important role to play. He thanked the organizers for taking the initiative to hold the meeting in Accra and the guidance provided during the meeting. He also thanked the participants for their active participation in the meeting.

In her closing remarks, Ms. Stevens, Director of OSAA, thanked all the participants for attending the meeting. She briefly talked about the mandate of OSAA, which was global advocacy in support of NEPAD. She alluded to the important role of government in driving the NEPAD process and bringing in other stakeholders in that process. This, she added, had been aptly demonstrated by the efforts of the Government of Ghana. She underscored the need to share good practices with African countries. She assured the participants that the workshop report would be disseminated among relevant Ministries and UNDP offices in African countries. She appealed to the participants to keep up the enthusiasm and continue networking and sharing information on their activities to support the implementation of NEPAD.

Annex I: Statements and Remarks at the Opening Session

i) Welcome Remarks By Mr. Alfred Sallia Fawundu, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Ghana

Honourable Minister of Regional Cooperation and NEPAD, Hon. Dr. Kofi Konadu Apraku

Director, UN Office of the Special Advisor on Africa, Ms. Yvette Stevens

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am delighted to welcome each and every participant to this regional workshop, which has taken on the very auspicious theme of mobilizing private sector and civil society support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

The very impressive gathering here today is a testimony to the high premium that Africa's renaissance and the spirited quest for rapid and sustainable development enjoy in our thinking. I am assured that the outcome of this workshop will impact positively on the effectiveness of our contributions, as key partners in the realisation of NEPAD objectives.

UNDP is extremely pleased to be associated with this workshop. As you all know, our overarching concern is sustainable human development, with poverty eradication as a major thrust. The overwhelming interest is in helping people implement their own solutions their own problems. UNDP is thus an active player in implementing policies and programmes that support good governance, building effective partnerships for development and strengthening institutional mechanisms through which the quality of peoples' lives, especially the poor and the excluded, could be positively transformed.

Consequently, the evolution of NEPAD is of special and continuing interest to UNDP. This is not only because of the shared commitment to poverty reduction as overriding objective, but also because, especially in the context of Africa, regional perspectives provide an important platform for accelerating the pace and sustainability of development efforts. Given the increasing prominence of the private sector and the civil society as catalysts in any development endeavour, it is perhaps not an overstatement to aver that the ultimate momentum of NEPAD depends critically on the sensitisation, participation and commitment of these constituents to its implementation.

Indeed, UNDP has been at the fore-front of efforts to support NEPAD at regional and national levels. Under a regional programme, support is currently being provided to mobilize institutional and programmatic support for NEPAD at regional and sub-regional levels. Here in Ghana, our support has been very instrumental to the establishment and work of the NEPAD Secretariat. Our advocacy efforts have equally been influential to the increasing awareness of NEPAD, thereby leading the way for mobilizing additional support from various sources.

Accordingly, UNDP welcomes the current opportunity to take a closer look at the general and specific issues relating to the strengthening of participatory mechanisms around NEPAD, by providing a forum for private sector and civil society actors to explore innovative ways of enhancing their own role in the NEPAD process. Among others, two closely linked features inspire confidence in the significance of this workshop, and its prospects for far reaching impacts on the evolution of NEPAD as Africa's development master plan. These are the participatory approach of this workshop and its focus on people centred development. These, in my view, touch on the most fundamental requirements for popular engagement with the NEPAD process, and for giving practical effect to the avowed context of 'home-grown', home-led, partnership-based process in which NEPAD is promoted.

Although these are radically new development ideas, they should acquire new significance in the renewed drive to put NEPAD implementation on the right course. For too long, we have rolled our programmes without exploring the potentials for coordinating and complementing our efforts to the fullest. In consequence, scarce resources are squandered and precious time wasted on tortuous build-up and sluggish learning curves. These are expensive luxuries that Africa can least afford if we are to reverse the worrying trend as home to the world's largest concentration and fastest growing proportion of the poor. Nor could we afford to be complacent if we are to meet the commitments set out in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) including eradicating extreme poverty and hunger by the year 2015. We have to expand and concretise our concept of broad participation to match the realities on ground.

But, building and consolidating participatory mechanisms require sustained dialogue. It is a two-way process involving the willingness to share and collaborate with and among all actors. It is in this regard that I like to give special thanks to our main sponsors in today's event, UN Office of the Special Adviser on African Affairs, for this important initiative. The decision to spearhead this workshop is a further demonstration of UN's commitment to the challenge of Africa's development. It is a challenge to which every partner and stakeholder must rise, if the Africa dream of a true renaissance is not to turn into another mirage.

I am happy that it is part of the expected outputs of this workshop to feed into future plans and action in the pursuit of the spirit of NEPAD. The richness and diversity of representation at this workshop leaves no one in any doubt that his expectation shall be fully met.

I am looking forward to very stimulating discussions and fruitful exchanges and I wish this important workshop every success.

Once again, I welcome you to Accra.

ii) Remarks by Ms. Yvette Stevens, Director, Office of the Special Adviser on Africa

Mr. Chairman,
Honourable Minister,
Distinguished participants
Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a great pleasure for me to make a few remarks at the opening session of this meeting on “Mobilizing support for NEPAD: The role of the private sector and civil society”, being organized by the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, in collaboration with UNDP Ghana. Promoting Africa’s development has remained for quite some time the priority of the United Nations, which has initiated specific programmes and development agenda in this regard. The United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF) being one such programme, launched in 1991 by the General Assembly. The New Agenda, a compact of mutual commitments by African countries and the international community, was a 10 – year compact between African countries and the international community. It also included the involvement of non-governmental organizations and civil society and the private sector in Africa’s development. In October 2002, the United Nations General Assembly carried out the final review and appraisal of the New Agenda, and brought it to a close. The findings of the final review and the New Agenda showed that progress in the last decade in African development was inadequate in the light of the challenges facing Africa, including achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Africa remains a priority region for the United Nations.

The General Assembly at its high-level plenary meeting on 16 September 2002 welcomed NEPAD as an African Union led initiative and considered how to support NEPAD. It adopted a declaration urging the United Nations system organizations and the international community, in particular donor countries, to assist in the implementation of NEPAD priorities. In December 2002, by its resolution, the United Nations General Assembly welcomed NEPAD as a programme of the African Union that embodies the vision and commitment of all African countries and peoples for peace and development and urged the United Nations system to support African countries within the framework of NEPAD. It also recognized the important role that the civil society and the private sector play in African development and to this effect strongly encouraged their involvement.

The United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA), a recently established office, derives its mandate from the General Assembly Resolution A/57/7 – Final Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s 57/300 – Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change (20 December 2002). These General Assembly’s Resolutions emphasized the need to structure the United Nations efforts in support of Africa’s development in a coordinated manner. OSAA in accordance with its global advocacy role for African development has the objective of increasing awareness about the new partnership approach as articulated in the NEPAD document and to explore mechanisms of mobilizing the support of the international community, including also the private sector and civil society for the implementation of the priorities of NEPAD.

The main functions of this office are to:

- Provide substantive servicing of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in their deliberations on Africa;
- Coordinate the interdepartmental taskforce on African Affairs, to ensure a coherent and integrated approach for United Nations support for Africa, including following up on the implementation of all global summit and conference outcomes related to Africa;
- Initiate reports on critical issues affecting Africa, and in particular on the interrelated issues of peace and development; and
- Coordinate and guide the preparation of Africa-related reports and inputs, in particular support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) by the United Nations system and the international community, including the private sector and the civil society.

Mr. Chairman,
Honourable Minister,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is now conventional wisdom that development involves a partnership among governments, private sector and civil society. Several criticisms have been voiced about NEPAD from mainly African civil society but also the private sector, for the lack of adequate consultation in articulating the policy framework of NEPAD. In this phase of implementation, however, the energies and resources of all development stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society, need to be mobilized.

There are three major roles that the private sector can play in supporting the implementation of NEPAD:

- The first and the most obvious is that it should take the lead in those priority areas of NEPAD which lend themselves to active private sector participation, namely development of infrastructure and the agricultural sector, manufacturing and export promotion;
- Promote international joint ventures that would bring in financial resources but also transfer of technology and managerial expertise; and
- Passionately advocate for a business-friendly environment but also a just society.

The civil society plays a very important role as implementation of the outcomes reached and assists international organizations, such as the United Nations, to position themselves on macro-economic development issues such as External debt, International Trade, Global Governance Reform, Millennium Development Goals & Official Development Assistant and Policy Coherence. Given the synergy in the targets set in the NEPAD plan of action and those in

the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) adopted by the international community, including African countries, the United Nations system agencies are coordinating their efforts to respond to Africa's challenges within the framework of NEPAD, and recognize the potential contribution of the private sector and civil society could make towards addressing these challenges.

The overall objective of the workshop is to provide a forum for dialogue with a select number of representatives of the private sector and civil society in order to explore their role in supporting NEPAD. The specific objectives are:

- To share the views of the private sector and civil society about their understanding of the global partnership;
- To explore the role of civil society in sensitising grassroots organizations and the general public at large about the objectives and priorities of NEPAD;
- To discuss how the private sector and the civil society can be involved in the planning and operationalization of NEPAD;
- To develop strategies/mechanisms of support for NEPAD for an effective partnership between African countries, the private sector and the civil society; and
- To establish a mechanism for dialogue, consultations and interface with the private sector and civil society about their specific input in and support for the implementation of NEPAD.

Ultimately, the success of the NEPAD initiative will depend on the extent to which the private sector, the civil society and the broader masses of Africans take ownership of it and are mobilized to implement its strategy. It is therefore important that a comprehensive examination of their potential role be made, with a view of identifying obstacles to their effective participation, which need to be addressed.

The conclusions and recommendations of the workshop are expected to serve as input to the appropriate sections of the Secretary-General's report on support to the implementation of NEPAD, which will be submitted to the 58th session of the General Assembly. Given the goals of the workshop, it is hoped that the workshop comes out with implementation recommendations including follow-up activities in support of NEPAD. It is my fervent hope that the deliberations will result not only in a practical and concrete operational framework, but will also be innovative in ideas and scope. I wish you much success in your deliberations.

Thank you.

iii) **Opening Statement by Hon. Dr.K.K. Apraku – Ghana’s Minister Of Regional Cooperation and NEPAD**

Mr. Chairman

The UNDP Resident Representative

Distinguished Participation from the United Nations and other International Organizations,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to warmly welcome you all to this workshop. It is particularly heart warming that this workshop is being organized under the auspices of the United Nations Office of the Special Advisor on Africa in collaboration with UNDP Ghana. The organizers deserve special commendation for taking the initiative to put together the programme. This demonstrates the spirit of cooperation and the new partnership that the United Nations and its agencies want to establish in support of NEPAD and for that matter Africa’s development.

The theme of the workshop, **“Mobilizing support for NEPAD: The role of the private sector and civil society”**, is not only apt, it affirms the commitment of the United Nations to match its pledge to support NEPAD with action. In this regard, I recall with encouragement the United Nations General Assembly high-level plenary meeting on September 16, 2002 that welcomed NEPAD and adopted a declaration to assist in the implementation of NEPAD priority programmes. It is instructive that, the United Nations General Assembly followed this up by passing resolution 57/7 of December 2002 to take practical steps to see to the implementation of NEPAD.

In Ghana we have already seen the practical manifestation of this support for NEPAD as the UNDP was instrumental in setting up a NEPAD Secretariat as a focal point to take the initial steps towards making the commitment of the Government of Ghana to NEPAD meaningful to the citizenry. I am happy to add that, only about a month ago, the Government of Ghana manifested its firm genuine commitment to NEPAD by creating a NEPAD Ministry which I have the privilege to be the Substantive Minister.

Mr. Chairman,

Mobilizing support for the implementation of NEPAD is critical when we come to consider the serious developmental challenges facing Africa. The grim reality is that over 50 percent of Africans live under a dollar a day. Africa has the highest illiteracy population in the world of more than 120 million people. Diseases are endemic and the HIV/AIDS pandemic is decimating whole populations. Africa accounts for less than 2 percent of total world trade and she receives less than 1 percent of Foreign Direct Investments. Besides, the continent is suffering and being devastated by war, conflicts and civil strife. Indeed a cloud of doubt is already gathering around Africa’s ability to meet the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. And the challenges posed by globalisation and the marginalisation of the African continent have to be contended with.

Mr. Chairman,

In spite of the enormity of these challenges, a new breed of African leaders with commitment and strong political will to serve the interest of the populace and their welfare, have conceived NEPAD as the strategic tool to reverse the misfortunes of the continent and place it on a path of sustainable growth and development. This new breed of leaders accepts that leadership failure, bad governance and the unstable political and economic situation did not augur well for the development of Africa. The new leadership has therefore come to accept the development of Africa as their primary responsibility that cannot be ceded to anybody and thus ready to be held accountable.

In line with this assumption of primary responsibility, the vision of NEPAD is that, for poverty to be reduced and socio-economic development to be attained, the following four conditions must prevail:

- First peace, security, democracy and good political governance
- Secondly, sound economic and corporate governance
- Thirdly, fast tracking regional cooperation and integration and
- Fourthly, forging a new partnership with the international community and the private sector based on mutual responsibilities and obligations.

Invariably, NEPAD provides a developmental framework guided by principles of a transparent, accountable and democratic governance and sound economic politics and management. NEPAD also insists on creating a new development partnership in which Africa sets her own priority goals and the international community plays a complementary role to assist in Africa's own efforts.

Mr. Chairman,

To demonstrate commitment to the principles of NEPAD, African leaders have adopted the African Peer Review Mechanism as a self-monitoring device to hold one another to account in order to correct wayward behaviour. It may be added that we in Ghana have committed ourselves to be amongst the first to subject ourselves to the APRM not only to demonstrate our belief in NEPAD but to learn and take remedial measures where gaps may be identified as a way of meeting the aspirations of our people.

Given its bold vision, the international community has thrown its weight behind NEPAD. Whilst this is appreciative, the success of NEPAD will depend on how African leaders and their peoples join hands and cross-fertilize ideas to implement its goals. It is in the light of this workshop, is not only timely but appropriate in bringing relevant partners to mobilize support for NEPAD.

Mr. Chairman,

In this respect, let me assure you the readiness of the Government of Ghana to team up with the United Nations, the private sector and civil society to mobilize support for the implementation of NEPAD. This partnership is critical to the success of NEPAD.

As a government that cherishes democracy and popular participation, the role of the private sector and civil society in the implementation of NEPAD is at the core of available options. The government has declared a “Golden Age of Business” where the private sector is not only the engine of growth but also a major pillar to ensure good governance and to strengthen our fledgling democracy. **By the same token a vibrant civil society is critical in realizing our shared vision as a country, which is “to build a society of free and disciplined individuals with a passion for excellence.”** The consolidation of our democracy also depends on an articulate and well informed civil society that is able to demand accountability from government and to keep it on her toes to ensure that all actions secure the welfare of the citizenry. The private sector and civil society are therefore key to mobilizing support for NEPAD.

Mr. Chairman,

In examining the role of the private sector and civil society in mobilizing support for NEPAD, we should be guided by history and contemporary developments in Africa. Historically, the private sector and civil society were hardly consulted in policy formulation and implementation. Indeed they were frowned upon as a nuisance. Fortunately, this situation is changing for the better. In line with the spirit of NEPAD, they have been recognized as development partners and stakeholders whose voice must be heard before any major decision is made. Besides, it has been acknowledged that the state alone cannot shoulder the provision of all public goods and services and thus, there is the need to have the private sector and civil society to complement government efforts. It is in this respect that government is supportive of public-private partnership in the provision of public goods and services.

The private sector and civil society can also assist in the implementation of NEPAD by assuming responsibility and taking initiatives that can lead to the creation of conditions for peace, rule of law, respect for human rights, transparency and zero-tolerance for corruption. In so doing, they will be promoting conditions that engender good political, economic and corporate governance that NEPAD has identified as a *sine qua non* for development. It is important that these values are ingrained in the new political culture being nurtured by the tenets of NEPAD.

Mr. Chairman,

The private sector and civil society can play a meaningful role in the implementation of NEPAD if they assume ownership of the process. NEPAD should therefore not be confined to the corridors of government but be brought down and integrated into the activities of the private sector and civil society. In Ghana, through the National Economic Dialogue and the Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy, the private sector and civil society groups are recognized as partners

in development in support of the implementation of NEPAD in the country. It is therefore the intention of government to create a conducive environment that will not only involve the private sector and civil society but will encourage them to own the process to foster initiative and drive in our common effort to implement NEPAD to alleviate poverty and accelerate socio-economic development.

Mr. Chairman,

It has been recognized that regional cooperation and integration are central planks in the successful implementation of NEPAD. It is one of the major reasons why the Government of Ghana has created the Ministry of Regional Cooperation and NEPAD to articulate the link between our own national development efforts the integration measures we forge with our neighbours in the sub-regions, on the African continent as a whole and indeed with the international community. In this effort at regional cooperation and integration, the private sector and civil society have a critical role to play in the implementation of NEPAD. As actors on the ground who deal with the real world of practice and manifestation of regional cooperation and integration they have knowledge, experience and insight that are critical in formulating and implementing policies. The private sector and civil society owe it a duty to work to ensure that we have an effective regional economic community. Not only are our markets as individual countries small, we need to wake up to the reality that the world at large is moving towards regional economic integration. Africa, which already is marginalized in the process of globalisation, cannot afford to be left behind any longer and the role of the private sector and civil society to foster regional cooperation and integration as a way to redress, this weakness needs all the encouragement and support that we can muster to this end.

Mr. Chairman,

I have no doubt that the private sector and civil society have a major role to play in mobilizing support for the successful implementation of NEPAD. But in giving our support we must be mindful of the inadequacies and weaknesses of the private sector and civil society. They tend to lack resources and the necessary capacity to assist in the implementation of NEPAD programmes. It is here that the United Nations can be helpful. It is my hope that you will spend some time to deliberate on the resources, capacity and capacity utilization of the private sector and civil society in their quest to play a meaningful role in the implementation of NEPAD. I am equally convinced that you will come up with appropriate solutions and the United Nations will play its part in remedying the identified gaps. We as a government are also prepared to be supportive of such an endeavour.

Mr. Chairman,

To conclude, we as a government believe that NEPAD constitutes a credible and comprehensive development framework that critically identifies and articulates the concerns of the African people. It is also our expectation that NEPAD will enable Africa to build a new development partnership of mutual interest, respect and cooperation with the international community including the United Nations system even as we accept that primary responsibility is ours.

In mobilizing support for NEPAD we recognize the complementary role of our external development partners. But it is the critical role of our internal partners as stakeholders and partners in development that we need to appreciate the role of the private sector and civil society. They are part of the embodiment of the aspirations of the African people, and should ensure that their respective endeavours are linked to NEPAD. They have to be encouraged to understand NEPAD and be actively involved in the process of implementation, as well as in its monitoring and evaluation processes. The private sector and civil society should indeed assume a frontline role in identifying their own critical concerns and interests and assist in determining how these can be incorporated in the framework of NEPAD implementation.

NEPAD holds a lot of prospect but a great deal of effort will have to be made by all stakeholders before it succeeds. We are all therefore duty bound to mobilize support for NEPAD and to recognize in particular the contribution of the private sector and civil society in this common endeavour. Besides, we need a network of effective and beneficial relationships and partnerships, that tie in national, bilateral and multilateral efforts and programmes.

Mr. Chairman,

Ladies and gentlemen, I have no doubt at all in my mind that this Workshop will be characterised by lively discussions and fruitful exchanges, in an open and frank manner so that at the end of it all, the output will move NEPAD forward.

At this junction, I would like on behalf of the Ministry of Regional Cooperation and NEPAD to express appreciation to the United Nations Office of the Special Advisor on Africa (OSAA) and UNDP Ghana for organizing this Regional Workshop. I also appreciate the responsiveness of all participants who have come from all corners of Africa and beyond to represent your organizations.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We must not relent in implementing this ambitious programme of building and resilient economies and democratic societies. In this respect, the African leaders are convinced that Africa, a continent whose development process has been marked by false starts and failures, will succeed in this initiative.

I thank you for your attention and wish you fruitful deliberations.

God bless you all.

Annex II: Work Programme

Wednesday, 28 May:

08.30-09.00: Registration

09.00-10.00: Opening Session

- Remarks by Mr. Alfred Sallia Fawundu, UNDP Resident Representative to Ghana
- Remarks by Ms. Yvette Stevens, Director, United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA)
- Opening statement by Hon. Dr. Kofi Konadu Apraku, Minister of Regional Cooperation & NEPAD, Ghana

Break

10.15-11.30: Plenary Session I

- Purpose of the meeting by Ms. Raj Bardouille, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, OSAA
- Brief Overview of NEPAD Goals and Priorities, including the New Partnership Approach
- Presentation by Ms. Yvette Stevens, Director, OSAA
- General debate

11.30-13.00: Plenary Session II

Role of the Private Sector to Support the Implementation of NEPAD

- Presentation by a resource person, Dr. Karamo Sonko
- General debate

13.00-14.00: Lunch Break

14.00-15.30: Plenary Session III

- Mobilizing the Support of Civil Society for the Implementation of NEPAD
- Presentation by a resource person, Dr. Gatachew Demeke
- General debate

Break

15. 45-17.00: Plenary Session IV

Role of Women's Organizations to Support NEPAD

- Presentation by a resource person, Dr. Adele Manguelle
- General debate

17.00-18.00: Plenary Session V

Ghana's Experience in Forging Partnerships with the Private Sector and the Civil Society for the Implementation of the Priorities of NEPAD

- Presentation by Dr. Francis Appiah, Acting Director, Ministry of Regional Cooperation & NEPAD, Ghana
- General debate

18.00-19.00: Plenary Session VI

Wrap up

Thursday, 29 May:

09.00-17.00: Two Parallel Break-out Sessions

- (i) Private Sector
- (ii) Civil Society, including Women's Organizations

Friday, 30 May:

09.00-11:00 Plenary Session VII

Reports of the Break-out Sessions

- Presentation of Group Reports
- General Debate

Break

11.30-13.00: Plenary Session VIII

- Way forward
- Closure of the meeting

Annex III: List of Participants

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