

ACTION PLAN ON NEPAD PROPOSED BY WCC, AACC AND REGIONAL AND NATIONAL CCs 2003 - 2006

We, the participants of the Pan-African Ecumenical Consultation on the New Plan for Africa's Development (NEPAD), have gathered at the Eskom Conference Centre in Johannesburg from 23rd to 26th of March 2003 under the theme "Behold I Create a New Africa" to consider how we are called to renew our beloved continent, transform our social and political institutions, reassert African values and ensure that all of Africa's people enjoy abundant life. In particular, we have come together to recognise NEPAD as a vision embodying Africa's yearning toward total emancipation and to develop ways of increasing public awareness of NEPAD, enhancing popular involvement in its implementation, and enriching the spiritual and cultural dimensions of its vision. We hereby commit ourselves, our Churches and our National Councils to implement this plan of action. We are convinced that this action plan will translate the vision of a new Africa into a reality. We further call on the Regional Fellowships – the Fellowship of Christian Councils in Southern Africa (FOCCISA), the Fellowship of Councils of Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA), the Fellowship of Councils of Churches in West Africa (FECCIWA) and COFCEAC – the All Africa Conference of Churches and the broader ecumenical family to actively implement these plans. We have also decided to send a delegation of FECCLAHA and Nairobi representatives to meet with the AACC to communicate the outcomes of this conference.

| What to do? | AACC | Regional Councils | NCCs | Churches |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| <p>1. Formation of African Ecumenical Charter.</p> <p>The Charter will formulate what constitutes spiritual emancipation to accompany economic emancipation in NEPAD.</p> | <p>Convene the Assembly of Churches to discuss the paper.</p> <p>Develop the concept paper with input from churches which will be discussed at General Assembly in Nov. 2003</p> | <p>The draft Charter will be passed on to regional ecumenical councils for consensus building</p> | <p>The draft Charter will be discussed by National Councils of Churches (NCCs) and General Secretaries (GSs) to ensure implementation.</p> | <p>Draft Charter to be shared with churches for their input in readiness for approval.</p> <p>To promote the Ecumenical Charter at diocese and parochial level.</p> |
| <p>2. Capacity building on</p> | <p>Training and retraining of</p> | <p>Facilitate training of</p> | <p>Facilitate national training</p> | <p>Disseminate NEPAD</p> |

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| <p>issues of NEPAD.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness raising. • Information packaging • Dissemination • Skills training in analysis and advocacy • Gender needs analysis in NEPAD | <p>church leaders.</p> <p>Develop training materials and curriculum.</p> <p>Training of trainers.</p> | <p>church leaders & media personnel of NCCs from the region by the Ecumenical Documentation and Information Centre in Southern Africa (EDICISA) and similar regional communication centres.</p> <p>Regional Chairpersons / Secretaries will be responsible.</p> | <p>of leaders and organise workshops, seminars and symposiums on NEPAD. Council Departments or Desks should disseminate information.</p> | <p>vision and programme of action at grassroots level. Facilitate training of church leaders and church development workers on issues of NEPAD. Use sermons to raise consciousness on poverty eradication issues.</p> |
| <p>3. Resource mobilisation and fundraising on NEPAD.</p> | <p>Set up NEPAD Office and coordinating structure with representation from regional fellowships</p> <p>Mobilise resources for NEPAD implementation.</p> | <p>Mobilise resources for NEPAD implementation.</p> | <p>Establish or strengthen Economic Justice Desks.</p> <p>Mobilise resources for NEPAD.</p> | <p>Mobilise resources at local/congregational level to support NEPAD.</p> |
| <p>4. Monitor the implementation of NEPAD.</p> <p>Follow through the NEPAD program of action to ensure the desired outcomes are achieved including gender concerns.</p> | <p>Formulate an ecumenical framework on NEPAD.</p> <p>Continental watchdog.</p> <p>Publish and share quarterly reports at AACC, Regional Councils, NCCs and Church level.</p> | <p>Sub-regional watchdog. Monitor and guide NEPAD implementation in the sub-region. Keep the sub-region informed on Nepad implementation in each country. Develop strategies of advocating for Nepad</p> | <p>Lobby government to establish NEPAD Secretariats in countries where they do not exist.</p> <p>Lobby for government / national NEPAD Secretariat to open doors for the councils of churches to facilitate</p> | <p>Ensure that the NEPAD plan of action translates into meaningful programs capable of transforming the lives of communities within the framework of NEPAD.</p> |

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| | Establish indicators for progress and evaluation. | implementation. | meaningful engagement. | |
| 5. Advocate for the approval by African states for the establishment of institutions and protocols outlined in NEPAD: Peace & Security Council Pan African Parliament Criminal Court Peer Review to enforce NEPAD principles. | Promote the enforcement of these institutions and peace and security on the continent. Responsible person – GS of AACC. Request and lobby for observer status at AU and sub-regional bodies. | Advocate and lobby that these protocols are applied to promote peace, democracy and good governance in the region. Chairperson and GS of Regional Councils. | GSs and their National Boards/Executives to encourage their respective governments to approve the protocols. Lobby to ensure the protocols are applied in each country. | Churches leaders, clergy to mobilise communities to lobby their governments to put relevant institutions in place. |
| 6. Facilitate gender research analysis and indicators to enhance the gender perspective in NEPAD. Initiate and promote programs that involve the youth. | Conceptualisation and formulation of a Gender framework by gender desk and other departments and ecumenical networks, including women’s organisations. | Analysis of gender framework and additional input. Focus on needs of children, youth, women and men. | Ensure the NEPAD programs address gender disparities in each country. Ensure the program promotes empowerment of women. Facilitate training of gender in the context of NEPAD. Ensure gender indicators are in place to measure progress. | Facilitate gender advocacy in their respective congregations. Training on gender at local church level. Deliberate effort to carry on gender education on rights. |
| 7. Advocate for the upholding of positive African values that enhance dignity for all in | Research / Documentation / Dissemination of these positive values. Incorporate values in the | Encourage Christian Councils in the region to uphold these values in the interpretation and | Facilitate reorientation of interpretation of the Gospel to include African values that are compatible | Engage congregations to assist them to appreciate positive dimensions of African culture. |

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| the NEPAD. (Refer and include in Ecumenical Charter). Phasing out of negative culture. | Ecumenical Charter. | application of Gospel. | with the gospel. | Incorporate these values in the liturgy and practice of Christian principles. |
| 8. Bridging the gaps. Communicate with governments and influence them on NEPAD. . | Develop a pastoral letter on NEPAD appealing to African churches to engage fully in the NEPAD process. | Encourage and monitor NCCs in the sub-region to participate fully in the NEPAD program. Use information, education and communication materials to inform and monitor Nepad implementation. | Urge our governments to effectively implement NEPAD. Simplify, repackage NEPAD to fit the local context in terms of PRSPs, /DSRPs (Document de Strategie de la Reduction de la Pauvreté) National Plans and District development plans. | Facilitate interpretation of NEPAD within local context. Ensure information flow to grassroots level and translations in local languages. Establish linkages between NCCs and NEPAD secretariats for meaningful engagement. |
| 9. Conduct proper economic analysis and research to avail information for advocacy work on NEPAD. Research on commodification of public goods. | Conduct the research analysis at global level. Provide relevant statistical information for lobbying and advocating against unfair economic terms in NEPAD. Incorporate into websites. NEPAD Website: www.mapstrategy.com | Monitor with trade bodies trade imbalances. Conduct research in sub-regions on role of Multi-National Corporations, foreign investors, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in perpetuating poverty and advise on advocacy action points. Research on the impact of TRIPs. EJNs and economic desks | Conduct national awareness on unjust trade issues and exploitation. Lobby governments to negotiate for trade justice. | Educate churches on economic literacy. Advocate for cancellation of illegitimate debt. Campaign for trade justices. Churches to preach against dependency syndrome. |

| | | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------|--|--|
| | | of regional councils. | | |
|--|--|-----------------------|--|--|

It is our hope that this plan of action will not remain on paper but will be implemented by all of us, our councils and churches. It is our belief that the seeds we have sown together have fallen on fertile ground.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. [James 1: 22-24]