WORKING WITH NEPAD/AFRICAN UNION FOR CHANGE AND RENEWAL IN THE CONTINENT

PRESENTATION

by

IBRAHIM A. GAMBARI
Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa

At

THE AFRICA GRANTMAKERS’ AFFINITY GROUP ANNUAL RETREAT
HAYES MANSION CONFERENCE CENTER
SAN JOSE
CALIFORNIA

January 19, 2005
1. **Introduction**

I wish to thank you for inviting me to participate in this brain-storming annual meeting of the Africa Grantmakers’ Affinity Group. Being here with you is very encouraging to me because you have shown through on-the-ground activities that you are dedicated to the nexus between actions and concepts aimed at improving conditions in Africa. In this regard, I am delighted to share my views with you on the opportunities that exist as well as the challenges that we face in working with African institutions, governments, and peoples for the attainment of common objectives. My presentation will be in three parts.

First, I would like to give an update on current developments in the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD). NEPAD is Africa’s flagship framework that provides the nexus between peace and development and also a strategic focus for the work of all stakeholders – countries, development partners, multilateral institutions, the private sector, foundations, and civil societies in the continent. As a programme of the African Union, NEPAD provides us with a framework for linking isolated efforts and making them part of a greater whole – each of us lending our uniquely important and diverse contributions to the overall effort aimed at peace and development in the continent.

Second, I hope you would welcome a briefing on the role of my Office, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA), which works within the United Nations Secretariat and reports directly to the Secretary-General. And looking at your resource-rich web-site, AGAG is rapidly reaching its goal of becoming the primary source of US foundation funding information in Africa. In this regard, it is my hope that you will consider OSAA as part of your global network and will call upon our resources by linking to our website.

Finally and looking ahead, I would like to suggest a number of ways in which my Office can support your efforts to identify and expand links with compatible groups throughout Africa.

2. **NEPAD/African Union Symbolising Hope and Progress in Africa**

Africa is on the cusp of change and renewal. So much so that some observers point to many parallels between now and the immediate post independence era of the 1960s. Then as now, there was considerable hope about the course of events in Africa. Democracy was also in the ascendancy. There was a crop of (new) leaders in most African countries, who were inspired by and committed to Pan-Africanism. Where the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was formed in 1963 as a practical expression of political commitment to a regional political solidarity, the African Union, which was inaugurated in 2002, has reinforced the growing importance of regionalism in an era of globalization. Taken together, the African Union and NEPAD -- which was adopted in 2001 -- are key instruments for the region’s political, economic and social renewal. The
African Union and NEPAD have come to symbolize the hope and progress in Africa today; indeed, what some African leaders have referred to as the African Renaissance.

As the recognition has grown that durable peace is a necessary condition for development, regional and international efforts to develop mechanisms to mediate and manage conflicts in Africa have multiplied. The United Nations has played and continues to be actively engaged in mediation and peacekeeping efforts in Africa. The newly established African Union is building its capabilities in these areas. Hence, in July 2002, the AU also adopted the Peace and Security Protocol, an instrument that should enable the AU to play an effective role in peace and security matters and conflict resolution. One of the most attractive aspects of this protocol is the establishment of the African Peace and Security Council as a standing decision-making body for the prevention and management of conflicts and promotion of peace in the continent. The responsibilities of the African Peace and Security Council include the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa, from early warning to peace-building activities. The Protocol has entered into force since 19 December 2003 and the Peace and Security Council has been constituted. Some of the regional economic communities in Africa have also established peace and security mechanisms, including non-aggression pacts.

The international community has been supportive of Africa's efforts to build its peace and security architecture. For example, the G8 has agreed to support the AU peacekeeping efforts through providing some funding and training for the proposed stand-by brigade of troops. Moreover, the European Union has provided the African Union with 250,000 Euros for the African Peace Fund. The need for readily deployable African peacekeeping troops has been more recently demonstrated by the pressure for the expansion of AU troops presence in Darfur and the despatch of same to Somalia to facilitate the relocation of the new government from Nairobi to Somalia.

Turning to NEPAD, we should realise that this is the policy framework adopted in 2001 by African leaders which is now also supported by Africa’s development partners. NEPAD is an African owned and African-driven programme which invites cooperation and support from external parties to ensure that the continent’s extensive development needs can be met as expeditiously as possible.

Meanwhile, NEPAD has focused on promoting a number of priority programmes and I would like to discuss some of the key ones such as: the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP); the Short-Term Action Plan for Infrastructure (STAP); NEPAD Environment Initiative; NEPAD Health Strategy; and the African Peer Review Mechanism.

**NEPAD Agriculture**

A comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) has been articulated under NEPAD. CAADP aims to promote interventions that best respond to the widely recognised crisis in African agriculture, manifested in persistent food
shortages, famines and increasing emergency food aid support. CAADP has been designed to promote investment in four key areas that can make a difference to Africa’s food and agriculture situation. These are extending the area under sustainable land management and reliable water control; improving rural infrastructure and trade-related capacities for improved market access; increasing food supply and reducing hunger; and agricultural research, technological dissemination and adoption. The NEPAD secretariat is supporting the efforts of individual African countries and the regional economic communities to prepare country specific projects in these areas. At the same time, work has been initiated to develop a programme in a fifth area, namely forestry, fisheries and livestock to be integrated into CAADP.

Much progress has been made on several policy and institutional issues concerning the implementation of CAADP. African governments adopted a declaration on agriculture and food security in Maputo in July 2003 committing themselves to allocate at least 10% of national budgetary resources to agriculture within five years. A number of countries have confirmed achieving this target. A CAADP Support Group has been established which will provide technical assistance to support governments in formulating projects, coordinating multilateral support, and assessing capacity building needs at the national and regional levels. An extraordinary summit of the African Union held on 27 February 2004 adopted the Sirte Declaration which outlines measures to effectively harness water resources in support of agricultural development in Africa at the national, regional and continental levels.

Despite progress in the implementation of CAADP, a number of problems persist. Many African countries will not meet the target of dedicating 10% of budgetary resources to agriculture in the next five years. Agricultural extension services which are so crucial for disseminating new knowledge and practices continue to suffer from lack of funding and a critical mass of technical expertise. I encourage members of AGAG to consider these areas as priorities for foundation project assistance.

**NEPAD - Infrastructure**

A short-term action plan (STAP) for infrastructure was developed in July 2002. The Plan was prepared with the active support of such partner institutions as the African Development Bank, the World Bank and the European Development Fund. Projects have been identified in the following areas: energy, including hydro-schemes, transport (road and air); water and sanitation; and ICTs.

The African Development Bank and World Bank have already provided financial support to STAP. From 2002-2004, ADB has financed 20 infrastructure projects to the tune of US$520 million and mobilized about US$1.6 billion in co-financing of those projects. ADB has also mobilized resources for the development of the Medium to Long term Strategic Framework for infrastructure development, which is expected to be competed by 2006. The World Bank has approved funding for at least half of the “Top 20” prioritised projects under the STAP and for the CAADP multi-country agricultural
productivity programme. Financial support for these projects is provided from its regional programme of US$200-300 million annually.

The energy sector is the most advanced in terms of project funding. ADB and the World Bank have approved funding for several energy-related projects in West Africa and Southern Africa. At the same time, the e-Africa Commission continues to lead the effort in NEPAD’s ICT initiative, with the e-school project as the centrepiece of that effort.

There are three main constraints to the accelerated and effective implementation of the infrastructure projects under NEPAD: the project approval cycle of partner institutions remains too long; there are insufficient grant resources for project preparation; and several African countries as well as the regional economic communities suffer severe capacity constraints. Again, members of AGAG may consider efforts to provide support in these areas of capacity building for specific countries in need.

**NEPAD - Environment**

An action plan on the Environment Initiative of NEPAD was endorsed by the AU Summit in Maputo in July 2003. The plan covers such areas as combating land degradation, drought and desertification; conserving Africa’s wetlands; conservation and sustainable use of marine, coastal and freshwater resources; preventing, controlling and managing invasive species; combating climate change; cross-border conservation and management of natural resources; cross-cutting issues of health and environment; transfer of environmentally sound technologies; and assessment and early warning for natural disasters. The Action Plan was developed by a consultative process that resulted in the identification of over 200 projects. These are projects whose implementation will have a direct impact on preserving Africa’s environmental resources as well as contributing to poverty eradication and fostering sub-regional and regional integration.

To build international consensus for and mobilise resources for Africa’s main priorities, a Partners Conference on the Action Plan of NEPAD was held in Algeria in 2003. The NEPAD secretariat has received funding to the tune of $250,000.00 from the World Bank managed Norwegian Trust Fund, as seed money, for the implementation of the NEPAD Environmental Action Plan.

**NEPAD - Health**

An updated NEPAD Health Strategy was adopted in July 2003. Progress in the health sector is benefiting from international support generated at the international conference on malaria and a summit focussing on infectious diseases. The health sector has also benefited from the funding made available from the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and WHO’s recent 3x5 initiative, under which anti-retroviral drugs are being made available to 3 million HIV/AIDS patients by 2005. African governments themselves have agreed to expand their expenditures on health to reach the target of 15% of their national budget but this is a significant challenge for countries
where debt servicing may exceed 25 %* of the annual budget. The magnitude of health problems remains daunting, requiring considerable scaling up of national and international effort in support of health programmes in Africa. All efforts of the Grantmakers Group in this arena are appreciated. It is truly the case that even small amounts of money can affect many lives in Africa.

**NEPAD - African Peer Review Mechanism**

Considerable progress has been made in moving forward the African Peer Review Mechanism[APRM]. Twenty-four countries have signed on to the APRM. Country support missions have been fielded to four countries (Ghana, Rwanda, Mauritius and Kenya). ECA, UNDP and ADB have participated in and provided technical support for these support missions. Support missions are planned for three more countries (Mali, Uganda and Mozambique) in the first quarter of 2005. A Trust Fund for the APRM has been established with an initial contribution from UNDP of $750,000.00 and an additional pledge of US$1.25 million. UNDP has also provided financial and technical support to participating countries. At the recent conference in Algiers, four countries Algeria, Egypt, Nigeria and South Africa pledged voluntary contributions of US$1 million each to the APRM Trust Fund. These pledges of voluntary contribution to the APRM taken together with the establishment of targets of expenditures on NEPAD priorities have given practical expression to the principle of ownership of NEPAD through adequate funding.

Some of the main challenges that lie ahead include ensuring that country review processes conform to high technical standards, are conducted with great impartiality, and that the recommendations of the review are acted upon swiftly by African governments. It is also critical that Africa’s development partners honour their agreement to promote and support the African-driven process by providing additional financial assistance to countries that receive high marks in the independent reviews, indicating compliance with democratic principles, free expression including a free press, protection of human rights, and an independent judicial system.

This is a brief summary of the current stage of progress in NEPAD which perhaps gives you an indication of what needs re-enforcement and where additional efforts are required. I would like to move on now and talk briefly about the role of the UN system and of my office in supporting NEPAD.


The role of my office which is located in the New York UN Secretariat Headquarters is to support NEPAD implementation at the global level through reporting, advocacy and analytical work. One of the most important functions of my office is to encourage policy coherence on the part of development partners in support of Africa in its multidimensional forms: direct foreign investment, increased aid, trade liberalisation,
extended debt forgiveness, increasing credit guarantee financing and providing support for small-and medium-scale enterprises. Meanwhile, I wish to inform you that the Secretary General has established a Panel of eminent personalities to advise him on measures to promote international support to NEPAD. The Panel met in September 2004 and will issue its report in April 2005.

The UN system’s support for NEPAD rests on four pillars: funding of NEPAD programmes, institutional support to the NEPAD Secretariat, collaboration among the agencies and advocacy. Besides the World Bank and UNDP, a number of UN system entities, for example, FAO, UNEP, IFAD, UNESCO, ITU, and WFP have provided or mobilized resources for specific NEPAD programmes during the past year. A few have also offered technical assistance in developing projects or seconded staff to the NEPAD secretariat. The regional consultation mechanism of UN agencies working in Africa convened by ECA is the main anchor for coordinated support for NEPAD. At its 6th meeting held in Addis Ababa in July 2004, the agencies agreed to undertake joint programming on capacity building for the NEPAD Secretariat and to explore establishing stronger linkages between thematic clusters.

4. **Looking Ahead: Suggestions for Collaboration Between AGAG and OSAA**

This leads me to my final comments which relate to areas of our work which may be of particular interest to you as members of the Africa Grantmakers Affinity Group while also suggesting areas of possible collaboration between your Group and my Office at the United Nations. In this regard, some of our analytical and outreach activities are centred on promotion of micro-finance activities and networking with African civil society organisations.

My office publishes and regularly updates a Directory of African NGOs. Extensive details on more than 3500 organizations are available on CD-ROM, hard-copy and through our web-site. The comprehensive database lists full contact details for each institution as well as providing information on the functional areas in which each organisation operates. I hope you will make extensive use of our database as you seek to find new contacts and African institutions to work with.

I would like to invite you to share information about the projects that you are engaged in. It is very important, as you know, to share success stories widely. You note in your recent publication *Making a Difference in Africa: Advice from Experienced Grantmakers* that “because media coverage of Africa pays little attention to events that indicate positive trends and the efforts that Africans are making to meet the challenges they face, many grantmakers may be wary of engaging on the continent.” (p.1) I would like to include information about some of your programmes in my Office’s newsletter because it is important not only to provide regular updates on planning and strategic progress in NEPAD but also to share positive and practical examples of projects being implemented.
Finally, I would like to welcome your Group's participation in our upcoming Non-Governmental Organization Panel which will be held in New York on July 20, 2005. The Panel is entitled "Structural Prevention: Micro-Credit, Prevention of Armed Conflict and Peace-Building.

5. **Conclusions**

The establishment of the African Union and the adoption of NEPAD augur well for Africa’s quest for political stability, regional integration and economic development. There is no question that African leaders have recognized the need to take the primary responsibility to address Africa’s main challenges. But there is also no doubt that the success of these efforts will require involvement of the international community and especially the private sector and civil society organisations inside and outside Africa. It is very important to domesticate NEPAD through consultations that engage and give greater voice to all stakeholders in the NEPAD programme and its progress. Tackling these problems in a new cooperative spirit should nurture and sustain change and renewal in Africa. This is one of the key challenges of the future. I hope that your work in Africa with governments as well as with civil society organisations, informed by the priorities of NEPAD and AU, will assist us in deepening the awareness of NEPAD with a broader range of stakeholders. Meanwhile, I wish to state that I am very encouraged by the work of the members of the Africa Grantmakers Affinity Group and look forward to cooperating with you in the future.

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to be here with you and for your interest in the work of my Office.