NEPAD lauds important role of the Leadership Council on Food and Nutrition

“There is need for increased commitment to results, stronger partnerships and strengthening accountability systems in the effort to support Africa’s development agenda.”

These remarks were made by NEPAD’s Chief Executive Officer Dr Ibrahim Mayaki at a side event held on the fringes of the 67th United Nations General Assembly in September, in New York.

At the meeting, which was also attended by heads of United Nations Agencies, private sector executives and senior government officials, Dr. Mayaki explained that strengthening accountability systems in Africa is one of the inherent principles of NEPAD’s vision. He noted that the high level of participation in the Leadership Council session was a demonstration of its success because of its ability to listen and advance the views and needs of players and stakeholders.

The Leadership Council is made up of top-level leaders in multi-stakeholder sectors such as government, international organizations, the private sector, civil society and academia. In its part, the ‘New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition and the Grow Africa Partnership’ is a shared commitment by G-8 and African leaders formed in Washington D.C, in May of 2012, and aims to achieve sustained and inclusive agricultural growth, to raise 50 million people out of poverty over the next 10 years.

To sustain the success and value of the Council, Dr. Mayaki urged all concerned to pay particular attention to key underlining principles and ensure appropriate action to remove the challenges and barriers that would threaten its success.

These principles include ensuring and supporting the development of a strong domestic private sector; meeting obligations on resource mobilization and the need to understand and address capacity constraints and other challenges including the issue of land tenure.

Through the implementation of NEPAD’s Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), African countries have embraced key reforms in policies and institutional capacity which have translated into actions that yield results and sustainable impact. There has also been sustainable impact on accountability. The Leadership Council’s role in ensuring this sustainability is vital.

Dr Mayaki, who lead a team of senior managers from NEPAD - Martin Bwalya, Head of CAADP, Mrs Bibi Giyose, Food Security and Nutrition Adviser, and Mrs Sarah Lawan, Special Liaison Officer in New York, said, “We cannot emphasize more, the need to pay attention to principles and issues of inclusiveness, responsible financing as well as transparency and accountability, noting that it is through the CAADP implementation framework that we find country-led processes to address these issues. He reiterated that within the CAADP implementation support, the Africa Union Commission and the NEPAD Agency were committed to work with and support Africa’s member states to meet their obligations in this partnership.”

At the New York meeting, three more countries joined the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition partnership - Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso and Mozambique. Other existing members are Ethiopia, Ghana and Tanzania.

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BioFISA Programme impacts livelihoods in Southern Africa

The Finnish and South African Governments have committed their continued support to NEPAD’s BioFISA Programme, as concrete achievements have been made in combating hunger, sustaining livestock and curing diseases. This follows a recent meeting in Johannesburg to evaluate the impact of BioFISA which is supported by the two countries. At the conference, experts took stock of the Programme’s track record since its establishment in 2009.

In less than three years, the Programme has improved the lives of more than 600 small-scale mushroom growers in Malawi, Namibia and Swaziland, by providing technical and scientific approaches to farming the crop.

In addition, more than 100 agriculture extension officers and researchers in Angola, Namibia, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland and Zambia have been trained in mushroom farming. These new approaches to producing edible fungus have improved the quality as well as yields of the crop.

In Malawi for example, a recent random tour of five villages around Bunda Agriculture College in the commercial capital Lilongwe, showed positive results. In each village several female farmers are growing mushrooms from the BioFisa Programme.

“My husband concentrates on tobacco. The men in this village are sceptical about mushroom farming. So we the womenfolk got together and we are doing very well. From my sales, I bought a bicycle which I use every day to deliver my produce to Bunda College. They in turn take it to the city and sell it for us. Now that my husband’s tobacco business is not very profitable, I am playing a bigger role in supporting the family from my mushroom sales”.

Mrs Kwalira says she uses the money she gets, to buy uniforms and pay school fees for her children.

NEPAD also supported the establishment of aquaculture and fish farming facilities in Malawi’s Dowa District. The farmers have been trained in how to effectively grow fish using very simple techniques. Beneficiaries of this project, Flora Mwase and Headman Matchayasimbi say they can now afford basic necessities and have become role models among other farmers in how to integrate fruit and vegetables cropping by using pond water.

Through the proceeds, Flora has been able to construct a house with iron-sheet roofing. Previously, she lived in a grass-thatched mud house. She also bought a radio, an important form of entertainment and information for people in rural areas.

An effective farmer participatory research programme and seed funds from NEPAD and the Malawian Government were essential for the success. There is now increased demand by farmers to extend fish pond farming to cover other districts.

One of the beneficiaries is Mrs Kwalira, a mother of eight. She and fellow women formed a co-operative union three years ago, after learning technical skills on how to grow mushrooms. Mrs Kwalira and her mushroom garden

BioFISA trainers with mushroom farmers
Key recommendations on Sustainable Energy for All

On 24 September, the NEPAD Chief, Dr Ibrahim Mayaki participated in the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) high level event in New York.

In his address, Dr Mayaki highlighted the Agency’s energy commitments announced during the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in June this year. Key among them are the programmes on renewable energy; NEPAD’s role in the high impact area of bioenergy; as well as collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), on the Africa Platform for Development Effectiveness (APDev) which has culminated in the formation of an African response to sustainable energy initiatives.

Speaking at the meeting United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon commended actions on the ground programmes at all levels, develop additional programmes and support policies.

Other recommendations were that African countries should continue to champion the cause of gender mainstreaming in the planning and implementation of their sustainable energy programmes. Governments were called upon to devise innovative means to finance energy projects and create a conducive environment to attract investment from both private/public partnerships.

A number of African countries have finalised and approved the SE4ALL Gap analyses. Support is needed to enable others, which have not yet completed the analysis to finalise and approve the reports by the end of the year.

Capacity Development is the cornerstone in achieving the objectives of the sustainable energy objectives. In this regard, the workshop called upon the APDev to take centre stage in facilitating skills enhancement for the successful achievement of SE4ALL objectives.

Given the importance of biomass, such as charcoal and wood, which accounts for over 80 percent of the primary energy use in Africa, and whose consumption is growing, delegates at the meeting resolved that the AUC, NEPAD and UNDP should support sustainable charcoal production and use, through the development of an African Sustainable Charcoal Framework.
Journalists trained in reporting of good practices on Sustainable Land and Water Management

NEPAD, through its TerrAfrica Partnership has been involved the training of African journalists, to enhance their capacity to effectively communicate developmental issues.

TerrAfrica is a multi-partner platform and primary vehicle for consultation and action on sustainable land management with the direction and support provided by a group of African governments; NEPAD, World Bank and a dozen other United Nations and international organisations. The programme recognizes the importance and the role of easy access to radio by many in Africa, in scaling up sustainable land and water management.

In order to scale up investment in sustainable land management in Africa, NEPAD launched the TerrAfrica Sustainable Land and Water Management Initiative. It coordinates efforts by African countries, the international development community and other stakeholders and has provided support to countries to develop sustainable land management investment frameworks. Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Togo, and Uganda are among countries that have completed their investment frameworks and are working to secure resources to implement them within the CAADP process. A number of other countries are at various stages in the preparation and implementation of their investment frameworks.

Another intervention that is worthy of note is the Africa Region of the World Bank’s Strategic Investment Programme for Sustainable Land Management in sub-Saharan Africa (SIP) that was approved in 2007 with GEF grant of US$ 137 million to support a large portfolio that aims to help shift the region’s development agenda in favour of more sustainable and climate-resilient land management.

Prior to the Rio + 20 Conference in Brazil in June, TerrAfrica conducted a one-week course for 26 radio producers and presenters from Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Togo on “The Role of Rural Community Radio in the Dissemination of good practices on Sustainable Land and Water Management (SLWM)”. The training which took place in the Togolese capital Lome, was titled “Green Radio” and is part of a series of regional workshops aimed at the country level, to allow local community radio broadcasters to better understand the concepts related to land management and climate change issues in Africa.

“This training is very useful to us because we get a good understanding of the issues and are better able to convey this information to people at the grassroots who do not have access to high level policy information and training,” said one of the journalists.

Now back in their countries the trained journalists produce programmes on their local and community radio stations on sustainable land management and other environmental themes.

Said Ousmane Djibo, NEPAD’s TerrAfrica Project Coordinator, “The training is filling a huge gap on knowledge sharing. The programmes run by the radio journalists in their communities enable end users on the ground that are not able to attend international conferences, to access best practices related to climate change and sustainable land management, which can apply in their day to day life and make them more accessible.”

Other initiatives, which border on environmental planning and management, have contributed substantially to sustainable land and water management. These include the African Mining Partnership (AMP), a high-level ministerial forum that was established to implement the mining chapter of NEPAD. The AMP has evolved into a forum for African countries to discuss and take common positions on emerging issues of importance to Africa; the NEPAD Spatial Development Programme, and the Southern and Eastern Africa Minerals Centre, which has now opened membership to all African countries and to other stakeholders, including the private sector. At the regional level, there have been efforts to improve harmonization of mineral policies and standards, as well as regulatory and legislative environments.

Journalists at the end of the NEPAD training
WE ARE LISTENING
Send us your Voices4Climate!

Connect4Climate, in collaboration with MTV and TerrAfrica, invites you to enter Voices4Climate - our new competition for the world’s most powerful climate stories told through photos, videos, music videos, and podcasts.

The Voices4Climate Competition challenges young people ages 13-35 from all over the world to submit photos, videos, music videos, and podcasts that communicate compelling climate change stories. Start snapping, filming, reporting, and rapping to tell us: how is climate change affecting your country? Your community? You, your friends, and your family? Do you have a cool idea for a local solution?

Eligibility
Participants submitting photos and videos must be 13-35 years old and entries will be judged within two age groups: 13-17 years and 18-35 years.

Participants submitting music videos must be 18-35 years old and will be judged within this single age group. Participants submitting podcasts must be 18-35.

Prizes
Winning entries will be featured at the UN Conference on Climate Change (COP18) in Doha, Qatar in December 2012. Up to 70 prizes will be awarded, and the first place music video winner will be invited to spend a day with MTV editors in New York or London and have his/her music video featured on MTV’s Voices platform. The top two TerrAfrica Podcast Story winners will be invited to Doha to cover the climate conference for TerrAfrica Green Radio.

Categories
The TerrAfrica Podcast Story category is focused on Africa. All podcast entries (2 to 5 minutes long) must tell an African land degradation or sustainable land and water management story.

Deadline
All entries must be received by 11:59pm EST, October 15, 2012. Get your creative juices flowing and enter now - we want to share your voices4climate with the world!

www.voices4climate.org
Partnership with Howard University

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between NEPAD and Howard University in the United States, to provide concrete collaboration in areas of Health, Law and Science and Technology.

On the 13th of September, Dr Mayaki accompanied by NEPAD’s Director of Programmes, Estherine Fotabong paid an official visit to Howard University at the invitation of the Vice Chancellor, Dr Wayne A Frederick. The visit was to explore and discuss areas of cooperation between the two institutions.

A working session was held, in which representatives of all the 12 schools and colleges of Howard University participated and presented the programmes they are implementing in Africa, ranging from HIV/AIDS, science and technology, Intellectual property rights, Medicine regulation and Drug development.

Howard University is America’s premier learning institution for people of colour and is dedicated to the education of African-Americans and Africans from the continent. Given its incredible pedigree and commitment to support Africa’s development through scholarships and development projects, NEPAD looks forward to taking ahead this budding partnership to support the implementation of its mandate.

If Africa did not have NEPAD
There would be:

No method for African countries to review each other’s governance and hold each other to account. *(Africa Peer Review Mechanism)*

No framework to coordinate capacity development activities across the continent. *(The AU/NEPAD Capacity Development Strategic Framework)*

No advocacy or promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the electricity sector to fast track electrification on the continent, especially for renewable energy. *(NEPAD Energy Programme)*

No system to harmonise how medicines in Africa are registered, reducing a huge number of counterfeit medicines on the continent. *(African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation)*

No broadband submarine cable linking Europe and Africa, nor construction of terrestrial networks to link each African country with its neighbours. *(NEPAD e-Africa Commission)*

No common African voice on climate change during negotiations since Copenhagen 2009 (COP 15). African environmental ministers would not have received the tools or training to hold meaningful discussions. *(NEPAD Environment Programme)*

Hundreds of thousands of women would not have benefited from 20 million Euros being disbursed to improve their access to micro-finance schemes, HIV/AIDS prevention, education, leadership and ICT and entrepreneurship skills amongst other areas. *(NEPAD/Spanish Fund for Women Empowerment)*
NEPAD marks South Africa’s Heritage Day in traditional African style

Heritage Day, also known as National Braai Day in South Africa, is celebrated on September 24 every year. On this day, families, friends and strangers unite at various events around the country, aimed at building bridges to overcome South Africa’s painful past. They roast and sharing meat and other foodstuff, sing, as well as perform traditional dances.

Staff members of NEPAD in South Africa, who come from more than a dozen different African countries, got together to showcase their cultural diversity of language, history, beliefs and traditions - to promote internal cohesion and cross-cultural unity.

Staff dressed in different attire from Ethiopia, Cameroon, Kenya France and South Africa, among others. The occasion offered an opportunity to learn more about how Africans greet, mourn and live; the kind of food they eat, as well as history lessons and traditional beliefs. They also share a sumptuous meal of dishes for various parts of the Continent.
Request for Proposals: Consultancy Services to Develop NEPAD’s Share Point

The NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency seeks to appoint a consultant, a team of consultants to develop its Share point.

The prospective consultant(s) will do the following based on the scope of work to be defined. The NPCA has already developed a scoping work that needs to be taken into account when submitting the financial proposal.

**African Proverb**

Proverb from the Alur people living in the Democratic Republic of Congo:

Agulu m’ung’eny jubayu ngo.

**Literal Translation:** Do not throw away a broken pot.

**Meaning:** Old things (even people) can be useful in the future.

**Upcoming events**

**Oct 16 2012:** NEPAD Briefing at the UN General Assembly, New York, United States

**Oct 22 2012:** ASTII Phase 2 Validation Workshop, Tunis, Tunisia

**Oct 24 2012:** African Leaders in Dialogue Forum, Johannesburg, South Africa

**Oct 30 2012:** Africa Food Security and Nutrition Day, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Oct 31 2012:** Launch of NEPAD 2011 Annual Report, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

See also online at: [www.nepad.org/events](http://www.nepad.org/events)

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