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**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
28-29 May 2009**

## **Report of the**

### **Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on**

***Assessment and Way Forward after 5 years: The Role of Civil Society and  
the Private Sector in the Implementation of the NEPAD Programme***

## Abbreviations/Acronyms

AAP	African Action Plan
ABR	African Business Roundtable
ACP	Africa, Caribbean and Pacific
AfDB	African Development Bank
APF	African Partnership Forum
APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
BABA	British African Business Association
BOO	Build Own Operate
BOT	Build Own Transfer
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CBC	Commonwealth Business Council
CCA	Corporate Council on Africa
CCIA	COMESA Common Investment Area
CDE	Centre for the Development of Enterprise
CEPGL	Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CFM (P)	Mozambique Ports and Railway Company
CFIA (F)	Conseil Français des Investisseurs en Afrique
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DBSA	Development Bank of Southern Africa
EABC	East African Business Council
EAC	East African Community
EADB	East African Development Bank
EAIDG	East Africa Infrastructure Development Group
EASSy	East Africa Submarine Cable System
EBID	ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development
EC	European Commission
ECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EDF	European Development Fund
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FID	Foreign Investment Decision
FTA	Free Trade Agreement
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HIPC	Highly Indebted Poor Countries
HSGIC	Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee

ICF	Investment Climate Facility
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IDA	International Development Association
IGAD	Inter-Governmental Authority on Development
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPPF	Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility
ISPAD	Information Society Partnership for Africa's Development
JICC	Joint Implementation Coordinating Committee
MCLI	Maputo Corridor Logistics Initiative
MIGA	Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPDC	Maputo Port Development Company
NBF	NEPAD Business Foundation
NBG	NEPAD Business Group
NEMA	National Environmental Management Authority (Kenya and Uganda)
NEPA	National Electricity Power Authority
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
RB	Regular Budget
RCM	Regional Coordination Mechanism
RDT	Regional Directors Teams
REC	Regional Economic Communities
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SG	Secretary General
SROs	Subregional Offices (ECA)
UN	United Nations
UNCC	United Nations Conference Center
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization

## **I Attendance**

1. The Adhoc Expert Group Meeting on the “Role of Civil Society and Private Sector in the Implementation of NEPAD programme” was held at the United Nations Conference Center (UNCC), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 28 and 29 May 2009.
2. The following African regional and sub regional organizations were represented; The African Union Commission, the NEPAD Secretariat, ECCAS, IGAD and SADC. Also represented were the following organizations and agencies; NEPAD Business Foundation, Africa Business Group, NEPAD Business Group- Benin, Greener Africa, Action Aid International, IGAD NGO Secretariat, InterAfrica Group, Pan African Strategy & Policy Research Group and UNIDO (Annex 2).

## **II Agenda**

3. The agenda of the meeting was:
  - a. Opening session;
  - b. Overview of the mandate, expected role and responsibility of the civil society and the private sector in the implementation of NEPAD priorities;
  - c. Civil society perspective on its role in the implementation of NEPAD;
  - d. Private sector perspective on its role in the implementation of NEPAD;
  - e. The role of organizations and institutions in enhancing private sector and civil society involvement in the implementation of NEPAD; and
  - f. Way Forward.

The programme is provided in Annex 1

## **III Account of proceedings**

### **A Opening Session**

4. Mr. Emmanuel Nnadozie, Chief, NEPAD Support Section within the NEPAD and Regional Integration Division (NRID) of ECA welcomed participants to the meeting and emphasized his appreciation of their attendance to these important deliberations. He noted that NEPAD is approaching 8 years since its inception, and in this regard it is important to assess what the key challenges are towards its implementation. Some of these lie in the area of partnership; a scrutiny of the NEPAD documents provides this understanding of partnerships and people centeredness, including the private sector and civil society who are key implementation players. He pointed out that even eight years after the launch, the extent to which civil society and the private sector played their role must be assessed to determine how they can play these roles better in future in order to implement the objectives of NEPAD. He said that the meeting aimed to provide a platform to deliberate on concrete measures to enhance support to the AU and its NEPAD programme.

5. In his welcome address, Mr. Baboucarr Koma of the Economic Affairs Department of the African Union Commission (AUC) also alluded to the opportunity this workshop would provide in assessing the role of civil society and private sector stakeholders in the implementation of NEPAD programmes, which is a giant leap in the right direction. He noted that given the huge socio-economic development challenges Africa is facing today, the success of NEPAD and its ability to deliver tangible results depends largely on the effective involvement of all stakeholders and key among these are the private sector and civil society. Mr. Koma also observed that the full involvement of stakeholders will invariably help ensure that NEPAD is better understood by ordinary Africans and becomes synonymous with delivery and tangible change. Furthermore he underscored that the implementation of NEPAD programmes cannot be effective without Pan-African bodies, RECs and governments working hand in hand with the private sector and civil society.
6. In addition, the meeting was informed of a number of initiatives undertaken by the AUC aimed at the development of Africa's private sector including an annual private sector forum; elaboration of a roadmap for the development of microfinance to help address the financing needs of SMEs; the publication of a continental business directory; as well as investment policy and business law harmonization. It was highlighted that the Department of CIDO also continues to be actively involved in promoting civil society and Diaspora issues in Africa, particularly in exploring and supporting their active involvement in Africa's development process. The AUC encouraged civil society and private actors to share experiences as well as minimize duplication of effort in some of these areas.

## **B Overview of the mandate, expected role, and responsibility of the civil society and the private sector in the implementation of NEPAD priorities**

7. The NEPAD Secretariat provided an assessment of the role of the private sector and civil society in NEPAD implementation within the context of African ownership of the continent's development agenda. It highlighted and noted the following points:
  - a. The role NEPAD ascribes to non-state actors (private sector & civil society) in its founding framework and the recognition of the creativity of African people in a number of paragraphs.
  - b. Civil society and the private sector have been accorded the status of core players in the implementation of the NEPAD programme as key partners and stakeholders in Africa's development. Enhancing the people's role in NEPAD's implementation has been inbuilt into a number of strategies, initiatives and policy frameworks such as CAADP, STAP, MLTSF/PIDA, NEPAD/Spanish Fund, AU/NEPAD African Action Plan (AAP), African Partnership Forum (APF), NEPAD/Action Aid Cooperation on the Global Financial Crisis, and NEPAD/OECD Africa Investment Initiative.
  - c. Initiatives so far undertaken by the NEPAD Secretariat to enhance the participation of the private sector and civil society include the:

- Establishment of specific units devoted to private sector development & civil society engagement;
  - Secondment of a private sector expert (2002-2005);
  - Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between NEPAD & the African Business Roundtable (ABR);
  - Creation of NEPAD Business Groups (NBG) in respective countries; and
  - Creation of the Pan-African Infrastructure Development Fund (PAIDF).
- d. NEPAD intends to emphasize evidence-based interventions to feed into policy making on the continent. In this regard, it will undertake sustainable investment in capacity building for African parliamentarians, through research and development; refocus on revitalizing the CSO Forum/Gender Task Force and the Business Leadership/Summit.
- e. The paradigm shift envisaged in the NEPAD Secretariat's engagement were identified as follows:
- Partnering with civil society and the private sector in promoting sustainable financing for development models;
  - Expanding policy space for input into sectoral areas in AU/NEPAD priorities; as well as
  - Promoting the capacity of Africa countries in international negotiations such as WTO, UNFCCC.
- f. The prospects for creative partnerships between NEPAD and the private sector and civil society are bright, and that the Secretariat is committed to a more coordinated and coherent engagement with non-state actors in Africa and beyond.

## **C Civil society perspectives on its role in the implementation of NEPAD**

8. The meeting made comments and raised many issues on the civil society perspective on its role in NEPAD. The main ones are summarized below:
- a. Key segments of the civil society advocacy movement in Africa were of the viewpoint that NEPAD was being articulated only on the basis of being the locus for attracting FDI and other foreign resources and not on African ownership and people centeredness as stated in the framework document. In this regard, there is a need for a review of the mandate of NEPAD to better articulate African ownership, people centeredness and intra-Africa trade.
  - b. Some language regarding the place of women and gender equity in the partnership, as well as issues of the environment made the document attractive to CSOs, as it has been difficult previously to mainstream these issues in African intergovernmental organizations.

- c. Integration at the pan-African and REC levels cannot be realized until governments and citizens start paying attention to integration at the local and national levels where the flow of ideas, information, economic resources, and political commitments are allowed to bind government, CSOs, and the private sector in developing strong national polities.
- d. The unique opportunities for constructive engagement that NEPAD has offered CSOs, for example to collaborate on work around the G8 and aid agenda, NEPAD's Capacity Building Framework, the CAADP implementation and evaluation processes, climate change, development finance and strengthening civil society engagement with AU/NEPAD generally were pointed out.
- e. In Africa, increased trade and foreign direct investment have not always led to economic growth. And the fact that Africa could not adequately integrate into the global trading system had widened the inequality gaps that characterize Africa's uneven development. Accordingly, a critical analysis of the role of the civil society in Africa's development was called for. Sustainable development requires the strengthening of the strategic role of the state and civil society to transform poorly regulated markets into responsive and responsible markets. A vibrant civil society serves to counter-balance the potential profligacy, corruption and authoritarianism of an unaccountable state.
- f. Key impediments and challenges to NEPAD implementation were highlighted including: exclusionary policy processes, weak political will, institutional chauvinism, donor influence, limited government capacity, poor utilization of local experts and weak investment in policy analysis.
- g. The critical importance of a strengthened developmental state to play the strategic roles of facilitating, regulating and correcting the policy environment for increased and strengthened participation of citizens in AU/NEPAD projects was underscored. Accordingly a number of suggestions were made as follows:
  - Defining and stressing the benefits of citizen's participation;
  - Organizing AU/NEPAD structures and processes such that they are receptive to input by African citizens—this must necessarily be coupled with a clear framework for feedback and backstopping;
  - Creating the space and material means to enable citizens to positively respond to threatening situations;
  - Consensually defining mutual obligations that citizens, the private sector and politicians have towards the larger community and its development;
  - Consistently and constantly providing citizens with better quality information and knowledge on issues and opportunities.
- h. Opportunities are being opened up, but most African CSOs do not have the organization and the capacity to legitimately claim available resources. When talking about capacity constraints, this is also related to content and knowledge necessary for conducting evidence-based advocacy.

- i. Increasing the capacity of African civil society cannot fully occur without a policy space being created by the government or NEPAD Secretariat.
- j. Civil society in Africa, in its diversity, has now attained progress and validity in governance. It is important to carry out an inventory of their resources and capacities and the NEPAD and CSOs face within the continental and Diaspora context.
- k. There is a lack of systematic and permanent engagement with African CSOs. The gap and deficit is clear, due in part to the ways CSOs are defined and perceived. The engagement paradigm of NEPAD has not broadened with CSOs in comparison with the private sector. There is a seemingly perceived benefit to the private sector with respect to NEPAD, but civil society has not packaged its value addition strategically.
- l. Civil society needs to know what NEPAD seeks to achieve in order to strategically contribute. Meetings on NEPAD priorities should have recommendations against which CSOs should formulate concrete actions and measure progress.
- m. There should be a mechanism in NEPAD for resolving the competing interests of various stakeholders with which it engages and which will act as a point of contact when issues do arise.
- n. Networking among CSOs and with NEPAD Secretariat is necessary. NEPAD is well placed to function as a coalescing point where discussions on issues of African development take place. In this regard, The Secretariat should mobilize think tanks and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Africa with the view to draw on various capacities and expertise.

## **D Private Sector perspectives on its role in the implementation of NEPAD**

- 9. The discussion that ensued during this session raised the following comments and concerns:
  - a. The global financial crisis has Africa's traditional donors inwardly focused, which creates an unprecedented opportunity for the continent to also be inward thinking and to create incentive for intra-African procurement, trade and investment.
  - b. A number of constraints were pointed out in increasing private sector participation which relate to issues of access (information asymmetry and regulatory environment), coordination and partnership (ineffective government-business linkages), project preparation, and financing and capacity.
  - c. NEPAD Business Foundation (NBF), highlighted various facilities and funds that are available to the private and public sector to finance projects within the spectrum of project preparation. NEPAD projects such as the Spatial Development Program (SDP), the Central Development Corridor, and the North-South Development Corridor were used to showcase collaborative efforts between the private and public sector.



- d. The importance of utilizing the African Diaspora in fostering global-African economic linkages through NEPAD was stressed. The strong role that the African Diaspora- the sixth region of Africa- has in becoming a fundamental bridge between the political agenda of the African Union and the socio-economic agenda of NEPAD was highlighted.
- e. The African Diaspora is seeking direction from the AU about how to engage. The Diaspora has immense resources and potentials that for now continue to be neglected, and has to be engaged on a clearly defined and sustained long term basis. Better engagement with the Diaspora could be key to the capacity issues on the continent—capacity to engage in trade negotiations, capacity for trade strategy development and so on, both by the government, the CSO and the private sector.
- f. The Diaspora is not organized as one unit to engage; it is too large and diversified in location and activities for now. Until such a time when one organized body can be looked up to as the African Diaspora, dealing with them could just be as problematic as them dealing with NEPAD. However, they can still mobilize and aggregate around issues.
- g. There is need for a body to coordinate the private sector to avoid a fractious sector. Africa is the only continent that doesn't have such a body, and this is a weakness from a negotiator point of view. Local business chambers should aggregate and play a strong advocacy role.
- h. There is need for a NEPAD business summit to be held before the planned Diaspora summit organized by the AU. The ECA or the AUC/NEPAD would be better placed to organize such an important meeting. The idea of having a single body in Africa (like in Europe, China, India and the USA) that can champion the cause of the private sector will be a valuable one. This body may even serve as the liaison body with the African Diaspora.
- i. Several studies have been done on the Diaspora and there is need to access that information. Moreover, ECA is well placed to carry out additional research on the Diaspora. This can reveal issues of remittance, transience and permanent migration and the scale of migration. Pan-Africanism had its leadership emerging out of the Diaspora and this tradition needs to be continued and leveraged.
- j. The paper critiques NEPAD for not having an actual strategy for addressing Africa's informal sectors and the rural question as part of its private sector strengthening approach. Regrettably, such an approach neglects the sectors with the greatest potential for employment creation and poverty eradication, namely small and medium-scale enterprises. African governments, civil society and the private sector need to pay increased attention to these sectors. In addition, there is also an imperative for indigenous think tanks on the continent to formulate strategies, generate data to project macroeconomic fundamentals and inform policy design.
- k. There is need to increase networking opportunities to incorporate the informal economy given its importance in terms of contribution to most African economies. Liaising with small private businesses and giving them a voice appears critical in terms of supply chain development as small businesses are not very well equipped to do much on their own.

- l. There is a need for communication media that is home grown, as opposed to continuing to rely on CNN and BBC for news on African events. This will lead to enhanced access to information in Africa.
- m. Governments are leaving everything to the private sector. There is need for a rethink on alternatives to bring people back into the equation. The role of civil society is to keep the private sector and government in check and the role of dialogue in this regard is pivotal. The emphasis for the involvement of CSOs is to ensure that business is done differently; to make the business ethos responsive and responsible. CSOs should enable and facilitate this and address the questions of equity. With CSOs as partners in NEPAD framework, the development paradigm must shift.
- n. Civil society and the private sector can work on peace and conflict issues highlighted in the NEPAD document, as well as in post conflict reconstruction and economic recovery in affected countries in areas of job creation and the like.
- o. Governments need to create conducive business environments for the private sector in order to facilitate economic growth. The language of NEPAD in terms of private sector excludes mention of SMEs. There is need to promote an African small businesses law so that SMEs which are legitimate profit from an enabling environment.
- p. The right to information is also crucial to the CSO/Private sector dialogue with NEPAD.
- q. An annual technology and business forum held at continental level will constitute a useful vehicle for the creation of inter-trade opportunities in Africa.
- r. Ambitious commitments are being made at the regional level; adequate capacities and resources are needed for initiatives that will produce results.
- s. Private sector and civil society organizations need to be involved in dialogue at senior level structures e.g. the NEPAD steering committee and AUC to contribute their perspectives in the developmental programmes for Africa.
- t. The difficulty in getting the mostly retail minded trans-regional corporate African community to focus on African infrastructure, agricultural and ICT priorities that are the priority sectors of NEPAD needs to be addressed.
- u. The lack of a broadly recognized representative pan-African business body continues to pose a problem in the engagement of the private sector in the NEPAD implementation process.
- v. The further lack of information within the African public sector about the capacity and resources existent within the African private sector also makes it difficult for the public sector to recruit African enterprises to bid on NEPAD related projects.
- w. Although NEPAD is meant to be an inclusive initiative and international business is welcomed in the implementation of the NEPAD programme, the lack of a significant cadre of Africa based enterprises working on NEPAD projects muffles the continental resonance of the initiative.

- x. NEPAD related dialogue still takes place predominantly among public sector organs and those organs have not identified a consistent way to communicate with the private sector, generally, and the African private sector, specifically.
- y. There appears to be no synchronization in the activities of the private sector departments at the AUC, ECA and NEPAD; this can only create duplication and weak coordination in terms of required synergy between the organs.
- z. NEPAD as a brand still has a cache that can be utilized to accelerate development on the continent if marshaled relatively swiftly and aggressively. However there is a dire need for control over the NEPAD brand by the secretariat, as there are some organizations claiming affiliation to NEPAD whose activities are actually not known to the secretariat.

## **E      The role of organizations and institutions in enhancing private sector and civil society involvement in the implementation of NEPAD**

10. The ways in which SADC has engaged civil society and the private sector was provided. The premise for the involvement of civil society and private sector was located in key documents and policy instruments like the SADC Treaty, and other Protocols, Declarations, Memoranda of Understanding, Communiqués and Summit/Ministers' Decisions that continually reaffirm the importance of engaging these stakeholders.
11. Civil society and private sector actors work in areas pertinent to the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), which is SADC's strategic framework for deeper regional integration, poverty eradication and achieving sustainable development. RISDP has as a cross cutting theme the development of the private sector with an overall goal to integrate private sector and ensure participation in SADC activities. Its focus areas include public-private partnership and dialogue and capacity building at regional and national levels.
12. SADC has several targets for private sector development which were discussed in detail. NGOs and civil society are recognized as key partners in the implementation of the SADC agenda in the RISDP. These actors are mentioned throughout as key stakeholders at both national and regional levels; in technical platforms and in stakeholder platforms in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of RISDP. NGOs and civil society are institutionalized to be key components of the SADC National Committees (SNCs), which are responsible for national engagement with SADC policy development and monitoring RISDP implementation. Other structures such as the Regional Poverty Observatory, the SADC Business Forum, Council of NGOs, SADC Council of NGOs, Southern African Trade Unions Council, Association of SADC Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASCCI) and SADC Employers Group are also involved in providing opportunities for CSOs/private sector engagement.
13. One strategy to involve civil society and the private sector is to develop a thematic directory and database which would enable the Secretariat and other SADC structures to access these important stakeholders. Other strategies identified include: holding consultation meetings

with NGOs & civil society, private sector, parliamentary groups, and academic institutions and networks; reviewing the findings and the outcomes of the consultations and addressing the issues that emerge including identifying how non-state actors can engage with the Secretariat and SADC Structures; holding of an Annual Stakeholder Forum facilitated by the Secretariat; and pre-summit preparations proposed every May. These initiatives are all with a view to dedicating spaces and resources to facilitate civil society and private sector engagement.

14. The establishment of the NGO and CSO Forum in IGAD as an interface mechanism by a decree of member states to interface with CSO/NGOs in the sub-region was pointed out, given the formidable role that CSOs play in peace building, peace keeping and in actions related to poverty alleviation.
15. Work began three years ago when the summit of Heads of States formally approved the IGAD CSO/NGO forum. Since then, and for operational purposes, member states were assisted to establish national level mechanisms which serve as a network of CSOs that are engaged in the core IGAD areas of concern—peace and security, peace building, poverty, and regional integration. Membership of the national steering committees also includes government in respective member states who contribute 50% of funds required for the functioning of the national mechanism, with the remaining 50% coming from the CSOs themselves. Of course, some countries are yet to establish the national mechanism.
16. In terms of operations, IGAD has been engaged in conducting national mapping of NGOs/CSOs, to know how they operate, what kind of national projects/programmes they are involved in, etc. This is with a view to ultimately have a database on the CSOs in member states. IGAD also engages from time to time in critical assessment of policies (regional and national) that relate to its key mandate areas with the intention of being able to influence reformulation of such if deemed necessary.
17. The main comments and issues raised during the plenary discussions are as follows:
  - a. It may be necessary for the RECs to study best practice from other RECs, as well as civil society and private sector practices in order to inform the IGAD NGO/CSO forum. A pertinent issue to analyze how the activities of IGAD and SADC feed into the broader NEPAD framework. For instance is there any interface between the SADC Poverty Observatory in terms of implementing NEPAD objectives.
  - b. The point was made as to whether it is really advisable for IGAD to rely on government funding for the national level mechanisms given that governments may wish to interfere in its activities? It was suggested that the route taken by the ECOWAS in dealing with this kind of problem could serve as a good model. The West African Civil Society Forum obtained start-up seed fund from the ECOWAS Secretariat but has since mobilized fund from national chapters (local NGOs in the different countries contribute to the national coffers), for its activities. This then implies no government funding and no government interference.

- c. In terms of CSO engagement with the private sector, the issue was raised as to whether IGAD has looked into this in the region where it operates. It was therefore put on the table that this is an important area that requires guidance from the NEPAD secretariat.
- d. Women in the private sector and access to necessary funding for business development is a crucial issue that needs to be addressed through these avenues.
- e. Institutions are struggling for resources and in light of delays in membership subscriptions there is need for a serious discussion on mobilization of Africa-based capital. How can the private sector be encouraged to support a strong and well functioning AU? There is more capital available for African initiatives than ever—the likes of Standard Bank of South Africa, Zenith and ECOBANK, from Nigeria. It is necessary to explore the issue of how to sustain institutions through private sector funds on the continent, far beyond the donor threshold.
- f. A conversation is needed on how the NEPAD/ AU merger will affect the RECs and how the RECs will interface with the AUC and NEPAD in future. Future consultations on this are crucial. RECs have international operations, cooperation partners and continental partners at the Regional and national level. RECs aren't implementers, and the challenge for NEPAD is how to align its agenda to RISDP for example in the SADC region. Further, member states have their own national programmes and the challenge is to integrate, harmonize and translate NEPAD agenda into national programmes.
- g. A resource mobilization strategy exists at the SADC and other RECs level. There is recognition in the RECs of a sense of ownership for programmes and funding is more concrete at that level. Certain areas have been earmarked for domestic funding e.g. through the SADC Development Fund. Furthermore, a number of studies are currently being undertaken by the AUC, to look at alternative source of funding support for the Commission. Quite a lot of proposals are already on the table in this regard too, and a study has recently been commissioned to look at the plethora of previous studies and come up with the adjudged best scenario that can then be tabled for consideration. There is also an on-going study on the feasibility of creating an African Stock Exchange; on the table are also studies on the creation of an African Central Bank, an African Investment Bank and an African Monetary fund. Work on creating the African Investment Bank is already at an advanced stage.
- h. The IGAD NGO/CSO forum has experienced successful partnerships between government and CSOs. It has over the years been quick to respond to national and regional issues and has a good understanding of government plans and programmes, policies and has been interrogating them very well. This alludes to the fact that partnerships are possible.

## **F      Wrap-up and Way Forward**

18. The main conclusions and recommendations that arose from the two day meeting are summarized below:

- a. Conduct wider consultation to discuss a basic continental programme for the participation of civil society and private sector in NEPAD. For instance, the RECs can share experiences on best practices and forge an ideal way to address the wider issue of better engaging CSOs and the private sector. In this regard, the recommended follow-up actions are:
    - Convening a Business Leadership Summit in the first quarter of 2010 in conjunction with the AUC to create greater awareness and investment interest for the private sector on AU/NEPAD projects. Such an investment summit would be held under the auspices of the annual AUC Private Sector Forum with active participation of the NEPAD Business Foundation and Groups, with private sector sponsorship and other key players such as AfDB. The AU/NEPAD African Action Plan (AAP) can serve as the basic platform to engage Africa's private sector.
    - A Civil Society Forum/Congress to be convened in the second quarter of 2010 after the final determination on the profile and structure of the new NEPAD Planning and & Coordinating Authority by the Sirte AU Assembly in July 2009, to engage civil society and map out the specific areas for immediate action on NEPAD priority sectors. This would be undertaken through the NEPAD and AU Gender Units and ECA civil society focal point.
  - b. A private sector umbrella body should be established; this should be in the form of a Pan African business assembly that would meet regularly and be a prime organ for engaging with external actors. NEPAD can play an important role in identifying the clusters (civil society and private sector) and bringing them together with government.
19. Civil society and private sector actors need to become more engaged in policy dialogue, policy-making and in the design of more transparent mechanisms for improving national and regional business climates. At the moment, this all-important dialogue appears not to be strong enough and the responsibility lies on NEPAD/AUC to propel things in the right direction, and also to bring to the table the African informal sector.
20. Mr. Emmanuel Nnadozie, in closing the meeting highlighted the main issues raised during the meeting, underscoring that NEPAD was an African initiative, which needed to be popularized on the ground. He reiterated that he was thankful for, and encouraged by the attendance and participation. He informed the meeting that a publication would be produced that would be informed by the two day deliberations. In concluding, he thanked all staff of the NEPAD and Regional Integration Division for the efficient organization of the meeting.
21. Mr. Victor Mathale, Trade & Industry and Private Sector Advisor of the NEPAD Secretariat commended ECA for the well-organized and fruitful meeting. He informed the meeting that the NEPAD Secretariat would take the necessary action to tap into the resource and experience of the private sector and civil society. He asserted that more active engagement with the two core stakeholders will result from two-day deliberations. He concluded by thanking the participants for their valuable individual and collective contributions to the discussions.

22. The AU Commission representative, Mr. Baboucarr Koma, in his closing statement, lauded ECA for holding this important and timely meeting. He added that a fresh mandate on NEPAD will come out as a result of the on-going restructuring of the AUC and the NEPAD Secretariat and the integration of NEPAD into the AUC structures and processes.

# ANNEXES

## Annex 1 Meeting Programme

Thursday 28 May 2009

9:30–10:00 Opening Session

**Welcome Remarks:** ECA

**Remarks:** African Union Commission

10:00 -10:45 Overview of the mandate, expected role, and responsibility of the civil society and the private sector in the implementation of NEPAD priorities

**10:45– 11:00 Coffee break**

11:00– 12:30 Civil society perspective on its role in the implementation of NEPAD

**12:30 - 14:00 Lunch break**

14:00 - 16:00 Private sector perspective on its role in the implementation of NEPAD

**Facilitator:** NEPAD Business Foundation

**Presenter:** Africa Business Consulting

**16:00– 16:15 Coffee break**

16:15 – 16:30 Re-cap

**Presenter:** Rapporteur

Friday 29 May 2009



9:00 -10:15      The role of organizations and Institutions in enhancing private sector and civil society involvement in the implementation of NEPAD

**10:15– 10:30      *Coffee break***

10:30 -12:00      Discussions on the role of organizations and Institutions in enhancing private sector and civil society involvement in the implementation of NEPAD (continued)

**Facilitator:**    AU Commission

**12:00 - 14:30      *Lunch break***

14:30 -16:30    Wrap-up and Way Forward

**16:30 – 16:45      *Coffee break***

## Annex 2 List of Participants

### AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>1. Mr. Baboucar Koma</b><br/>         Policy Officer, Private Sector Division<br/>         Economic Integration and Regional<br/>         Cooperation Division<br/>         Department of Economic Affairs<br/>         African Union Commission<br/>         Addis Ababa, Ethiopia<br/>         Tel: +251 11551 6106<br/>         Fax: (251) 11 551 0249<br/>         Email: <a href="mailto:komab@africa-union.org">komab@africa-union.org</a>;<br/> <a href="mailto:b_koma@yahoo.com">b_koma@yahoo.com</a></p> | <p><b>2. Ms. Victoria Foster-Jones</b><br/>         Policy Officer<br/>         Economic Integration and Regional<br/>         Cooperation Division<br/>         Department of Economic Affairs<br/>         African Union Commission<br/>         Addis Ababa, Ethiopia<br/>         Tel: +251 11551 7700 Ext. 205<br/>         Cell: +251 910204691 (NEW)<br/>         Fax: +251 11 551 0249<br/>         Email: <a href="mailto:victoriaf@africa-union.org">victoriaf@africa-union.org</a></p> |
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### NEPAD SECRETARIAT

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| <p><b>3. Mr. Bankole Adeoye</b><br/>         Coordinator, External Relations and<br/>         Partnerships<br/>         NEPAD Secretariat<br/>         Midrand, South Africa<br/>         Tel: + 27 11 256 3602<br/>         Cell: +27 83302 7345<br/>         Email: <a href="mailto:bankolea@nepad.org">bankolea@nepad.org</a></p> | <p><b>4. Mr. Victor Mathale</b><br/>         Advisor - Trade &amp; Industry and Private<br/>         Sector<br/>         NEPAD Secretariat,<br/>         Midrand, South Africa<br/>         Tel: +2711 265 3623<br/>         Fax: +2711 313 3778<br/>         E-mail: <a href="mailto:victorm@nepad.org">victorm@nepad.org</a></p> |
|--|--|
- 5. Ms. Ndeye Rosalie Lo**  
 Advisor – Gender, Parliamentary  
 Affairs & Civil Society Organizations  
 NEPAD Secretariat,  
 Midrand, South Africa  
 Tel: +2711 313 3672  
 Fax: +2711 313 3778  
 E-mail: [rosaliel@nepad.org](mailto:rosaliel@nepad.org)

### REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>6. Mr. David Mbadinga</b><br/>         Coordonnateur NEPAD and<br/>         Interconnections Electriques<br/>         Economic Community of Central<br/>         African States (ECCAS)<br/>         Libreville, Gabon<br/>         Tel: (241) 106 6948 91/ 444731<br/>         Fax: (241) 4447 32<br/>         Email: <a href="mailto:mbadingadavid@yahoo.fr">mbadingadavid@yahoo.fr</a></p> | <p><b>7. Ambassador Abu Zeid El Hassan</b><br/>         IGAD Liaison Officer to the AU<br/>         Intergovernmental Authority on<br/>         Development (IGAD)<br/>         Addis Ababa, Ethiopia<br/>         Tel: 251 913525287<br/>         Email: <a href="mailto:abuzeidelhassan@hotmail.com">abuzeidelhassan@hotmail.com</a></p> |
|---|--|
- 8. Ms. Janah Ncube**  
 Senior Policy Advisor  
 Policy Planning & Resource  
 Mobilisation Directorate

Southern African Development  
Community (SADC)  
Gaborone, Botswana  
Tel: (267) 395 1863  
Fax: (267) 397 2848/318 1070  
Email: [jncube@sadc.int](mailto:jncube@sadc.int)

## PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS

### 9. Ms. Lynette Chen

Chief Executive Officer  
NEPAD Business Foundation  
Sandton, 2146, South Africa  
Tel: +27 11 884 1888  
Fax: +27 11 884 0061  
E-mail: [lynette.chen@thenbf.co.za](mailto:lynette.chen@thenbf.co.za)

### 10. Mr. Michael Sudarkasa

Africa Business Consulting  
Africa Business Group  
Johannesburg, South Africa  
Tel: +27 11 447 0432  
Fax: +27 86 619 2444  
E-mail: [michael@abghq.com](mailto:michael@abghq.com)

### 11. Mr. Ramanou Kouferidji

President  
NEPAD Business Group- Benin  
Tel: +22920213455  
Mobile: +22995281884/97064971  
Fax: +22920213263/20213455  
Email: [rkouferidji@yahoo.fr](mailto:rkouferidji@yahoo.fr)

## CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

### 12. Mr. Mizanekristos Yohannes

General Manager  
Greener Services  
Tamale, Ghana  
Tel: + 233 244 79 1220 (Ghana)  
+251-911 -557949 (Addis Ababa)  
E-mail: [mizane@gmail.com](mailto:mizane@gmail.com)

### 13. Brian Kagoro

Pan African Policy Manager  
Action Aid International  
Tel: + (254) 72 426 8150  
Fax : + (254) 20 4450 089  
E-mail: [brian.kagoro@actionaid.org](mailto:brian.kagoro@actionaid.org)

### 14. Mrs. Mary Okumu

Executive Director  
IGAD NGO Secretariat  
Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel: +254-20-726-049664  
E-mail: [maryokumu@yahoo.com](mailto:maryokumu@yahoo.com)

### 15. Mr. Tamrat Kebede

Executive Director  
InterAfrica Group  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Tel: 251 911 402672  
E-mail: [tamratkg@yahoo.com](mailto:tamratkg@yahoo.com)

### 16. Mr. Ishola Williams

Executive Secretary  
PanAfrican Strategy & Policy Research Group  
Tel: 234 8504918/2347088723476  
E-mail: [isholawilliams@yahoo.com](mailto:isholawilliams@yahoo.com)

## UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

### 17. Mr. Asegid Adane

Programme Coordinator  
United Nations Industrial Development  
Organization (UNIDO)  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Tel: 251-11-544-4157  
Fax: 251-11-551-2733  
Email: [aadane@uneca.org](mailto:aadane@uneca.org)

### Consultants

### 18. Ms. Laura Nyirinkindi

Managing Partner and Consultant  
Pro Initiatives Agency  
Tel: 0772 2777 268/041 532004/ 041 532141  
Kampala, Uganda  
Email: [Lnyirinkindi@proinitiatives.org/](mailto:Lnyirinkindi@proinitiatives.org/)  
[lawoo@hotmail.com](mailto:lawoo@hotmail.com)

### 19. Prof. Oluyele Akinkugbe

Professor of Economics  
Rhodes University  
Grahamstown, South Africa  
Phone: +27 46 603 8694; +27 72 611  
6505 (cell)  
Email: [o.akinkugbe@ru.ac.za](mailto:o.akinkugbe@ru.ac.za)  
[oluyelea@yahoo.com](mailto:oluyelea@yahoo.com)

## UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

### 20. Mr. Jalal Abdel-Latif

Chief, Civil Society Section  
Governance and Public Administration  
Division  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Tel : 251 115 44 33 67  
E-mail: [jabdel-Latif@uneca.org](mailto:jabdel-Latif@uneca.org)

### 21. Mr. Sam Cho

Chief, Private Sector Section  
Governance and Public  
Administration Division  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Tel: 251 115 44 33 34  
E-mail: [scho@uneca.org](mailto:scho@uneca.org)

### 22. Mr. Kojo Busia

Chief, African Peer Review Mechanism  
(APRM) Support Unit  
Governance and Public Administration  
Division  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Fax: 251-11-551-1953/5541  
E-mail: [kbusia@uneca.org](mailto:kbusia@uneca.org)

### 23. Juliana Gonsalves

Private Sector Section  
Governance and Public  
Administration Division  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Tel: 251 115 44 56 56  
E-mail: [jgonsalves@uneca.org](mailto:jgonsalves@uneca.org)

### 24. Chukwunonso Obiekwe

Private Sector Section  
Governance and Public Administration  
Division  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
E-mail: [cobiekwe@uneca.org](mailto:cobiekwe@uneca.org)

### 25. Hiwot Tifsihit

Private Sector Section  
Governance and Public  
Administration Division  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
E-mail: [htifsihit@uneca.org](mailto:htifsihit@uneca.org)

**26. Mr. Olusegun Akinsanya**

Information & Communication Technology  
and Science and Technology Division  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

E-mail: [oakinsanya@uneca.org](mailto:oakinsanya@uneca.org)

**28. Mr. Emmanuel Nnadozie**

Chief, NEPAD Support Section  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Tel: 251 115 443163  
Fax: 251 115 514416

E-mail : [ennadozie@uneca.org](mailto:ennadozie@uneca.org)

**30. Mr. Eltigani Ateem**

Senior Regional Advisor  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Tel: 251 11 5443709  
Fax: 251 11 5153005

E-mail: [ateem@uneca.org](mailto:ateem@uneca.org)

**32. Ms. Helina Tadesse**

Consultant  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Tel: 251-11 5 445294

Email: [helinat@uneca.org](mailto:helinat@uneca.org)

**33. Ms. Tiblet Tesfaye**

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Tel: 251-11 5 443362  
Fax: 251-11 5-153005

**35. Mr. Binyam Bisrat**

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Tel: 251-11 5 443102  
Fax: 251-11 5-153005

**37. Ms. Makida Haileselassie**

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Tel: 251-11 5 443362  
Fax: 251-11 5-153567

**27. Kidist Mulugeta**

Private Sector Section  
Governance and Public  
Administration Division  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

E-mail: [kmulugeta@uneca.org](mailto:kmulugeta@uneca.org)

**29. Ms. Rawda Omar-Clinton**

Economic Affairs Officer  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Tel: 251-11 5 443363  
Fax: 251-115 153005

E-mail: [romar-clinton@uneca.org](mailto:romar-clinton@uneca.org)

**31. Ms. Siham Abdulmelik**

Consultant  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Tel: 251-11 5 443098

Email: [sabdulmelik@uneca.org](mailto:sabdulmelik@uneca.org)

**33. Ms. Mulumebet Arega**

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Tel: 251-11 5 443093  
Fax: 251-11 5-153005

**34. Mr. Wondimu Haile**

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Tel: 251-11 5 443181  
Fax: 251-11 5-153005

**36. Ms. Mekdes Kassa**

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Tel: 251-11 5 443181  
Fax: 251-11 5-153567