



A Program of African Union

**THE NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRESS REPORT – TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT**

8th February 2006

**Pretoria,
Republic of South Africa**

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INTRODUCTION

1. I would like to thank the organizers of this seminar for the opportunity given to NEPAD Secretariat to present the progress achieved in the last four years. Through efforts of African countries in the past four years, a solid foundation has been built for the successful implementation of NEPAD, particularly in creating a conducive environment for sustained development. We have witnessed the successful resolution of conflict in Cote d'Ivoire, ongoing efforts in Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and successful elections in Tanzania, Liberia and Burundi. In programme implementation, progress has been made in moving NEPAD from a concept, to policy development and initial implementation of NEPAD programmes is witnessed in many countries. During this period, a number of lessons have been learnt regarding Africa's development challenges. Some of these lessons include the need to:
 - a. enhance institutional capacity for effective and efficient programme conceptualisation, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;
 - b. integrate NEPAD priorities, values and principles into national development plans;
 - c. reinforce partnerships, within Africa, and with Africa's development partners;
 - d. harness and generate domestic financial and human resources for development;

2. The key principles and messages of NEPAD are:
 1. African ownership and responsibility;
 2. Protection and promotion of democracy and human rights;
 3. Good political, economic and corporate governance;
 4. Self reliance and reduced dependency on Aid through strengthening of the private sector;
 5. People-centred development and gender equality;

6. Partnerships with stakeholders in each country and with other African countries, including partnership with international community, strengthening Africa's voice in international organisations;
 7. Accountable leadership; and
 8. Action oriented partnership
3. There are three parts forming the framework of NEPAD:
1. The *necessary conditions* which are peace, security and good governance;
 2. *Priority sectors* including agriculture and food security, trade and market access, infrastructure development, Human development including health and education; Science and technology, culture, environment and tourism; and
 3. *Resource Mobilization*.
4. NEPAD created the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) which is an instrument voluntarily acceded to by Member States of the African Union as an African self-monitoring mechanism and its primary purpose is to foster the adoption of policies, standards and practices that lead to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated sub-regional and continental economic integration through sharing of experiences and reinforcement of successful and best practices, including identifying deficiencies and assessing the needs of capacity building.
5. The goal of the APRM is to accelerate progress towards adoption and implementation of the priorities and programmes of NEPAD, achieving the mutually agreed objectives and compliance with best practice in respect of each of the areas of governance and development. This can only be achieved through the sustained efforts of the country itself, involving all stakeholders including Parliamentarians, Local Government and Municipalities. APRM requires that each country carefully develops a Programme of Action with time bound objectives and linked to national budgets, local government or Municipality

budgets to guide all stakeholders in the actions required to achieve the country's vision. Parliaments and Parliamentarians must be effectively engaged in this process.

Africa's scope for domestic mobilisation of resources is limited by poor growth. Even though, African countries need to take steps to enhance domestically raised revenue, mobilise savings within their borders, to harness African capital held outside of the continent, and harness intra-African capital flows. This priority is central to the notion of African ownership, which compels African governments to look inward first.

6. The NEPAD approach to each of these priorities includes:

1. A broad range of measures to more effectively mobilize and manage public resources include tax reform; improved fiscal prudence and discipline; improved public debt management; anti-corruption initiatives and civil service, and public administration reform.
2. Higher savings rates are only likely with higher income levels. However there is a range of measures that African governments might take in ensuring that higher savings rates do materialize. Such measures include sustained campaigns to inculcate the savings culture; modernization of savings institutions; pension scheme reform; regulatory and legislative reform; and financial market development.
3. Estimates suggest that in 2000 Africans held up to US\$400 billion or 35 percent of their wealth outside Africa. This was equivalent to the size of Africa's debt or 92 percent of GDP. Conditions of peace, security, and sound political and economic governance, as well as the development of effective financial markets and the creation of attractive economic opportunities, form the basis of any approach to attracting this capital back to Africa.

4. In the case of intra-African capital flows, improved cross-regional infrastructure connectivity (physical, electronic, and financial) as well as harmonisation of regulatory policy framework are essential to increase intra-Africa investment and trade flows.
5. In the short to medium term, however, many of the poorest African countries will not be able to mobilise sufficient resources within their borders, or within the greater region, and will need to rely on capital flows from outside of Africa to obtain sufficient resources to meet the infrastructure financial needs. These capital flows may be official development assistance and debt relief, or private.
7. The private sector has responded through the formation of NEPAD Business Groups in a number of countries including South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya. The African Business Roundtable launched a continent-wide NEPAD Business Group. At the global level, in the United States of America, the Corporate Council for Africa is cooperating with African businesses to improve levels of investment, the Corporate Council for Africa in Canada joined the efforts of NEPAD to increase investment in productive areas, the Commonwealth Business Council and the World Economic Forum all joined to promote NEPAD all around the world. The Parliamentarians must be engaged with private sector to encourage investment in Africa.
8. The countries of the South including Brazil, India, China and Malaysia have also become partners in the implementation of NEPAD. Africans in the Diaspora have shown interest and are being mobilised through a number of initiatives including Africa Recruit, a joint venture between NEPAD Secretariat and the Commonwealth Business Council and the NEPAD Council formed by leading African scientists working in the United States and Europe.

9. We have an important challenge, which is the promotion of social and economic development of our countries. Globalisation places a new and additional pressure upon African countries to interact internationally with each other, both within their own regions and on a wider global stage. The increasing prevalence of corruption, injustice, lack of respect for human rights in Africa constitutes a threat for successful implementation of NEPAD.

PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION

Capacity Building

10. In July 2005 the NEPAD Secretariat obtained a grant from the Africa Capacity Building Foundation, whose purpose is to strengthen the institutional capacity of the NEPAD Secretariat, as well as that of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to enable them to implement NEPAD. The budget for the capacity building of RECs has been fully allocated to the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). This decision has been based on the fact that ECCAS is one of the least empowered RECs to implement NEPAD programs and projects. The seed funds will be used to develop the necessary systems and procedures to enhance the implementation of NEPAD, as well as to recruit a NEPAD focal point, which will assist the ECCAS to create awareness of NEPAD among ECCAS member states and to mobilise additional resources for the recruitment of sectoral experts. This support to ECCAS is complimentary to the support extended to all RECs for the recruitment of Natural Resources Coordinators, which has been concluded with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Infrastructure

11. The African Development Bank (AfDB) as the lead institution in the implementation of NEPAD infrastructure projects has reconfirmed its commitment to increasing resources for the acceleration of implementation of infrastructure projects. The President of the AfDB has committed himself to working more closely with the African Union (AU) Commission, NEPAD Secretariat, individual countries, Regional Economic Communities, and African Ministers of Finance, to ensure that the implementation of the hundred and twenty infrastructure projects/programmes approved by the HSGIC are fast-tracked.
12. Within the period 2002-2005, the AfDB has financed sixteen projects, in the STAP amounting to US\$ 629.1 million and mobilized about US\$ 1.6 billion through co-financing of these projects with other development partners. An additional 13 other projects/studies for an estimated total cost of US\$ 522.7 million are in the 2006 Lending Programme (*see Annexure 1*).
13. Through NEPAD engagement, Japan-JICA, is funding 38 projects (*Annexure 2*) in infrastructure, covering water, transport, energy & ICT.
14. India's US\$200 million credit line, secured through the NEPAD process, is being accessed by African countries. A credit line of US\$18 million has been extended to the Government of Senegal for the purchase of 350 TATA buses. Similarly a credit line of US\$40 million has been extended to the Government of Angola for rehabilitation of the Moçamedes Railway. Negotiations are at an advanced stage for extending a US\$27.70 million line of credit to the Governments of Mali and Senegal for the acquisition of railway coaches and locomotives from India.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

15. *Eastern Africa Submarine Cable System (EASSy)*: The cable system connects Mtunzini in South Africa to Port Sudan in Sudan, a distance of about 9,900Km. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) have been signed for collaborating in the

planning and implementation of backhaul links. These links connect land-locked countries to the submarine cable. The e-Africa Commission has participated in the development of the project for the past 2 years, and chairs the Backhaul Workgroup. The EASSy MOU Signatories are as follows: Botswana Telecom Corporation, Dalkom Co. Ltd (Somalia), Djibouti Telecom, Ethiopia Telecom Corporation, Malawi Telecom Ltd, MTN Uganda, Rwanda Telecom, Sentech (South Africa), Sudan Telecom Ltd, TDM Mozambique, Telkom Kenya, Telecom Malagasy, Telkom South Africa, Uganda Telecom, Zanzibar Telecom, Kenya Data Network (Kenya), SatCom Networks Africa (Tanzania), Zambia Telecom, Onatel (Burundi), TTCL (Tanzania), Tel one (Zimbabwe), TeleCel (Burundi).

16. At an international Data Gathering Meeting (DGM) held in Cape Town in June 2005, the EASSy parties and a handful of overseas telecom operators pledged US\$205 million towards the development of the project. A contract for laying the EASSy cable is to be issued in February 2006. In the meantime, a Construction and Maintenance Agreement (C&MA) has been drafted and is expected to be concluded and signed in the first quarter of 2006. The C&MA is a shareholder's agreement defining the rights and obligations of each investor. Cable construction is to start 1st quarter of 2006 and take between 18-20 months. The cable would be ready for commercial service in the second half of 2007.
17. *NEPAD e-Schools Initiative*: The NEPAD e-Schools initiative has been launched and Demo have been officially launched in the following countries:
 - i. Uganda, 18 July 2005, Bugulumbya Secondary School
 - ii. Ghana, 25 July 2005, Ola Girls Secondary School
 - iii. Lesotho, 25 August 2005, Lesotho High School
 - iv. Kenya , 27 September 2005, Isiolo Girls Secondary School
18. Out of the four country launches to date, two are girls' schools and two are mixed schools. An evaluation programme to assess the educational value of the initiative is now underway.

19. Member governments of the following countries have signed the NEPAD e-Schools Demo MoU, which sets out the rights and obligations of the parties involved in implementing the Demo in their countries:
- i. Ghana, 10 June 2005
 - ii. Senegal, 14 June 2005
 - iii. Uganda, 1 July 2005
 - iv. Lesotho, 7 July 2005
 - v. Kenya, 10 August 2005
 - vi. Rwanda, 26 August 2005
 - vii. South Africa, 4 November 2005

Agriculture and Food Security

20. Africa is still food insecure in contrast with good agro-ecological zones which can produce enough food for Africa and the rest of the world. Efforts are being made by African countries to increase food production and productivity. However, in the past two years there is an increase in the number of persons “hungry from 176 million to 210 million due to population increasing more than the rate of increase in food production and availability.
21. The World Bank / GEF have allocated a grant for investment in sustainable land management over the next 4 years to African countries. The sum of US\$ 700,000 grant has already been approved to allow the NEPAD Secretariat and FAO to work with African countries and identify the activities in the 4-year program.
22. The United States (US) Government is currently realigning its Initiative to End Hunger in Africa to support the CAADP agenda. The projected funding under the initiative is \$200 million per annum for a period of five years. The activities to be supported include enhancing agribusiness activities and market development.

23. In collaboration with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) NEPAD is currently supporting national food fortification initiatives in 8 countries. It is expected that at least 30 countries will receive GAIN fortification grants by 2015. Commonly consumed staples and condiments will be fortified with essential vitamins and minerals to improve nutrition security. GAIN has already made available the sum of \$1.8 million to Ghana over three years to implement the national fortification of wheat flour and oil. GAIN has also made available to Zambia \$2 million for fortification maize meal. Botswana is forming a National Fortification Alliance and drafting a proposal for a small grant from GAIN.
24. Nigeria launched the school feeding programme in Nasarawa State in October targeting 30 million school children. The launch was officiated by His Excellency President Obasanjo. A maize/soya based fortified beverage – containing over 15 micronutrients is provided to the pupils. Cassava based formulations have been tested to replace the maize.
25. The World Bank has launched the preparatory programme for the Multi-Country Agricultural Productivity Program (MAPP) in three RECs, i.e., SADC, ECOWAS and ECCAS. In October 2005 SADC signed an agreement of \$1 million to begin a process of project preparation. In addition the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) has agreed to finance one position at SADC Secretariat to facilitate the implementation of MAPP.
26. The AfDB has approved the NERICA development project in seven West African countries for a total amount of \$33.5 million. Consultations between NEPAD, WARDA, and JICA are in progress to expand NERICA production in Central, East and Southern Africa.
27. The World Bank has established a fisheries seed fund (\$60 million) for sustainable management of large marine ecosystems in selected countries in West,

Southern, and East Africa within the CAADP framework. FAO Fisheries Unit has been contracted to prepare the project. NEPAD is exploring ways of initiating a similar programme for inland fisheries.

28. The NEPAD Secretariat has received seed funding from the World Bank in the amount of US\$ 348 000 (Three Hundred and Forty Eight Thousands) to develop a tracking system that will monitor the commitment share of agriculture in the national budgets to 10% within a period of 5 years. Networking and Advocacy

Trade and Market Access

Outcomes of the WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong

1. The WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong on the 18th December 2005 reached partial agreement, with a commitment to reach a comprehensive agreement on all aspects of a new WTO round by 30th April 2006. The main elements agreed on of relevance to Africa are:
 - The elimination of Agricultural export subsidies by 2013.
 - A “development package” for the poorest developing countries made up of: (1) duty-free, quota free access to developed country markets for 97% of their exports (2) An “aid for trade” package to help the poorest countries to develop their export capacity.
 - A deal to eliminate export subsidies for cotton by 2006.
2. The challenge for Africa now is for governments to make compromises, taking into account the common interest in success, and the collective cost of failure. The NEPAD HSGIC may therefore wish to call upon WTO governments, especially the OECD members to adhere to the time-table established at Hong Kong for the course of 2006.

Human Development

Education

29. In education priority is being given to *Basic Education and Education for All*. Preparatory work is under way for a planning conference for the SADC region. In the area of *Building Capacity in Education Research and Development in Africa*, focus in implementation is being given to developing a database of research and development projects for secondary schools in Africa. The NEPAD Secretariat is working closely with the ECOWAS Secretariat for accelerated government commitment to gender equality in the region.

30. For *Distance Education and Teacher Training and Development project*:, baseline studies have been undertaken in Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Mozambique in collaboration with UNISA (University of South Africa), AVU (African Virtual University), COL (Commonwealth of Learning) and NOUN (National Open University of Nigeria) with a funding support from the Japanese International Corporation Agency (JICA).

31. In the area of *Education in Post-Conflict Environments: Mathematics, Science and Technology Education for Teachers project*, missions are currently planned by NEPAD Secretariat and SMASSE-WECSA Association (Strengthening of Mathematics and Science Education – West, East, Central, Southern Africa) to 5 post-conflict countries (Angola, Democratic Rep of Congo, Mozambique, Rwanda and Sudan).

Health

32. Countries have continued to use the AU/NEPAD Health Strategy in advancing their national health plans. Several projects (Annexure) have been implemented with the financial support of the African Development Bank. Support for the

development of African health knowledge institutions and centers of excellence is on the increase. Health, in particular HIV and AIDS are being mainstreamed into NEPAD priority programs such as Agriculture, Education, ICT, and Science and Technology. NEPAD continues to play a central role in processes to establish an African Human Resources for Health (HRH) Platform aimed at harnessing sufficient human resources to address Africa's health crisis. As part of NEPAD's objective of ensuring that that the continent becomes an effective participant in global matters of relevance, NEPAD participated in the Global HRH Transitional Working Group that is driving world developments on critical issues such as migration of health professionals.

Environment & Tourism

Environment

1. *Development of NEPAD Sub-regional Environment Action Plan (SREAPs):*

Implementation of the GEF Medium Size Project (MSP) on Capacity-Building Programme for the Development of Sub-regional Environmental Action Plans of NEPAD is progressing well. The capacity building MSP is composed of three main elements: the development of five¹ Sub-regional Environmental Action Plans (SREAPs); a stock taking exercise, gap analysis and finalization of bankable projects; and a Technical Support Unit. Consultative meetings, which included representatives from RECs, national Ministries of Environment, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) as well as development partners working in the region, to review each of draft NEPAD SREAPs were undertaken in Central Africa (Libreville), Eastern Africa (Djibouti), North Africa (Algiers), Southern Africa (Gaborone) and West Africa (Abuja). The revised draft SREAPs will be presented for adoption by the respective Ministers of Environment of the sub-regions. The project manager of this capacity building MSP has since been

¹ NEPAD Sub-regional Environment Action Plans (SREAPs) are being developed for Central Africa, Eastern Africa; North Africa; Southern Africa and West Africa

seconded to the NEPAD Secretariat by UNEP/GEF, as the new NEPAD Environment Advisor.

33. *Africa Stockpiles Programme*: The Africa Stockpiles Programme (ASP) aims to clear accumulated obsolete pesticide stocks and associated contaminated materials from Africa and put in place measures to prevent their recurrence. Through its multitude of partners that are supporting this programme, the project has now been officially approved by the World Bank, who have signed a collaborative agreement with the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), including the setting up of an ASP Project Coordination Unit (CPU) at the NEPAD Secretariat. The CPU is due to be established by the end of January 2006. National project offices are currently being set up in Tunisia, Ethiopia and South Africa.

Tourism

34. *Ministerial Steering Committee to Guide Implementation of AU/NEPAD Tourism Action Plan*: The current Chairman of this Ministerial Steering Committee, the Hon. Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Nigeria, held the inaugural meeting on the margins of the 2nd Commonwealth African Tourism Ministers' Meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, in April 2005. Amongst other recommendations, the meeting called for harmonisation of the Action Plan with that of the WTO CAF; and the need to develop criteria for the selection of priority projects to support the implementation of the AU/NEPAD Tourism Action Plan as well as a Communication Strategy.
35. *SADC Tourism Investment Promotion Initiative*: Through funding from the DBSA and the NEPAD Secretariat UNDP TSF Fund, and with the support of RETOSA, draft guidelines on Tourism Investment Promotion in SADC have been developed.

36. *Human Resources Development in Public Sector Tourism:* The NEPAD Secretariat, the South African Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) and the Spanish Government have been working together to in Strengthening Institutional Capacity and Reinforcing Human Resources and Quality Assurance in tourism. A Tourism and Development Seminar, held in May/June 2005 in Johannesburg, South Africa, with the aim to fostering awareness of tourism as a development tool for Africa, within the context of NEPAD. The Seminar attracted senior government officials from Angola, Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania and Uganda.

Science and Technology

37. *Design of science, technology and innovation indicators:* The Secretariat has, with support of experts, prepared a comprehensive body of science, technology and innovation indicators that are now being considered to guide countries in the preparation of national science and technology strategies and plans.

38. *The African Biosciences Initiative:* Regional networks have been established in all the regions of the continent. Biosciences network for Southern Africa has been established with the regional hub hosted by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in the Republic of South Africa. The activities of the network will involve research and development in human health, animal health/production, industrial and mining bio-processing, environmental remediation and plant/crop biotech.

39. The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in Nairobi, is hosting biosciences hub for the Biosciences East and Central Africa (BECA) and major progress has been made in improving infrastructure at the hub. Nodes to the hub that are being considered are Makerere University in Uganda and the Kigali

Institute of Science and Technology in Rwanda. Fellowships have been awarded to:

- A Kenyan Post Graduate Fellowship 1st May 2005 to 30th April 2006; and
- A Sudanese Fellowship leading to a PhD to start in 2006 for 2 years.

40. The Senegalese agricultural research institute (ISRA) of Senegal is hosting the regional hub for the West Africa Biosciences Network. The network will concentrate on research and development in agriculture based on priority areas identified by the region.

41. The National Research Centre (NRC) of Egypt is hosting the North Africa Biosciences Network with the Technopark of Borji Cedria of Tunisia, Biotechnology Research Centre of Libya, Mentouri University of Algeria and University of N'Djamena of Chad serving as nodes.

42. *The African Water Sciences and Technology Network*: An amount of Euro 150,000 has been mobilized for the design of a programme on research and technology for a network of centres of excellence in Water Science and Technology. The network is scheduled to be launched this year.

43. *African High-Level Panel on Modern Biotechnology*: A Panel of 14 eminent African scientists and policy analysts was established by the Secretariat of NEPAD and the African Union Commission to prepare a comprehensive common African policy position on the development and use of genetically modified crops and other products of modern biotechnology. The Panel held its first meeting in early August 2005. It has identified specific issues that require a common African approach, particularly those pertaining to trans-boundary movement of genetically modified products and their impacts on African economies.

44. *Science and Technology Consolidated Action Plan:* The second ministerial conference on science and technology was held in Dakar, Senegal 27-30 September 2005. Officially opened by President Wade, the conference brought together 27 ministers and more than 50 senior officials. It adopted Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action and agreed to create an African Science and Innovation Facility as the financial mechanism for the implementation of the Plan of Action. An indicative budget of US\$ 160 million was also adopted with aim to grow the facility to US\$ 15 billion.

Governance and Public Administration

45. *Launch of the African Management Development Institutes Network (AMDIN):* The African Management Development Institute Network was launched in August 2005. Through the leadership of institutions such as the Development Policy Management Forum (DPMF) and the South African Management Development Institute (SAMDI), this network has been under development for two years. The establishment of AMDIN, its Constitution and Executive Council serve as critical steps in re-positioning African Management Development Institutes (MDIs) to collectively respond to the challenges of public sector reform and state capability development. Also, AMDIN will enable MDIs to strengthen their capacities to effectively engage with and respond to development partners active in public sector and governance reforms.

46. *Resource Mobilisation and Strengthening Partnerships:* A Financing Agreement for €4 million has been secured from the European Commission (EC) for an initial 3 year implementation period. Work-plans are being finalised for final submission to the EC.

47. Resources have been secured from German Technical Co-operation to support the implementation of the workshop focused on state capacity development within Post Conflict Reconstruction countries. This workshop is one of four, taking place within the context of the 5th Pan African Conference. Through GTZ, Ministers from post conflict countries will attend and participate in an exchange workshop focused on their experiences in state rebuilding within a post conflict and/ or complex emergency context. GTZ is supporting also institutional capacity of the Governance and Public Administration programme.
48. In July 2005 the NORDIC development partners agreed to support the activities of the Governance and Public Administration programme. Specifically, and through NEPAD Secretariat, resources were availed for the AMDIN Launch and the Preparatory Meeting of the Ministers of Public Service for the 5th Pan African Conference.
49. The NEPAD Secretariat has facilitated the funding of capacity Building for SADC Developmental Finance Institutions for the next five years. The Programme includes two post conflict countries, Rwanda and Burundi.
50. *Senior Budget Officials*: A programme run by InWent on Planning, Budgeting and Public Finance Management was initiated in September 2004 with InWent. Material was developed and the first pilot course was run in Ghana from 15 – 19 August 2005. The programme is part of an InWent program of “Reforming Public Financial Management in support of NEPAD”. The pilot five countries participating in the Programme are South Africa, Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Egypt.

Integration of NEPAD Priorities into National Development Plans

51. National workshops were held in Lusaka, Zambia, and Luanda, Angola in September 2005. The workshops were aimed at facilitating the integration of

NEPAD priorities, targets and values into national development plans. Project specific implementation processes have been established and are being followed up by the NEPAD Secretariat.

Domestic Resources Mobilization

52. *Progress on the establishment of the Pan-African Infrastructure Development Fund:* Initial work has been undertaken towards the operationalisation of the Pan-African Infrastructure Development Fund, which is aimed at *creating a platform for basic infrastructure for accelerating growth for sustainable development in Africa*". The fund will initially focus on infrastructure sectors: Transportation (Roads, Rail, Ports, and Airports), Telecoms, Water and Energy (Gas and Electricity). Target size of the fund will be an initial US\$ 1 billion with final fund size to be in the region of US\$ 3 billion, and the initial targeted investors are public sector pension funds on the African continent.

53. Under the leadership of South Africa and Nigeria a Steering Committee supported by a secretariat has been established to lead the establishment of the Fund. South Africa and Nigeria are each to secure commitments of \$250 million from their pension funds to enable an initial commitment of \$500 million. Efforts are underway to attract other African countries for them to contribute to the first closing of the Fund which by 30th of June 2006.

Reinforcement of Partnerships

54. As part of enhancing partnerships for the speedy implementation of NEPAD, a number of MoUs have been entered into with key institutions (*Annexure 3*). In 2006 the NEPAD Secretariat will focus on actualising these partnerships for programme implementation.

Civil Society and Gender

55. The NEPAD Secretariat and the Gender Directorate of the African Union Commission worked on a common approach to gender mainstreaming and enhancing the capacity of RECS to engender their policies, programmes and actions. A 60 member Gender Task Force is at the disposal of RECS, NEPAD Secretariat, the AU and its organs including the Pan African Parliament (PAP) to provide sector specific gender expertise required at institutional and programmatic levels. The Gender Task Force will assist with monitoring the implementation of the African Union Heads of States Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality. Similarly, a mechanism has been developed for mobilizing Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to participate in the implementation of NEPAD.

Review of the United Nations Millennium Development Goal

56. The convergence of various international initiatives and events giving particular focus to Africa issues generated significant hope and optimism for addressing Africa's development challenges. One of these major international events was the 5 year review of the implementation of the 2000 United Nations (UN) Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in September 2005. The review was preceded by the release of the UN Millennium Project report in January 2005, which alerted the international community to Africa's projected inability to meet the MDGs by 2015, unless increased resources were allocated to the implementation of the continent's development priorities. Unfortunately, the review failed to meet Africa's expectations with respect to increased resources to Africa for poverty eradication. The failure by the international community to address Africa's resource requirements points to the need for Africa to look more critically into strategies for domestic resource mobilisation to address its own problems.

NEPAD integration

57. According to the Maputo Declaration, integration of NEPAD includes review of the contents of NEPAD programmes and the portfolio of the African Union as well as integration of the processes and structures. The NEPAD Secretariat has been harmonizing and synchronizing the programs and projects with those developed by the African Union. Joint meetings were held in all areas of NEPAD and the processes are being discussed between the NEPAD Secretariat and the African Union Commission for the provision of legal status and international engagement.