

AFRICAN UNION

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ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION

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DECISIONS AND DECLARATIONS

**DECLARATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR
AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD)**

We, the Heads of State and Government of Member States of the African Union, meeting at the 2nd Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Maputo, Mozambique from 10 to 12 July 2003;

Recalling our decision regarding the then New African Initiative, now the *New Partnership for Africa's Development* [NEPAD], taken at the 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of African Unity in July 2001 in Lusaka, Zambia [AHG/Decl.1 (XXXVII)] where we adopted the Strategic Policy Framework and a new vision for the revival and development of Africa;

Recalling Further our decision on the Implementation of the *New Partnership for Africa's Development* [NEPAD] made at the Inaugural Session of the African Union Assembly in Durban, South Africa from 8 to 10 July 2002 [Assembly/AU/Decl. 1(I)], mandating the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee [HSGIC] and its supporting structures to ensure the implementation of the NEPAD Initial Action;

Reiterating our commitment to the principles and objectives set out in the Constitutive Act of the African Union and our common conviction that peace, security, democracy, good governance, political and social stability as well as sound economic policies are essential conditions for the sustainable socio-economic development of the African continent;

Re-Emphasising our common resolve to eradicate poverty, confront underdevelopment and arrest the marginalisation of the African continent;

Noting that the challenges and problems that prompted us to develop NEPAD as the socio-economic development programme of the African Union aimed at regenerating and reviving the African continent, have not changed;

Noting With Appreciation the Progress Report presented to us by the Chairperson of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee, H.E. President O. Obasanjo of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, describing the developments in the NEPAD programmes and activities since our last meeting in July 2002 in Durban, South Africa;

Noting Also the progress made in the areas of agriculture, especially in the preparation of detailed and costed country and region-specific agriculture projects for implementation under the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), and also in the implementation of infrastructure high priority projects in energy, transport, water and sanitation, and information and communication technology (ICT) identified under the revised NEPAD Infrastructure Short-Term Action Plan [STAP], as well as progress in developing the Medium to Long-Term Infrastructure Action Plan;

Recognising the high-level political will and involvement of African Heads of State and Government in creating conditions for sustainable development and implementing Africa's socio-economic development programmes and the crucial role played by the HSGIC and its supporting structures in ensuring the implementation of the NEPAD programmes;

Recognising Further that the primary purpose of the *African Peer Review Mechanism* [APRM] is to foster the adoption of policies, standards and practices leading to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated regional and continental economic integration;

Taking Cognisance of the need for the formal integration of NEPAD into the African Union structures and processes and the need to sustain the momentum, genuine interest, support and solidarity created by NEPAD;

Noting With Appreciation the strong support of the international community, especially as expressed in the United Nations General Assembly Declaration (A/RES/57/2) and Resolution on the NEPAD (A/RES/57/7) affirming the United Nations system's support for the implementation of the NEPAD and recommending that the NEPAD be used as the framework for supporting Africa's development by the international community, including the United Nations system;

Welcoming the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on "Strengthening of the United Nations: an Agenda for Change" (RES/A/57/300) wherein, amongst others, the Assembly endorsed the decision of the Secretary-General to establish the Office of the Special Advisor on Africa [OSAA] with the responsibilities to coordinate the United Nations support to Africa, guide reporting on Africa and coordinate global advocacy in support of NEPAD;

Noting With Satisfaction the work-in-progress in the five Clusters of UN Agencies established by the United Nations system with a view to operationalising the renewed interaction, collaboration and co-operation with Africa on the established Clusters (Infrastructure Development: Water and Sanitation, Energy, Transport, and ICTs; Governance, Peace and Security; Agriculture, Trade and Market Access; Environment, Population and Urbanization; and Human Resource Development, Employment and HIV/AIDS);

Welcoming Further the continued support by the international community and the structured engagement and dialogue by the African leaders with the leaders of the Group of Eight Most Industrialised Countries [G8] at their last Summit held from 1 to 3 June 2003 in Evian, France where the implementation of NEPAD as well as the G8 Africa Action Plan were reviewed and, amongst others, the issues of international trade and debt relief for African countries were highlighted to G8 leaders;

Noting With Encouragement the building of linkages by NEPAD, on behalf of the African Union, with other partners, initiatives and organisations such as the European Union, Nordic countries, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development process [TICAD], Association of South-East Asian Nations [ASEAN], the *Economic Community of the Southern Cone* [MERCOSUR] amongst others;

Re-Emphasising the long term nature of the NEPAD programme and our determination to use all available resources to ensure its successful implementation and to sustain the interest and momentum created by the NEPAD process in the African continent and internationally and the need to retain the leadership and co-ordination role of the HSGIC, as a sub-committee of our Assembly, dedicated to the implementation of NEPAD;

Recognising the need to provide sustainable financing for the NEPAD programmes:

Progress Report

1. **ENDORSE** the Progress Report and **COMMEND** the HSGIC and its supporting structures for their co-ordination and catalytic role in facilitating the implementation of NEPAD priority programmes and projects across the African regions and more specifically through co-operation and collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities [RECs];

African Peer Review Mechanism

2. **WELCOME** the progress made with respect to the APRM in particular the accession of a number of Member States of the African Union to the APRM as well as the appointment of the Panel of Eminent Persons and **ENCOURAGE** other Member States of the African Union to accede to the APRM as well;

Programmes Implementation

3. **URGE** that the programmes identified in each priority area, such as infrastructure and agriculture, be urgently implemented and that each region and Member State, through the RECs, provide assistance in the further development and implementation of these programmes and in the continued popularisation of NEPAD amongst all sectors of society, including and in particular the youth, women, private sector and the civil society at large, on the African continent;
4. **ACKNOWLEDGE** the linkage between the work of the Committee of African Ministers of Public Service and the programmatic thrust of NEPAD and **REQUEST** the incorporation of their work as an important element of the overall AU programme.
5. **CALL UPON** Member States and the RECs to promote and implement these priority programmes and projects as well as to develop detailed and costed action plans in the areas of health, education, culture, science and technology, environment and tourism;
6. **DECIDE** that the co-ordination of all NEPAD sectoral programmes, initiatives and related activities continue to be undertaken through the NEPAD HSGIC and its supporting structures;
7. **ENCOURAGE** the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee to explore adequate funding mechanisms for sustainable financing of NEPAD programmes and projects, including the possibility of a NEPAD Trust Fund;

Integration of NEPAD into the AU Structures and Processes

8. **MANDATE** the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee of NEPAD, supported by the NEPAD Steering Committee and the NEPAD Secretariat, to continue their vital work of ensuring the implementation of NEPAD programmes;
9. **MANDATE** the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, in consultation with the Chairperson of the HSGIC, to operationalise the following, with the flexibilities as may be required:
 - (i) establish appropriate linkages between the NEPAD Steering Committee with the relevant organs of the African Union including the Permanent Representatives Committee and the Executive Council in order to ensure integrated inputs into the work of the HSGIC;
 - (ii) enter into a temporary host agreement with the Government of the Republic South Africa with a view to providing the NEPAD Secretariat with a legal status of an AU office operating outside the African Union Headquarters for *a transitional period* of three (3) years as from July 2003, or until such time the relevant structures of the African Union are fully operational, whichever comes first;
 - (iii) formalise the working relations between the AU Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat, especially for programme co-ordination and harmonisation;
 - (iv) align and harmonise the conditions of service, rules of recruitment and accountability with those of the AU Commission; and
 - (v) develop a sustainable funding mechanism for NEPAD after its complete integration into the AU structures and processes.

10. **MANDATE** the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, in consultation with *the Chairperson of the HSGIC*, to appoint the Executive Head of the NEPAD Secretariat during the *transitional period*;
11. **ENCOURAGE** voluntary contributions from all Member States of the African Union towards the operational budget of NEPAD and its structures during the *transitional period*;

International Support

12. **CALL UPON** the international community to continue its enhanced support towards the implementation of NEPAD, and on the HSGIC to further intensify its efforts in engaging Africa's development partners in both developed and developing countries.