

NEPAD stakeholders call for platform to review implementation and coordination

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Addis Ababa, 21 June (ECA) - NEPAD stakeholders have strongly recommended the convening of a regular session to review joint coordination efforts towards the implementation of NEPAD programmes and projects in African countries and agree on ways of enhancing them.

The recommendation was made at the high level dialogue on enhanced coordination towards the implementation of the priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) which took place in Durban, South Africa early June.

The workshop, which was jointly organized by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA), brought together members of the NEPAD Steering Committee, National NEPAD Focal Points, Focal Points of NEPAD sectoral programmes, the African Union and the UN system in the framework of the Regional Coordination Mechanism in support of AU/NEPAD.

Its aim was to forge a common understanding on the processes of implementing NEPAD and enhance coordination amongst the various stakeholders.

The workshop, therefore, reviewed the operations of NEPAD Country Offices and Focal Points to enhance inter-country coordination and coherence. It also reviewed coordination amongst the various Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and between the RECs and the NEPAD Agency.

The workshop concluded that there was a need to develop a more effective mechanism for promoting inter-country coherence and coordination amongst all stakeholders.

Participants also agreed on the need to institutionalize a regular forum of NEPAD Focal Points and recommended NPCA to strengthen communication on NEPAD by creating a NEPAD database and communication guidelines for engagement on NEPAD issues at the national level.

NPCA's Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki will present the recommendations and the formal report, **Durban Statement**, to the NEPAD Steering Committee and the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) during the upcoming African Union Summit in Addis Ababa in July.

Earlier, during the official opening of the workshop, Dr. Mayaki, thanked ECA for its continued support to the agency on a broad range of issues, and in particular for co-organizing the review meeting with the Agency.

He acknowledged the long history of cooperation between the two institutions, which, he stressed, was motivated by the necessity to work together with the view to achieving the common objective of Africa's development.

Ambassador Lindiwe Zulu, Special Adviser on International Relations and Personal Representative of the President of South Africa to the NEPAD Steering Committee also made opening remarks in which she emphasized the need to clarify the role of all stakeholders in the implementation of NEPAD and for better coordination among the various actors.

The meeting was attended by over 50 participants, representing NEPAD National Offices; the African Union Commission (AUC); members of the NEPAD Steering Committee; NPCA; Regional Economic Communities (RECs); UN agencies; private sector and the media.

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