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**High level inaugural event: Strengthening partnership for inclusive sustainable
development, good governance, peace and stability in Africa**

-Assessment of Africa's Partnership-

New York 10 October, 2016

Excellencies, distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

At the NEPAD Agency we are promoting the concept of “intelligent partnerships” that are directed at coordinating and facilitating the implementation of regional projects and initiatives to address the issue of underdevelopment.

The partnerships that Africa embarked upon in the past half-a-century, resulted in programmes such as agreements on military/security compacts, development aid, project-based lending, and aid for trade- most of these bilateral partnerships were anchored under the structural adjustment programmes.

With these bilateral partnerships that have rarely transformed the continent holistically, a new view on partnerships began to emanate toward making major policy choices on a common coordinated agenda, which will allow for a number of unified positions on issues of common concern to Africa. Africa has the capability to realise its potential and to fully develop and establish flourishing, inclusive and prosperous societies through an array of multidimensional partnership that will support its transformation programmes and projects.

Therefore, the NEPAD programme was ushered-in to craft a vision for Africa’s renewal and sustainably return Africa on a growth trajectory based on beneficial partnerships that are:

- Amongst Africans at all levels of the society;
- Between African countries within the Continent and
- New and creative partnership between Africa and the rest of the world

I will focus my remarks on the “New and creative partnership between Africa and the rest of the world”.

The past decade have seen a number of significant partnership arrangements between Africa and the rest of the world. In general, these partnerships are aimed at enhancing cooperation by contributing to the continent’s social economic growth, good governance, peace and stability of the continent. Although the list is not exhaustive, the partnerships that Africa is

Talking Points

involved through the African Union Commission include; Africa-South America, Africa-India, Africa-Europe, Africa-Arab, the China-Africa Forum and the TICAD process.

As an Agency that advocates for “intelligent partnerships” with all stakeholders and partners anchored on a principle of mutual benefit and shared responsibility. It was no surprise that the African Union Assembly took a decision in January 2014 instructing “NPCA to develop the technical capacity to monitor the implementation of partnerships commitments given the challenge of dependence on development partners to track the effective delivery of commitments to Africa”

The basis of the NEPAD Stakeholders and Partnerships Strategy 2015-2017 is to ensure that the NEPAD Agency works closely with the African Union Commission and key African Stakeholders to shift from a passive role actor to a proactive partner that is able to collaborate with willing partners and stakeholders through joint programming under a result-based management regime that is impact-orientated. Therefore, NEPAD will support the African partnerships on a “Win-Win” outcome for both Africa and its global partners.

The principles guiding the “intelligent partnerships” are anchored on:

1. Joint programme planning, capacity development and skills transfers;
2. Mutual knowledge exchange and Mutual accountability;
3. Alignment and coordination of project implementation under the principles of subsidiarity and complementarity.

Excellencies

The past 12 months have seen some very encouraging and action oriented partnerships that can certainly be defined as “intelligent partnerships”. The Africa-EU Summit on Migration in Valletta November 2015, FOCAC in Johannesburg December 2015 and TICAD in Nairobi August 2016. These Summits predominantly were anchored on addressing issues such as:

1. Continental integration and inclusive economic development
2. Human development
3. Sustainable peace and security

In Conclusion

The 3 issues are linked and must be addressed jointly within Africa's global partnerships. Peace and Security continues to be a challenge for Africa but through properly planned and implemented programmes and initiatives- "intelligent partnership". Africa can actualise Agenda 2063, a plan that builds on Africa's own initiatives like the NEPAD programme.

It is worth noting that the historic peace deal signed last month in Colombia means that the entire Western hemisphere is now free of armed conflict. Although the outcome of referendum on the peace deal proved otherwise, conflicts are now on one side of the globe- Africa and the Middle East, but the Americas are now officially free from conflicts that spanned over 40 years of instability in that region.

As observed by Steven Pinker and Juan Manuel Santos (Columbia President) - the world's wars are now concentrated almost exclusively in a zone stretching from Nigeria to Pakistan, an area containing only a sixth of the world's population.

Africa is no exception we can be at PEACE! - through building "intelligent partnerships"

Thank you