



NEPAD AGENCY P.O.BOX 1234 MIDRAND SOUTH AFRICA	TELEPHONE: +27 11 256 3600 WEBSITE: www.nepad.org
---	---

43RD MEETING OF THE NEPAD STEERING COMMITTEE
24-25 JANUARY 2012
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF THE NEPAD STEERING COMMITTEE
IN PREPARATION FOR THE 17TH AFRICA PARTNERSHIP FORUM

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 15 NOVEMBER 2011

SUMMARY REPORT

**CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF THE NEPAD STEERING COMMITTEE
IN PREPARATION FOR THE 17TH AFRICA PARTNERSHIP FORUM**

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 15 NOVEMBER 2011

SUMMARY REPORT

1. **The NEPAD Steering Committee (SC) held a Consultative meeting at UNECA Headquarters, UN Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 15 November 2011 prior to the 17th Africa Partnership Forum (APF).** The Consultative meeting was hosted by the Government of Ethiopia in conjunction with UNECA and co-chaired by Ethiopia and Equatorial Guinea. Welcome remarks were made by Mr. Gebreab Newai, Ethiopian Co-Chair; Mr J. Javier Mesian Nguema, Embassy of Equatorial Guinea in Ethiopia; Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki, NEPAD Agency CEO; and AU Commissioner for Economic Affairs, Dr. M. Mkwezalamba.
2. Following the adoption of the agenda without amendment, the **SC consultative meeting focused primarily on finalizing preparations for the 17th APF holding on 16 November 2011, including the thematic and organizational issues.** The SC specifically considered Africa's positions on the broad theme of: *Promoting economic growth focusing on private sector development, infrastructure and investments.* The related issues of regulatory framework for the private sector; responsible and value-added investment; and infrastructure development were highlighted.
3. **Accordingly, the SC meeting reached consensus on the following key messages:**
 - a. *APF theme should be placed within the overall context of 10th NEPAD anniversary and future approaches for Africa's partnership on the implementation of NEPAD as AU programme;*
 - b. *Improved status of investment climate in Africa and its response expressed in infrastructure-related frameworks, namely PIDA and African Action Plan (AAP): 2010-2015, with increasing domestic resource mobilization at national level and developmental role of the State;*
 - c. *AU Member-States putting in place regulatory and institutional prerequisites, thereby making investment climate better for G8/OECD and Southern countries to invest in Africa;*
 - d. *China's pivotal role as a major foreign investor in infrastructure development in the Continent;*
 - e. *Investment-friendly African countries will contribute to the Continent's goal of serving as the growth pole to further propel infrastructure growth and effective development in general;*
 - f. *Focused attention to telecommunications, energy, transport and water supply will transform Africa's infrastructure through PPPs with FDI and the increasing space for the private sector;*
 - g. *Important role of public sector, specifically in energy production, transmission and distribution with critical role for PPPs to finance infrastructure development from domestic resources;*
4. Furthermore, SC called for development partners to respect policy ownership and avoid 'one size fits all' approaches in promoting growth and development in Africa. This, the SC maintained would be detrimental to value-driven partnership. Overall, the SC meeting underscored:
 - a. *The need to ensure that investments generate job creation based on already defined Africa's development priorities;*
 - b. *Due recognition of Euro-zone crisis and its envisaged impact on Africa's investment outlook with alternative options of private capital financing for investments in agriculture and food security linked to the creation of employment opportunities;*
 - c. *Proposal by Ethiopian Co-Chair that the next APF themes should pay attention to agriculture and food security and the possibility of examining these themes based on Africa's engagement within G8 and G20 dynamics;*

- d. Reference to 2008 World Bank Africa Infrastructure Country Diagnostic (AICD) study on infrastructure and the need to bridge the financing gap in the Continent's infrastructure;
- e. Effect of current global financial and economic crisis on standard of living in G8/OECD countries and essence of promoting Africa's niche as new growth pole and market through strong engagement in South-South Cooperation;
5. The delegation of South Africa briefed the SC on its Government's hosting arrangements for the upcoming **Durban Climate Change COP17/CMP7**. The SC meeting welcomed efforts of the Government of South Africa in ensuring a successful COP17, including achieving a fair, balance and credible outcome that is inclusive of Africa's interest on adaptation. The SC noted South Africa's role as host of the UN conference along with the key issues that underpin the basis of UNFCCC negotiation. In this regard, this was primarily identified as '*common but differentiated responsibilities*' clause with positive outcomes/actions towards a consensual post-Kyoto agreement for Africa's emphasis on adaptation, the setup and functioning of the Green Climate Fund (CGF) and addressing the special needs of the Least Development Countries (LDCs).
 6. Likewise, NPCA provided updated briefing on Africa's preparations for the **4th High Level Forum (HLF4) on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, South Korea** later in November 2011. The SC meeting commended the ongoing joint work of the AUC and NEPAD Agency on advancing Development Effectiveness through the inter-connected themes of South-South Cooperation and Aid Reforms with Capacity Development as the core driver. NPCA mentioned that the Third Africa Regional Meeting on DE held in September in Addis Ababa proposed an African Consensus and Position which would be shared at the Busan HLF-4 under the auspices of the multi-stakeholder coordinating mechanism – the Africa Platform for Development Effectiveness (APDev).
 7. The SC consultative meeting further noted the ongoing **Business Roundtable of African Private Sector representatives** being co-organized by the NPCA and AUC on the sidelines of 17th APF, in conjunction with UNECA and G8/OECD APF Support Unit. Some SC members raised the issue of early notification of the NPCA invitation to private sector organizations in their countries on the Roundtable and indicated that many business-persons would have benefitted from participating in the pre-APF private sector consultation. In all, the SC welcomed this business engagement as a possible regular forum for the private sector to input into Africa's development discourse from the business perspective. The SC urged that outcomes of the Business Roundtable be circulated with both the African and partners' sides at the 17th APF.
 8. On the **draft Joint Statement for 17th APF**, the SC consultative meeting raised some concerns and requested the African Co-Chairs (Ethiopia and Equatorial Guinea) to ensure that the suggested amendments were reflected in the final statement.
 9. The Ethiopian Co-Chair proposed the convening of a **SC brainstorming session dedicated to Africa's development trajectory from NEPAD perspective**. The delegation of Senegal sought clarification on the special theme of such SC session given the AU-NEPAD process in general. The Co-Chair responded that the brainstorming session SC meeting would examine best options for Africa's development from a knowledge exchange, monitoring and evaluation outlook based on sectoral growth drivers and NEPAD implementation. The SC noted this proposal and agreed to place such an item on its agenda at the next SC meeting.
 10. Finally, SC members expressed, through the Co-Chairs, profound appreciation to UNECA for hosting the consultative meeting and providing excellent facilities.