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Programme planning

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2012-2013

Part two: biennial programme plan

Programme 9

United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

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* A/65/50.

Overall orientation

9.1 The programme was established following the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s in 2002. As a result of that review, the General Assembly, by its resolution 57/7, brought to a close the New Agenda and endorsed the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)¹ as the framework for the international community's support to African development. In its resolution 57/7, the Assembly also outlined the substantive areas and modalities for providing such support, inter alia, underscoring the need for a structure in the Secretariat in New York to review and report on the support provided by the United Nations system and the international community for the New Partnership, and on the coordinated implementation of outcomes of summits and conferences as they relate to Africa, as well as to coordinate global advocacy in support of the New Partnership. In addition, the Assembly welcomed the actions being taken at the regional level by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to organize the activities of the United Nations system around thematic clusters covering the priority areas of the New Partnership and, in that regard, urged the strengthening of this process as a means of enhancing the effective response of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership. Finally, it called upon the United Nations system to intensify its advocacy role and public information activities in support of Africa's development. Subsequently, in its resolution 57/300, the Assembly endorsed the creation of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and entrusted to that Office the role of coordinating both reports and advocacy in support of NEPAD. The role of the Office in supporting NEPAD has been reaffirmed by the Assembly in a series of subsequent resolutions.

9.2 At the World Summit, held at the United Nations in September 2005 (see General Assembly resolution 60/1), world leaders reaffirmed their commitment to addressing the special needs of Africa, the only continent not on track to meet any of the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration (see Assembly resolution 55/2) by 2015. Subsequently, world leaders reaffirmed the special needs of Africa in the political declaration adopted by the Assembly at its high-level meeting on Africa's development needs, on 22 September 2008 (see Assembly resolution 63/1). The New Partnership includes a commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, which represents an important linkage with the Millennium Declaration. NEPAD thus substantially reflects the priorities in terms of meeting the special needs of Africa as set out in the Millennium Declaration, namely, supporting the political and institutional structures of emerging democracies in Africa; further building peacekeeping capacity in cooperation with regional organizations; taking special measures to address the challenges of poverty reduction and sustainable development by cancelling debt, increasing official development assistance, enhancing private capital flows and building capacities for trade; and helping Africa to build its capacity to tackle the spread of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases. Consequently, through its support for NEPAD, the programme will also contribute substantively to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in Africa.

9.3 A major barrier to Africa's development has been the persistence of conflicts in some of the countries of the region. The need to develop a comprehensive response to promoting peace and security and development has long been recognized and was articulated in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes

¹ NEPAD was formally adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, at its thirty-seventh ordinary session, held in Lusaka in July 2001.

of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/52/871-S/1998/318). Since the issuance of that report, in 1998, a number of United Nations initiatives in Africa have been in line with the recommendations contained therein, although a great deal still needs to be done. In recognition of this, the General Assembly, by its resolution 60/223, called upon the Secretary-General to continue to monitor progress in the implementation of the recommendations. A comprehensive review of the implementation of the original 1998 recommendations is being undertaken.

9.4 In accordance with the mandate provided in the resolutions of the General Assembly, the programme aims to (a) mobilize support and galvanize the efforts of the international community for peace and development in Africa, (b) ensure that the development of Africa remains one of the main priorities of the international community, (c) promote a supportive international framework for African development efforts, (d) encourage a coordinated and effective response by the United Nations system at the policy and operational levels in support of African development and (e) strengthen and enhance South-South cooperation in support of Africa's advancement.

9.5 Regional and international efforts have focused on the implementation of NEPAD and on assisting Africa's efforts to develop a robust peace and security architecture. The programme will support those efforts through a mix of analytical work, advocacy and outreach, and by improving coordination of the work of the United Nations system in support of Africa's development.

9.6 The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa provides overall coordination and leadership of the programme, which will be the joint responsibility of the Office, ECA and the Department of Public Information.

Subprogramme 1

Coordination of global advocacy of and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen international cooperation in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Africa

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased international community support for Africa's development, in general, and for NEPAD, in particular	(a) (i) An increase in the number of United Nations system activities in support of Africa's development (ii) Increased number of international forums addressing South-South cooperation in support of Africa
(b) Improved United Nations coordination in providing support to Africa's development	(b) Increased number of joint initiatives in support of Africa's development undertaken by United Nations system agencies
(c) Increased international awareness of Africa's development issues	(c) Increased number of visits to the websites of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa

Strategy

9.7 Responsibility for subprogramme 1 is vested in the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, which will be proactive in working closely with Member States, the African Union, the NEPAD secretariat and the entire United Nations system (including the Bretton Woods institutions) in the performance of its functions. It will encourage the building of an international infrastructure consortium, with the New Partnership for Africa's Development as the main framework, to facilitate public and private infrastructure investment in Africa and will encourage and support the initiatives of the African Union and subregional organizations aimed at preventing, mediating and resolving conflicts with the assistance of the United Nations. The Office will also continue to conduct studies and organize expert group meetings on the role of the private sector in the implementation of NEPAD, establish and maintain contacts with civil society organizations and the private sector, and encourage their participation in the implementation of NEPAD.

9.8 The subprogramme will ensure that African development issues are effectively addressed in intergovernmental debates and adequately incorporated into the resolutions emanating from that process. It will seek to raise international awareness of African development issues through advocacy and catalytic activities, participation at key forums, encouragement of United Nations system coordination, promotion of South-South cooperation and engagement with civil society and the private sector. In view of the interlinkages between peace and sustainable development in Africa, the subprogramme will continue to analyse and draw attention to the root causes of conflict in African countries, monitor early warning signals and make recommendations on steps that need to be taken to tackle violent conflicts in African countries.

9.9 The Office will continue to monitor the follow-up to international commitments made to Africa in the context of the 2005 World Summit Outcome and international forums held since 2005. It will monitor the support (including financial and technical support) given to Africa by new and emerging donors. The Office will also advocate and further raise international awareness of the importance of an effective partnership between African countries and new and emerging development partners. Furthermore, the Office will promote South-South cooperation through, inter alia, the Africa-Asia and Africa-South America cooperation processes, respectively, and provide support to other South-South forums. Through its interactions with Member States from the South, the Office will continue to encourage the convening of forums that will result in practical measures to promote South-South cooperation, with a view to enabling African countries to benefit from the sharing of experiences and potentially from technical assistance and cooperation on the part of other developing and emerging countries.

9.10 In light of the strong commitment of the African countries to improve governance through the establishment of the African Peer Review Mechanism, the Office will promote institutional capacity-building and good governance in Africa with the aim of supporting the implementation of NEPAD projects and programmes.

Subprogramme 2

Regional coordination of and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the United Nations system-wide support for the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development programme, at the regional and subregional levels, within the context of the declaration on "Enhancing United Nations-African Union Cooperation: Framework for the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union"

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced coherence, coordination and cooperation among United Nations agencies and organizations in support of the implementation of the African Union's NEPAD programmes at the regional level	(a) Increased number of joint programmes implemented by the Regional Coordination Mechanism clusters in support of the African Union's NEPAD programmes at the regional level
(b) Enhanced cooperation among United Nations agencies/organizations and the regional economic communities in support of the implementation of the African Union's NEPAD programmes at the subregional level	(b) Increased number of coordination mechanisms established at the subregional level

Strategy

9.11 Substantive responsibility for subprogramme 2 is vested in ECA. The activities under the subprogramme will be undertaken by the Economic Development and NEPAD Division. In implementing the subprogramme, ECA will work closely with other United Nations bodies at the global, regional and subregional levels, in particular with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the Department of Public Information, within the context of the Regional Coordination Mechanism and its thematic clusters.

9.12 Support by United Nations agencies has increased over the years. Nevertheless, for that support to have a tangible impact, coordination and emphasis on joint activities need to be strengthened and enhanced. The strategic focus of subprogramme 2 will therefore be on strengthening inter-agency collaboration and coordination in the implementation of technical cooperation activities by the various thematic clusters in support of the priorities identified in the African Union's NEPAD action plans. The subprogramme will also focus on improving collaboration and coordination with the African Union, the NEPAD secretariat, the regional economic communities, the African Development Bank and other regional organizations, with a view to ensuring the provision of effective support in the implementation of the African Union's NEPAD programme in the context of the framework of the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union. It will promote and support effective, coherent and coordinated actions by United Nations agencies and organizations in support of the African Union's NEPAD programme. Moreover, the subprogramme will provide substantive and effective servicing of the annual meetings of the Regional Coordination Mechanism, including monitoring, assessing and reporting on progress in the implementation of United Nations system-wide support for the African Union and its NEPAD programme.

Subprogramme 3

Public information and awareness activities in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Objective of the Organization: To raise international support for the economic, political and social development of Africa, as well as of the efforts made by Africa and the international community to promote the economic recovery and sustainable development of the region in pursuit of the goals of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced awareness of key thematic issues of NEPAD and other issues related to economic recovery and sustainable development in Africa	(a) (i) Increased percentage of the target audience expressing satisfaction with the materials published in <i>Africa Renewal</i> (ii) Increased number of online news features republished as a result of continuing interest

Strategy

9.13 Substantive responsibility for subprogramme 3 lies with the Department of Public Information. The overall strategy involves the development of global communications plans on priority issues affecting Africa, including generating support for the implementation of NEPAD in Africa and in the donor countries, and for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Those plans will be implemented by the Department in coordination with the United Nations Communications Group and the United Nations system as a whole, in particular with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and ECA. Activities will include publication of *Africa Renewal* magazine, together with a range of additional outputs, including Web-only news and analysis, background notes, press releases and briefing papers for use by non-United Nations media, both African and international. Dissemination to the general public and to target groups will be enhanced through direct contact (briefings, panel discussions, seminars) with individuals and groups, such as parliamentarians, policymakers in both Government and non-governmental organizations, trade unions, civil society and academic institutions, as well as through systematic outreach to the media in Africa and to the international mass media. Key players will be kept informed of major national and international initiatives and events that affect sustainable development in Africa.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

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| 54/234 | The causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa |
| 55/2 | United Nations Millennium Declaration |

55/210	Implementation of the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), including the initiative to establish a world solidarity fund for poverty eradication
55/214	Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
55/217	Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa
55/279	Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010
56/95	Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit
57/2	United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development
57/7	Final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development
57/144	Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit
57/300	Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change
58/233	New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support
58/235	Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa
59/254	New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support
59/255	Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa
60/222	New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support
60/223	Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa
60/1	2005 World Summit Outcome
63/1	Political declaration on Africa's development needs
63/267	New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support
63/304	Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

64/252 Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

64/258 New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

Security Council resolutions

1170 (1998) Conflict prevention and the promotion of durable peace and security and sustainable development in Africa

1197 (1998) Support for regional and subregional initiatives on Africa and strengthening of coordination between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in the area of conflict prevention and maintenance of peace

Economic and Social Council

1998/44 Integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits

Ministerial declaration adopted by the Council at its high-level segment of 2001
