



**Effective Strategies to Realize the New Partnership for Africa's
Development (NEPAD):
Mapping the Decision Processes to Implement Projects
Report of the Meeting in Addis Ababa
February 27-28, 2003**

This report presents the discussions and outcomes of a two-day meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to introduce the draft maps from the meeting took place on Feb 27 – 28, 2003. The m

meeting was well attended and included representatives from several UN agencies (UNFPA, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, and UNESCO, in addition to UNECA). Representatives from the African Development Bank, and the African Union also attended. Members of the NEPAD Secretariat had to cancel at the last minute; however, they have been continually supportive, and have received a copy of this report and the five project proposals

4. Establishment of Regional Consortiums of HIV/AIDS Centres (Health)
5. An African Code of Electoral Norms and Standards (Democracy and Political Governance Initiative)

At each session, the mapper's² presented the substantive “content” of their NEPAD support initiative, and then described the “map” — the “process” elements identified to generate the decision to implement the initiative. Each presentation was followed by an exchange of constructive criticism, coaching, and brainstorming to improve both the content as well as the methods and processes by which to secure implementation (i.e., to bring them from proposal to project phase to achieve these NEPAD goals).

Proposed Initiative 1

Illegal Resource Exploitation Armed Conflict: A Resource Plunder Database
(Stanlake Samkange, Zimbabwe)

Overview

The control and plunder of economic resources has increasingly become the rationale as well as the incentive for armed conflict in Africa, while the control of lucrative natural resources has increasingly provided

PlaNNet Finance and commercial banks in West Africa, with the support of international development agencies, will establish the fund jointly. The purpose of the Fund will be to:

- encourage the development of young and promising medium size (Tier 2) MFIs in the region by providing them with credit funds targeted to their particular stage of

who bear the greatest burdens of multiple human energy-intensive tasks that sustain rural livelihoods. Widening access to modern energy services can free up their time for social and productive activities, thereby serving as an engine for rural economic development, attracting private capital and expanding development prospects for the poor. To this end, NEPAD aims to increase modern energy access from 10% to 35% of the African population, (i.e., an increase in access to energy from 60 million people to 300 million over the next twenty years).

The present regional project, Energy for Poverty Reduction in Africa: Energising Rural Development using Multifunctional Platforms aims to catalyse policy changes to drastically enhance access to energy services by the poor in the region in order to help achieve the NEPAD objectives and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly those related to poverty, gender and the provision of energy services. The project will be co-ordinated under the auspices of the NEPAD delegation in Senegal in charge of, inter alia, the environment and infrastructure focal areas of NEPAD. Building on achievements and significant political momentum gained as a result of multifunctional platform projects in west African countries over the last decade, it intends to catalyse a wave of local and national actions that lead to a drastic up-scaling of national responses in support of increasing rural energy access and its productive applications. The three key objectives of the regional project are:

1. networking for south-south exchanges of experience, knowledge and best practice across the region on effective planning, management and expansion of decentralised rural energy systems/enterprises;
2. mainstreaming rural energy poverty issues within local, national and regional poverty reduction policies/strategies; and
3. catalysing the development and initiation of national programmes for the expansion of multifunctional platforms-based rural energy enterprises that are adapted to local conditions.

Responding to the target of NEPAD, the regional project, together with a series of to-be-established national-level multifunctional platform projects, will work collectively over the next 5 years to satisfy its set vision — to provide more efficient, reliable and sustainable energy services to rural male and female clients, representing a further 10% (in addition to the baseline percentages of the population who already have access to modern energy services) of the rural population in Sub-Saharan Africa in each of the participating countries, thus providing more possibilities to increase income, consumption, to enjoy safe water and a greater well-being, for girls particularly.

Discussion and Outcomes

The majority of questions concerned requests for supporting data to be included in the final proposal. In particular, data that provided statistical information related to cost-benefit analyses, figures to verify income generation (changes in household income before and after the MFP), real and relative costs of the MFP, possible financing opportunities, and a breakdown of the entrepreneurial activities that men and women using the platform have undertaken (including a success/failure breakdown of these).

Other questions focused on the terms and conditions by which a village may qualify for an MFP; the nature of training, support, and maintenance of the MFP after “delivery”; the cost-benefits of diesel fuel (social, economic, foreign exchange, environmental, availability and agricultural fuel substitutes), and the national policies needed to support the MFP initiative. Given the patriarchal cultural reality, there was discussion of the strategies to ensure women’s effective participation, to enable women to manage the whole enterprise, including maintenance and repair. Minimum educational requirements were touched on as was the scope for private sector partnership.

Proposed Initiative 4

Establishment of Regional Consortiums of HIV/AIDS Centres (Jacqui Ala, Center for Africa’s International Relations, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa)

Overview

In Africa the majority of HIV/AIDS prevalence occurs within the age group 15 – 24. Thus, this it is this age group that has become the focus of many HIV/AIDS programmes. However, the majority of these programmes are based at the secondary school level and it is only recently that tertiary institutions in Africa have started addressa

- Research to date regarding the benefits of targeting a university age youth cohort is inconclusive; however, many studies suggest youth 10-16 benefited most from prevention programmes. Others suggested the 15-18 age group is the optimum target group.
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Preparing an Electoral Code for the African Union, NEPAD and Independent Electoral Commissions (Chris Landsberg, Centre for Policy Studies, South Africa)

Overview

The African Union (AU), especially its Conference for Stability, Security, Development and Co-operation in Africa (CSSDCA), the AU's development programme, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), notably NEPAD's Political Governance Initiative and the proposed African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), and Independent Electoral Commissions (IECs) in Africa, made important calls for the establishment of clear governance benchmarks for 'tenets of democratic society' in Africa. Such tenets of democratic society include constitutionalism, Bills of Rights, free and fair elections, independent electoral commissions, an independent judiciary, freedom of expression, civil-military relations, anti-corruption, and inclusive systems of governance. The AU and NEPAD have called for assistance to evolve and implement such tenets of democratisation.

This project is a response to this call, and specifically targets the issue of developing an 'Electoral Code' for the AU. Electoral norms, standards, and mechanisms are some of the most important dimensions of governance in Africa, yet they have generally received scant attention. The scope of this project is to support a proposal to assist the AU's CSSDCA, the NEPAD Secretariat and the South African Independent Electoral Commission in developing criteria to guide electoral practices, and foster a sound, enabling environment for 'free and fair' elections in Africa. It will do so by focussing on developing African electoral norms, standards, and benchmarks for continental discussions and acting as a guide for 'best practice in electoral management.'

Discussion and Outcomes

This initiative is more advanced than the other four presented, and the mapper spoke at length about the recent activity to move it forward. It has thus moved from "proposal" to "project" phase. The essential point is that the map for the African Code of Electoral Norms and Standards is well advanced in time

Participants listed several priorities that should be included in the “Electoral Code,” including rules for financing political parties, the role of public opinion surveys, and the need for constructive political engagement of youth. Others raised the role of media, and especially radio facilities (the need for rules?), and the problem of rural application, where observers do not visit. The need for a menu of observation options was raised, as well as the desirability of emphasis on voter rolls. Many questions evolved out of this presentation; participants asked that the mapper consider such things as:

- Should there be an Election Assistance Fund?
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