The New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD)

SUMMARY PLAIN LANGUAGE VERSION:
A resource for organisations

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Why we have written this booklet

The New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) has sparked much debate on the future of the African continent. While some have hailed it as ground-breaking in its efforts towards global integration and promotion of democratic governance, others have dismissed it as a weak attempt to create a framework that simply promotes global economic priorities.

The purpose of this document is not to sway opinion for or against it. Instead it is intended to break down the original, rather dense NEPAD document into an accessible format that can facilitate debate at all levels – national, sub-regional and continental. This is in line with the OSF-SA’s mission to foster debate and dialogue by civil society in order to strengthen and promote participatory governance.

While NEPAD is principally a pan-African initiative, real challenges, including ownership of the national agenda, have yet to be addressed. The role of civil society is key to effecting some of the laudable proposals of this initiative. It is also a significant barometer of popular sentiment.

NEPAD should not be viewed as an event, but rather a process that has the potential to widen and deepen democracy on the African continent.

Zohra Dawood
Executive Director
Open Society Foundation for South Africa
How to use this booklet

This is a summary plain language version of the full NEPAD document – in other words, we have summarised the spirit and main ideas of the NEPAD document in a version that is easier to understand and use.

Here are some tools to help you use this summary effectively in your organisation and community:

• **A detailed contents page:**
  Look up the section and page number you need.

• **A list of abbreviations:**
  Check on the meaning of abbreviations: please see page 3.

• **Key questions as headings:**
  Go to these to answer questions and to find information about NEPAD.

• **Introductory boxes:**
  Use these to follow the strategy behind the 3 parts of NEPAD’s Programme of Action

• **Cross-references:**
  Follow the ➔ symbol to other parts of this summary or to the NEPAD website for more information.

• **Questions for discussion:**
  Use these questions to think about NEPAD and its issues, programmes and projects ➔ please see page 38.

• **Useful words:**
  Look up the meaning of words we put in *italics* the first time we use them in the summary ➔ please see this A to Z list of words from page 39 onwards.

• **Useful contacts and resources:**
  Discover where to find more information on NEPAD and NEPAD issues ➔ please see page 44 onwards.

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**The use of ‘we and ‘our’**

NEPAD leaders use the words ‘we’ and ‘our’ in the text of the original NEPAD document. This plain language version also uses ‘we’ and ‘our’ in its text to capture the spirit of this direct call made by NEPAD leaders to readers.
Abbreviations and acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AIDS</td>
<td>Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome</td>
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<tr>
<td>AU</td>
<td>African Union</td>
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<td>DAC</td>
<td>Development Assistance Committee</td>
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<td>eg</td>
<td>For example</td>
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<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>Gross domestic product</td>
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<tr>
<td>GNP</td>
<td>Gross national product</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIPC</td>
<td>Highly Indebted Poor Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>Human Immuno-deficiency Virus</td>
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<tr>
<td>HSIC</td>
<td>Heads of State Implementation Committee</td>
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<td>ICT</td>
<td>Information and communications technology</td>
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<td>IDG</td>
<td>International Development Goal</td>
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<tr>
<td>IMF</td>
<td>International Monetary Fund</td>
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<td>NEPAD</td>
<td>The New Partnership for Africa’s Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>ODA</td>
<td>Overseas development assistance</td>
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<td>p</td>
<td>page</td>
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<tr>
<td>PPP</td>
<td>Public-private partnership</td>
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<td>TB</td>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
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<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organisation</td>
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<td>WTO</td>
<td>World Trade Organisation</td>
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1. What is NEPAD?

Where NEPAD came from

NEPAD is a promise by African leaders, based on shared vision and beliefs, to urgently:
- Get rid of poverty.
- Work towards the sustainable growth and sustainable development of every country and Africa as a continent.
- Participate actively in the world economy and political structures.

Why we need NEPAD
As Africans, we are determined to move ourselves away from being underdeveloped and excluded in a globalising world.

There is a big difference between Africa’s poverty and the wealth of the developed world. For example, in Africa:
- 340 million people (50% of the population) live on less than US$1 a day.
- The death rate of children under 5 is 140 for every 1000.
- Only 58% of the population have access to safe water.
- The rate of illiteracy for people over 15 is 41%.

While the international community has given Africa credit and aid, this has led to African countries building up big debts and becoming dependent on foreign support.

What NEPAD aims to do
NEPAD wants to reverse this abnormal situation by changing the relationship leading to the current position. Africans want to end this dependency by using capital, technology and human skills, to launch a global war on poverty and underdevelopment.

As Africans, we declare that we will no longer accept things as they are. We say we will decide our own destiny, and call on the rest of the world to support our efforts.

We call for a new global partnership between Africa and the international community to:
- Build democracy, human rights, development and strong economies in Africa.
- Work together to fight poverty and overcome the development gap between Africa and the developed world.
2. How was Africa made poor?

The main reasons that lead to Africa becoming poor were:
- Africa’s *exploitation* by the international economic system
- The legacy of colonialism
- Weaknesses in many African countries after independence.

How Africa was exploited
For centuries, the world economy has mainly used Africa as a supplier of cheap labour and raw materials. This drained Africa’s resources instead of using minerals and raw materials to develop the continent’s manufacturing industries and labour force to sustain growth and development. So Africa remains the poorest continent even though we have very rich resources.

The negative effects of colonialism on Africa
Colonialism:
- Did not respect traditional structures, institutions and values.
- Made traditional structures, institutions and values serve the economic and political needs of imperial powers.
- Slowed the development of an *entrepreneurial* class, and a middle class with skills and managerial capacity.

The results of weak African states after colonialism and independence
Newly independent African states inherited a shortage of skilled professionals, a weak capitalist class and poorly functioning economies. This was made worse by poor leadership, corruption and bad administration in many countries.

Many African governments did not empower their people to realise their creative potential. Weak states are a major block to sustainable development, for example: they do not have the capacity to:
- Develop long-term policies.
- Implement far-reaching programmes and reforms.

The rate of building up capital in post-colonial years has not been enough to rebuild African societies after colonial underdevelopment, or to sustain improvements in the standard of living. Economic decline, reduced capacity and poor government have led to Africa having a *marginalised* role in the world economy.
3. How has the global revolution affected Africa?

What is the global revolution?
The world has entered the new millennium during a technological and economic revolution.

Advances in information and communications technology (ICT) have:
- Reduced the cost of and increased the speed of global communication.
- Abolished previous barriers of time and space.
- Affected all areas of social and economic life, such as integrating national systems of production and finance, and leading to massive growth in cross-border flows of goods, services and capital.

The greater movement of capital means that borrowers (governments or private bodies) compete for capital in global not national markets. This has increased the costs for countries, including many African countries that are unable to compete effectively.

How globalisation has led to big gaps
The highly industrialised countries are the drivers of the world economy, with only a few countries of the developing world playing a substantial role. Most developing countries, especially from Africa, contribute passively through environmental and other resources.

The biggest inequality is in the distribution of benefits. Opportunities have increased to improve the quality of life, for example to create wealth, gain skills or improve access to goods and services.

A more open global economy has created opportunities to lift people out of poverty in some countries, but for most marginalised countries, globalisation has:
- Increased the ability of the strong to push their interests at the expense of the weak, especially in trade, finance and technology.
- Limited the space for developing countries to control their own development, as there is no compensation for the weak.
- Worsened the conditions of marginalised countries and thus created a split between included and excluded nations.

Africa’s barriers to being an effective part of the global revolution
Africa has been largely left out of globalisation through factors such as:
- The outflow of resources and unfavourable trade terms.
- Poor political and economic leadership leading to low investment.
- Deep and worsening levels of poverty, social instability and conflict.
4. What are Africa’s challenges?

How we can respond to the challenge of poverty and underdevelopment
NEPAD aims to take up these challenges by saying:
• For African peoples and governments, development is a process of empowerment and self-reliance.
• As Africans we must be the architects of our own sustained upliftment, not the servers of kind guardians.

Effectively integrating Africa into the global economy is our best chance of achieving future economic prosperity and reducing poverty. We say this because improving the living standards of marginalised people can lead to:
• Massive international economic growth through creating new markets and using increased economic capacity.
• Greater global stability, and economic and social well-being.

How can we respond to the challenges of globalisation
The need for development thus challenges moral conscience and is the key to sustaining globalisation. Globalisation has resulted from scientific and technological advances, and many of these have been market-driven and shaped by governments of the developed world. Yet globalisation has not spread benefits equally.

Governments, the private sector and civil society organisations must commit themselves to real integration of all nations into the global economy and political system. For example, they should:
• Respect the environmental base that sustains our planet.
• Allow cross-border migration.
• Recognise partnership among all peoples as part of government globally.

We declare that the international community has the capacity to create fair and just conditions for Africa to participate effectively in the global economy and political system.
5. What can Africa’s leaders do?

New political conditions in Africa
The new international political climate has been shaped by key factors like:
- New ideas of security and self-interest, such as the right to development and the need to eliminate poverty.
- Defining democracy and state legitimacy to include accountable government, a human rights culture and popular participation.

Democracy is spreading across Africa:
- There are now more democratically elected African leaders.
- The African Union (AU) is determined to deal with conflicts and to speak out against undemocratic actions.
- The voice of civil society is growing stronger, for example through women’s, youth and independent media organisations.

The United Nations (UN) Millennium Declaration of 2000 recognises these developments and confirms the global community’s commitments, for example, to support preventing conflict, establishing stability and democracy, and eliminating poverty and disease in Africa.

The responsibilities of African leaders
Yet Africa’s renewal depends on Africa setting its own agenda, through its mandated leaders, by taking joint responsibility, for example, to:

- Strengthen tools for preventing, managing and resolving conflict, and for restoring and maintain peace.
- Promote and respect democracy and human rights through clear national and subnational standards of accountability, transparency and participatory government.
- Restore and maintain macro-economic stability by developing suitable standards for financial policies, and structures to achieve these standards.
- Revitalise and extend education, technical training and health services, with an urgent focus on the Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV), the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), malaria and tuberculosis (TB).
- Promote the role of women in social and economic development by:
  - Strengthening their education and training capacity.
  - Developing revenue-generating activities by giving access to credit.
  - Ensuring that women participate in political and economic life.
6. What can Africa’s people do?

Why we need to join hands
Africa has been made poor by slavery, corruption and bad economic management. Yet, if we use our enormous natural and human resources properly, Africa can achieve *equitable* and sustainable growth, and quicker integration into the world economy.

NEPAD will be successful if:
- Its aims and programmes are owned by all Africa’s peoples, united in our diversity.
- Our people are in control of their own destiny.

To achieve this, our people need to regain confidence in their ability to overcome obstacles and to participate in building a new Africa.

NEPAD’s appeal to all African people
This is why African political leaders appeal to all our different peoples to recognise the serious need to mobilise ourselves to:
- End the further marginalisation of Africa, and
- Ensure development by bridging the gap between Africa and the developed countries.

We therefore call on African people to boldly take up the challenge of implementing NEPAD by setting up, at all levels, structures to mobilise, organise and take action to achieve these aims.

We must not give up in implementing NEPAD’s ambitious programme of building strong economies and democratic societies. African leaders believe that we will succeed in these development efforts, and put the false starts and failures of the past behind us.
7. What can Africa offer a new global partnership?

Africa needs to work with its international partners to urgently improve the quality of life of our people. In doing this, there will be shared duties and benefits.

**Africa as a resource and a market**

Africa is a vital resource base that has served all humanity for many centuries. We have a large store of mineral, oil and gas deposits, rich flora and fauna, and a wide unspoiled natural environment that are the key to mining, agriculture, tourism and industrial development.

Africa’s role is crucial in protecting the environment, with key resources such as our rainforests and an almost carbon dioxide-free atmosphere.

NEPAD has a strategy to nurture these resources, to use them for Africa’s development and to preserve them for all humanity, for example: ensuring that tropical forest communities have a sustainable way of earning a living.

In the world economy, a developing Africa offers:

- Minerals and resources for production in developed countries.
- An expanding market for world products, goods and services.
- A great investment opportunity, eg developing ICT infrastructure.

**Africa as the cradle of humanity**

Modern science recognises Africa as the cradle of humanity. African fossils, artefacts, artistic works and ancient human settlements illustrate human progress. Africa’s status as the birthplace of humanity should be valued by all Africans and by the whole world.

Africa has a major role in keeping the strong link between human beings and the natural world. Our open uninhabited spaces, flora and fauna, and unique animal species give all people a chance to maintain a link with nature.

Africa already makes a significant contribution to world culture through literature, music, visual arts and other examples of our culture. Our real potential is untapped because of our limited integration into the world economy.

NEPAD aims to:

- Preserve our common heritage.
- Ensure that we create opportunities to further increase our contribution to world culture, science and technology.
8. What can our development partners do?

In taking responsibility for its own destiny, Africa needs to negotiate a new relationship with development partners.

Meeting the challenges of development assistance

Current problems with development assistance include:
- The need to negotiate with, and report separately to, donors supporting the same sector or programme.
- Restrictions on development assistance.
- Poor performance by some recipients.
- Bad advice by some donors.

Our new relationship should be based on country programmes, and set out agreed performance targets and standards for recipients and donors.

We will maintain and improve existing partnerships with industrialised countries and multilateral organisations, for example, partnerships such as:
- The Africa-Europe Summit’s Cairo Plan of Action
- The World Bank-led Strategic partnership with Africa
- The Japan-led Tokyo Agenda for Action.

The role of development partners

African leaders expect developed countries and multilateral organisations to take on responsibilities and duties, such as to:
- Speed up debt reduction for heavily indebted African countries, and assist with more effective programmes for reducing poverty.
- Reverse the drop in overseas development assistance (ODA) flows to Africa, and to meet the target of ODA flows of 0.7% of each country’s gross national product (GNP) within an agreed period.
- Facilitate partnerships between countries, international drug companies and civil society organisations to urgently open up African peoples’ access to existing drugs.
- Allow goods into markets through joint efforts, and to negotiate fairer trade for African countries within the World Trade Organisation (WTO).
- Give technical support to speed up implementing NEPAD’s programme of action (eg by strengthening Africa’s capacity for managing planning and development, accounting, and building infrastructure).
- Set up co-ordinated efforts to fight corruption and to recover any development money belonging to Africa.
9. What is NEPAD’s Programme of Action?

NEPAD is a long-term African-owned and African-led development programme that aims to meet Africa’s key challenge:

- To develop the capacity to sustain growth at the level necessary to reduce poverty and sustain development.

This NEPAD Programme of Action lists top priorities and covers what needs to be done as short-term actions. NEPAD aims to advance Africa’s development by bridging existing gaps in priority sectors, thus helping Africa to catch up with the developed world.

NEPAD’s long-term aims:

a) To eliminate poverty in Africa and to place African countries, individually and together, on a path of sustainable growth and development (and thus stop Africa being marginalised during globalisation).

b) To promote the role of women in all activities.

NEPAD’s specific goals:

a) To achieve and sustain an average gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of over 7% a year for the next 15 years.

b) To ensure that Africa achieves agreed International Development Goals (IDGs), for example:
   - Reduce the number of people living in extreme poverty by 50% between 1990 and 2015.
   - Enrol all children of school age in primary schools by 2015.
   - Reduce infant and child death rates by 66% between 1990 and 2015.
   - Provide access to all people needing reproductive health services by 2015.

NEPAD’s 3-step strategy:

1. Conditions for sustainable development (please see p14 onwards)
2. Sectoral priorities (please see p 17 onwards)
3. Mobilising resources (please see p 26 onwards).

Expected outcomes of NEPAD’s strategy:

- Economic growth and development, and increased employment.
- Reduced poverty and inequality.
- Diversified productive activities, and increased international competitiveness and exports.
- Increased African integration into the world economy.
9.1 How can we create conditions for sustainable development?

The conditions for sustainable development are peace, security, democracy, good governance, human rights and good economic management. The first part of NEPAD’s strategy is based on the idea that creating these conditions will help sustain effective states, strengthen regional co-operation and lead to increased international competitiveness.

9.1.1 The Peace and Security Initiative

Aims:
(a) To promote long-term conditions for development and security.

(b) To build the capacity of African bodies to pick up early signs of conflict, and to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts.

(c) To inspire commitment to NEPAD’s core values in all structures through strong leadership.

To achieve long-term peace and security, Africa needs policies that deal with the political and social pressures leading to conflict. We cover these policies in:
- The Democracy and Political Governance Initiative (please see p 15).
- The Economic and Corporate Governance Initiative (please see p 16).
- The Human Resource Development Initiative (please see p 20).
- The Capital Flows Initiative (please see p 26).
- The Market Access Initiative (please see p 29).

Examples of action
(a) NEPAD’s leaders will by April 2002 explore detailed actions, costs and funding for strengthening existing capacity in:
- Preventing, managing and resolving conflict.
- Making, keeping and enforcing peace.
- Reconciling, rehabilitating and rebuilding after conflict.
- Stopping the illegal growth of small arms, light weapons and landmines.

(b) A NEPAD Heads of State Forum will:
- Enable NEPAD’s leaders to help build the capacity of African bodies to promote peace and security, to share experience and to mobilise action.
- Ensure that the principles and commitments of the Peace and Security Initiative are carried out.
9.1.2 The Democracy and Political Governance Initiative

Development is not possible without democracy, respect for human rights, peace and good governance. In NEPAD, Africa promises to respect global standards of democracy, including allowing:

- Different kinds of political systems.
- Political parties and workers’ unions to exist freely.
- Fair, open, democratic and regular elections to choose leaders freely.

Aim:
The Democracy and Political Governance Initiative aims to help strengthen political and administrative structures, in line with these principles:

- Democracy
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Integrity
- Respect for human rights
- Promoting the *rule of law*.

Examples of action

a) NEPAD participating countries will commit themselves to meet basic standards of good governance and democratic behaviour, and to support each other. By April 2002, NEPAD’s leaders will identify:

- Recommendations on suitable tools to assess how countries are meeting good governance standards.
- Weaknesses in structures and ways of correcting these.

b) Participating countries will:

- Support and build structures and efforts that protect the commitments of the Democracy and Political Governance Initiative.
- Work to create and strengthen national, subregional and continental structures that support good governance.

c) A NEPAD Heads of State Forum will:

- Monitor and assess progress made by African countries in achieving good governance and social reforms.
- Be a platform for countries to share experiences that can encourage good governance and democratic practices.

This monitoring role is an example of *peer review* where countries keep a check on each other’s performance.
9.1.3 The Economic and Corporate Governance Initiative

Many African governments do not have the capacity to create conditions for development. They often need targeted capacity-building to enable them to:

- Develop policies and laws to encourage private sector-led growth.
- Manage and implement programmes.

Aim:
To promote in all participating countries concrete programmes and time-frames to increase the quality of:

- Economic and public financial management.
- Corporate governance.

Examples of action
a) The Heads of State Implementation Committee (HSIC) will consider a report from a Task Force from the Ministries of Finance and Central Banks by April 2002. The Task Force will:

- Review economic and corporate governance practices in various countries and regions.
- Recommend suitable standards and codes of practice.

b) The HSIC will prioritise public financial management. Countries will develop a programme for improving public financial management and targets, and will set up assessment tools to measure progress.

Subregional and regional approaches to development
To improve their international competitiveness, African countries should share their resources, and improve regional development and economic integration. We must therefore strengthen Africa’s 5 subregional economic groupings.

NEPAD’s focus will include aiming to:

- Provide essential regional resources (eg transport, eliminating disease).
- Develop a structure for economic integration by identifying common projects that fit into country and regional development programmes.
- Prioritise capacity-building to make existing regional structures more effective and to streamline existing regional organisations.

NEPAD’s current priority sectors:

- Infrastructure, especially ICT and energy
- Human resources (eg education, skills development)
- Health
- Agriculture
- Access to the markets of developed countries for African exports.
9.2 What are our sectoral priorities?

In this section, we cover the second part of NEPAD’s strategy: detailing NEPAD’s sectoral priorities that can help reverse the marginalisation of Africa and lay the basis for its sustainable long-term development.

9.2.1 The Infrastructure Initiative

All infrastructure sectors

Here we focus on elements common to all infrastructure sectors.

Please pages 18-19 for plans on these specific sectors: information and communication technologies, energy, transport, and water and sanitation.

With the same basic infrastructure as developed countries, Africa could produce more for domestic use and international competition. The infrastructure gap is a serious obstacle to economic growth and reducing poverty.

Improved infrastructure, including the cost and reliability of services, would benefit Africa and the international community. International trading partners would be able to get African goods and services more cheaply.

Some of our aims:

a) To improve access to, and the affordability and reliability of, infrastructure services for businesses and households.

b) To increase regional co-operation and trade through expanded cross-border development of infrastructure.

c) To build the knowledge and skills needed in technology and engineering for installing, operating and maintaining infrastructure networks in Africa.

Examples of action:

a) With the help of sector-specialised agencies:
   • Establish policy and legal frameworks to encourage competition.
   • Build capacity to harmonise policies and regulations for trading across borders and enlarging markets.

b) Promote community and user involvement in building, maintaining and managing infrastructure, especially in poor urban and rural areas.

c) Promote public-private partnerships (PPPs) to attract private investors and focus public funding on the urgent needs of the poor, by building capacity to implement and monitor agreements.
Information and communication technologies

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are a key to the knowledge-based economy of the future. ICT developments can encourage trade between African regions and speed up Africa's integration into the world economy.

Yet in Africa, people have had limited access to affordable telephones, broadcasting, computers and the Internet because of poor ICT infrastructure, weak policy and regulation, and limited human resources. As a result, Africa has been unable to effectively use ICT as a tool in improving peoples' lives and creating new business opportunities.

This is why we speak of bridging the digital divide – in other words, the need to invest in ICT so that Africa can connect with and benefit from advances in ICT.

Some of our aims:
   a) To double the number of lines to 2 lines for every 100 people by 2005, with an adequate level of access for households.
   b) To lower the cost and improve the reliability of service.
   c) To develop a pool of ICT-competent youth and students for Africa to draw on as trainee engineers, programmers and software developers.

Examples of action:
   a) Work with regional agencies to design model policy and laws for telecommunications reform, and to build the capacity to regulate ICT.
   b) Set up a network of training and research bodies to help build high-level competency in ICT.
   c) Promote existing projects to connect schools and youth centres.

Energy

Some of our aims:
   a) To distribute existing energy resources more evenly throughout Africa.
   b) To develop Africa’s plentiful solar energy resources.
   c) To integrate transmission grids and gas pipelines to help the flow of energy across borders.

Examples of action:
   a) Set up an African Forum for Utility Regulation and establish national regulatory bodies.
b) Set up a task force to recommend priorities and strategies to implement regional projects, eg on hydropower generation and gas pipelines.

c) Set up a task team to speed up energy supply to low-income housing.

**Transport**

*Some of our aims:*

a) To reduce delays in cross-border movement of people, goods and services.

b) To promote economic activity and cross-border trade through improved land transport links.

c) To increase air passenger and freight links across Africa’s subregions.

*Examples of action:*

a) Establish customs and immigration task teams to *harmonise* border crossing and visa procedures.

b) Set up and develop PPPs, and give concessions for constructing, developing and maintaining ports, roads, railways and sea transport.

c) Promote the harmonising of standards and regulations for different types of transport.

**Water and sanitation**

*Some of our aims:*

a) To ensure sustainable access to safe and adequate clean water supply and sanitation, especially for the poor.

b) To manage and sustain ecosystems, *biodiversity* and wildlife.

c) To ensure better irrigation and rain-fed agriculture to improve agricultural production and access to enough healthy food.

*Examples of action:*

a) Speed up work on multipurpose water projects, eg the Nile Basin Initiative.

b) Work with the Global Environmental Sanitation Initiative to promote sanitary waste disposal methods and projects.

c) Support the UN Habitat programme on water conservation in African cities.
9.2.2 Human Resource Development Initiative

Reducing poverty

Aims:
   a) To take the lead by prioritising reducing poverty in NEPAD’s programmes, and in national macro-economic and sectoral policies.
   
b) To focus specifically on reducing poverty among women.
   
c) To ensure empowerment of the poor in strategies to reduce poverty.
   
d) To support existing multilateral efforts to reduce poverty.

Examples of action:
   a) Ensure that countries assess their poverty reduction impact in country plans prepared as part of NEPAD’s Programme of Action.
   
b) Work with the African Development Bank and multilateral organisations to adopt and speedily implement plans such as the Comprehensive Development Framework of the World Bank, and the Poverty Reduction Strategy in the debt relief plan for Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC).
   
c) Set up a gender task team to ensure that NEPAD’s poverty reduction strategies deal with the specific issues faced by poor women.

Bridging the education gap

Poor facilities and systems are the key problems facing Africans receiving education in Africa. Africans trained elsewhere in the world have shown their ability to compete successfully.

Some of our aims:
   a) To work with donors and multilateral organisations to reach the IDG of universal primary education by 2015.
   
b) To work to improve curriculum development, educational quality and access to ICT.
   
c) To expand access to secondary education and make it more relevant to Africa’s development.

Examples of action:
   a) Review current efforts jointly with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and other major international donors.
b) Review what African countries spend on education, and lead the development of standards for government spending on education.

c) Set up a task force to speed up introducing ICT in primary schools.

Reversing the brain drain

*Reversing the brain drain* means stopping the loss of knowledge and skills when professionals leave Africa.

**Some of our aims:**

a) To build and keep in Africa vital human capacities for Africa’s development.

b) To develop strategies for using the scientific and technological knowledge and skills of Africans living abroad for the development of Africa.

**Examples of action:**

a) Create the necessary political, social and economic conditions in Africa that would help to stop the brain drain and attract investment.

b) Develop scientific and technical networks to facilitate co-operation and to return scientific knowledge to home countries.

c) Ensure that the expertise of Africans living in developed countries is used to carry out some of NEPAD’s projects.
Health

Taking up the challenge of Africa’s health crisis

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines health as “a state of complete physical and mental well-being”. In the health sector, Africa compares poorly with the rest of the world, for example:

- In 1997, child deaths were 105 for every 1000, compared to 6 for every 1000 in developed countries.
- Only 16 doctors are available for every 100 000 people, compared to 253 in developed countries.

Epidemics of communicable diseases, especially HIV, tuberculosis and malaria, seriously limit human development in Africa. There is a clear link between health, nutrition (our daily intake of calories) and reducing poverty (as shown in the low average incomes of most of our people).

Some of our aims:

a) To strengthen programmes for containing communicable diseases, and to reduce the number of people affected by diseases among the poorest people in Africa.

b) To have a secure health system that meets needs and controls diseases effectively.

c) To ensure the necessary support capacity for the sustainable development of an effective health care delivery system.

d) To empower the people of Africa to improve their own health and to achieve health literacy.

Examples of action:

a) Strengthen Africa’s efforts to get affordable drugs, and explore alternative delivery systems for essential drugs and supplies.

b) Lead the campaign for increased international financial support for the struggle to deal with HIV, AIDS and all communicable diseases.

c) Join forces with donors and international bodies (eg the WHO), to ensure that support for Africa is increased by at least US$10 billion a year.

d) Encourage African countries to give more priority to health in their budgets, and to phase in increases in health spending.

e) Jointly mobilise resources for building capacity to enable all African countries to improve their health infrastructure and management.
9.2.3 The Environment Initiative

A healthy and productive environment is essential for sustainable development. NEPAD thus needs to:

- Combine our efforts to develop a clear environmental programme.
- Choose and prioritise key issues for short-term action.

Aim:
- To achieve a healthy and sustainable environment, and through this to help fight poverty and contribute to social and economic development in Africa.

Examples of action:
- Emphasise NEPAD’s environmental themes and actions at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in September 2002.

  b) Target these priority areas for environmental action:
  
  - Combat *desertification* by rehabilitating degraded land and dealing with the factors that caused the land to be damaged.
  
  - Conserve wetlands, using private sector investment.
  
  - Prevent and control invasive alien species.
  
  - Protect, use and manage coastal resources.
  
  - Monitor and regulate the impact of climate change and *global warming*:
    
    - Set up cross-border partnerships to boost conservation and tourism, and create jobs.
    
    - Build capacity in areas such as environmental management, legal, planning and training skills.
    
    - Develop a carefully structured and fair financing system to fund these environmental efforts.
9.2.4 Agriculture

70% of Africa’s poor people live in rural areas, where farming systems are often weak and unproductive. As a result, agricultural supplies and income are low in many rural areas, leading to poverty.

Aims:

a) To achieve the urgent need for food security in Africa by improving farming systems to increase food production and raise nutritional standards.

b) To improve agricultural performance and thus promote African economic development.

c) To remove a number of structural obstacles to improve productivity in agriculture.

Examples of action:

a) Governments should help to provide irrigation equipment and improve rural infrastructure (e.g., roads, electricity).

b) Encourage local community leadership in rural areas, and participation in developing agricultural policy.

c) Mobilise donors and multilateral organisations to give much more support to the agricultural sector and rural development.
9.2.5 Culture, science and technology

Culture

Culture is a vital part of development in Africa. A major feature of Africa’s culture is indigenous knowledge, including tradition-based literacy, artistic works, and inventions and scientific discoveries.

Aim:
   a) To promote Africa’s rich cultural heritage.
   b) To protect and effectively use indigenous knowledge, and share it for the benefit of humanity.

Examples of action:
   a) Co-operate and jointly promote Africa’s cultures and traditions.
   b) Through NEPAD leaders, take urgent steps to protect and develop indigenous knowledge through suitable legislation by working with the World Intellectual Property Organisation.

Science and technology

Some of our aims:
   a) To promote cross-border co-operation by using knowledge currently available in Africa.
   b) To develop and adapt capacity to collect and analyse information to support production and export.
   c) To integrate and adapt existing technologies to diversify manufacturing.

Examples of action:
   a) Co-operate regionally on product standards development and distribution, and on geographic information systems.
   b) Work with bodies such as UNESCO and the Food and Agriculture Organisation to use biotechnology to develop Africa’s rich biodiversity and indigenous knowledge by improving agricultural productivity and developing medicines.
   c) Expand geoscience research to improve the use of Africa’s mineral wealth.
9.3 How can we mobilise resources?

This section focuses on the third part of NEPAD’s strategy: mobilising resources within and outside Africa to effectively implement NEPAD policies, programmes and projects.

9.3.1 The Capital Flows Initiative

Africa needs an estimated 7% annual growth rate to meet International Development Goals (IDGs), especially the goal of reducing by 50% the number of Africans living in poverty by 2015. To do this, we can increase domestic savings, although we will need to get most resources from abroad.

NEPAD thus focuses on:
• Debt reduction and overseas development assistance (ODA), as short- and medium-term methods.
• Private capital flows, as a long-term method.

Improved governance is essential for increased capital flows. Thus, countries participating in the Capital Flows Initiative must also participate in the Economic and Political Governance Initiative.

Increasing domestic resource mobilisation

Aims:
   a) To mobilise additional domestic and foreign resources to achieve higher levels of growth and to reduce poverty more effectively.
   b) To prevent the loss of domestic savings when capital is taken out of countries.

Examples of action:
   a) Collect tax more effectively.
   b) Improve government spending.
   c) Create conditions to attract private sector investments by domestic and foreign investors.
   d) Mobilise other available resources within Africa.
Debt relief

Currently, debt relief is based on debt sustainability, where debt service payments are a big part of the resource gap. NEPAD wants to adapt this concept of debt relief.

Aims:
  a) As a long-term aim, to link debt relief with achieving poverty reduction targets.

  b) As a short- and medium-term aim, to have debt service limits fixed as a percentage of fiscal revenue, with different levels for countries getting development assistance.

Examples of action
  a) A NEPAD Heads of State Forum will negotiate a further debt relief agreement for countries participating in NEPAD:
     • Before getting help through NEPAD, countries will use existing debt relief structures (eg for Highly Indebted Poor Countries - HIPC).
     • Countries will need to have agreed poverty reduction and debt strategies to be able to absorb extra resources.

  b) NEPAD leaders will set up a forum for African countries to share strategies and mobilise for improving debt relief strategies.

Overseas development assistance reforms

Aims:
  a) To increase overseas development assistance (ODA) flows to African countries.

  b) To reform the ODA delivery system to ensure that countries use development assistance more effectively.

Examples of action:
  a) Set up an ODA forum for developing a common African position on ODA reform – this will be a partner of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

  b) Through the ODA forum, work with the DAC and other donors to create a charter to guide the development partnership.

  c) Set up an independent tool to assess the performance of donors and countries receiving ODA.
Private capital flows

Many investors see Africa as ‘high risk’. NEPAD hopes to gradually lower these risks through its initiatives on peace and security, political and economic governance, infrastructure and poverty reduction.

Aim:
- To increase private capital flows to Africa as an essential part of a long-term approach to reduce the resource gap.

Examples of action:
- a) Carry out a needs assessment of financial tools to lower risks when doing business in Africa, and a feasibility study on creating these, if needed.

- b) Implement a public-private partnership (PPP) capacity-building programme through the African Development Bank and other regional bodies. This will assist governments to properly regulate contracts for infrastructure and social services.

- c) Set up a Financial Market Integration Force to promote the spread of financial markets within countries and across borders, and to develop a standard regulatory framework to guide this.
9.3.2 The Market Access Initiative

Diversifying production

African economies are vulnerable because they depend on primary production and resource-based sectors that offer limited export opportunities.

Aim:
- To urgently broaden production, using Africa’s natural resource base as a starting point.

Examples of action:
  a) Develop a broader capital goods sector by diversifying economically through links with other sectors.
  
  b) Support private enterprise – small businesses in the informal sector, and small and medium businesses in the manufacturing sector.
  
  c) Remove regulations blocking business activity and encourage creative African business talent.

Agriculture

Some of our aims:
  a) To improve productivity in agriculture, especially for women and small-scale farmers.
  
  b) To ensure food security for all people, including more access to enough food and nutrition by poor people.
  
  c) To promote steps to stop the degrading of natural resources and to encourage environmentally sustainable production methods.
  
  d) To integrate the rural poor into the market economy, and give them better access to export markets.

Examples of action in Africa:
  a) Increase secure water supply for agriculture by creating small-scale irrigation facilities and improving local water management.
  
  b) Promote necessary land reform and improve land tenure security (under traditional and modern forms of tenure).
  
  c) Focus on the poor by developing systems to monitor droughts and crop production.
d) Improve agricultural credit and financing schemes, including access to credit for women and small-scale farmers.

**Examples of action at international level:**

a) Promote access to international markets by improving the quality of African produce and agricultural products to meet international standards.

b) Support African networking with foreign partners on agricultural technology, extension services and rural infrastructure.

c) Support investment in research on high-yield crops, and on durable preservation and storage methods.

**Mining**

**Aims:**

a) To improve the quality of information on mineral resources.

b) To create a regulatory framework that is suitable for the development of the mining sector.

c) To develop *best practices* that will ensure efficient mining of high quality natural resources and minerals.

**Examples of action:**

a) Harmonise policies and regulations to ensure that mining follows minimum standards.

b) Combine commitments to reduce possible investment risks in Africa.

c) Share information sources on business opportunities for investments.

d) Improve co-operation to share knowledge and add value to natural resources.
Manufacturing

Aims: manufacturing
   a) To increase production, competitiveness and *diversification* in the domestic private sector, especially in *agro-industry*, mining and manufacturing.
   
   b) To set up organisations to deal with national standards in African countries.
   
   c) To harmonise technical regulatory frameworks used by African countries.

Examples of action in Africa:
   a) Develop new industries or upgrade existing industries, including agro-based industries, and energy and mineral resource-based industries.
   
   b) Become active members of relevant international standards organisations to give Africa a stronger voice and to help in developing international standards.
   
   c) Ensure that testing laboratories and certification bodies are set up to support the relevant national technical regulations.
   
   d) Set up a national or regional accreditation infrastructure that is internationally acceptable, such as the International Standards Organisation system.

Examples of action at international level:
   a) Facilitate partnerships by developing structures such as joint business councils for sharing information, joint ventures and subcontracting.
   
   b) Help strengthen African training bodies for industrial development, especially by promoting networking with international partners.
   
   c) Promote the transfer of new and appropriate technologies to African countries.
Tourism

Aims:

a) To identify key national and subregional projects that will promote employment and economic integration.

b) To develop a regional marketing strategy.

c) To develop research capacity in tourism.

d) To promote regional and subregional partnerships.

Examples of action:

a) Develop co-operative partnerships to share knowledge and involve more countries in tourist-related activities.

b) Build community capacity to be actively involved in sustainable tourism projects.

c) Prioritise consumer safety and security issues.

d) Market African tourism products, especially in adventure tourism, ecotourism and cultural tourism.

Services

Services are a vital activity area for African countries. This is especially important for countries that are well-equipped in ICT, for example in teleservices.
Promoting the private sector

Aims:
- a) To ensure a user-friendly environment for private sector activities, especially domestic entrepreneurs.
- b) To promote foreign direct investment and trade, emphasising exports.
- c) To develop micro-, small and medium enterprises, including the informal sector.

Examples of action in Africa:
- a) Support training and skills development to increase the entrepreneurial, managerial and technical capacities of the private sector.
- b) Strengthen chambers of commerce, trade and professional organisations, and their regional networks.
- c) Strengthen micro-, small and medium-scale industries through support from technical bodies and civil society.
- d) Improve access to capital by strengthening microfinancing schemes, especially for women entrepreneurs.

Examples of action at international level:
- a) Promote entrepreneurial development programmes for training managers of African firms.
- b) Give technical assistance to develop a regulatory environment to promote small, medium and micro-enterprises.
Promoting African exports

Africa’s needs in world trade

NEPAD expects Africa’s participation in the world trading system to lead to results such as:
- Open, certain and geographically spread market access for African exports.
- Technical assistance and support to increase the institutional capacity of African states to use the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and to negotiate multilateral trade.

Some of our aims:

a) To overcome international trade barriers by improving trade.

b) To increase trade within African regions by promoting cross-border co-operation between African businesses.

c) To counter Africa’s negative image by marketing the continent and resolving conflicts.

Examples of action in Africa:

a) Promote trade within Africa to find African sources for imports from the rest of the world.

b) Create marketing tools and bodies to develop marketing strategies for African products.

c) Publicise African export and import companies and products through trade fairs.

d) Reduce export taxes.

Examples of action at international level:

a) Negotiate agreements and tools to allow African products to access world markets.

b) Encourage foreign direct investment.

c) Assist in building capacity to implement the rules and regulations of the WTO.

d) Ensure that any new multilateral trade negotiations cover Africa’s needs and interests in future WTO rules.
Examples of further strategic action to strengthen trade

Together with the international community, African leaders should:
   a) Identify key areas in export production where there are weaknesses with supplies.

   b) Deepen efforts to integrate and increase trade in Africa through:
      • A voluntary *preferential trade system* for trade within Africa.
      • Harmonising domestic and regional trade and industrial policy to boost sustainable regional economic trade.

Examples of further strategic action on preferential treatment

African leaders should act to:
   a) Secure and stabilise preferential treatment by key developed country partners.

   b) Ensure that changes through multilateral talks do not take away preferential gains in existing agreements.

Removing non-tariff barriers

Africa needs to have improved access to markets where Africa has a competitive advantage. While tariffs have lowered in recent years, *non-tariff barriers* still block Africa.

Removing non-tariff barriers will greatly assist to:
   • Increase economic growth and diversify African products and exports.
   • Make Africa less dependent on ODA.
   • Improve infrastructure projects through increased economic activity.
10. How are we implementing NEPAD?

10.1 Priority programmes

These are NEPAD’s priority programmes that we aim to implement first, together with our development partners:

a) HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis
b) Information and communications technology
c) Debt reduction
d) Market access.

While work on these programmes is already being done through other international programmes and bodies, we believe:

- We must strengthen Africa’s involvement for better results.
- We can speed up Africa’s renewal by implementing these programmes.

NEPAD leaders have also proposed key projects to strengthen country and regional development, for example in:

- Agriculture
- Promoting the private sector
- Infrastructure and regional integration.

➡ Please see NEPAD’s website for detailed information on these programmes and projects (www.nepad.org). [margin note]
10.2 Assessing and managing our progress

Assessing needs

NEPAD will do a needs assessment to assess structures and staff, and action needed in the 5 priority sectors. Needs assessments will progress from national to subregional and regional level, with national needs guiding subregional sectoral needs.

Heads of State Implementation Committee

The heads of state promoting NEPAD will advise the African Union on the appropriate structures for implementing NEPAD. NEPAD’s implementing structures will need technical support for research and developing policy.

Please see NEPAD’s website for updated information on NEPAD structures (www.nepad.org).

There will be a Heads of State Implementation Committee (HSIC) made up of:

- The 5 heads of state promoting NEPAD, and
- 10 other heads of state (2 from each region).

The role of the HSIC is to:

- Identify strategic issues to research, plan and manage at continental level.
- Set up tools to review progress, based on agreed targets and standards.
- Review progress in implementing past decisions.
- Take appropriate steps to deal with problems and delays.

The key to success

Through the NEPAD programme, African leaders are making a commitment to Africa’s people and the world to:

- Work together to rebuild Africa.
- Promote peace, stability and people-centred development, together with democracy and good economic management.
- Hold each other accountable for what has been agreed in NEPAD’s Programme of Action.

Africa recognises that it holds the key to its own development. NEPAD’s development strategy and detailed Programme of Action starts a new chapter in the partnership and co-operation between Africa and the developed world.

The key to NEPAD’s success is in our hands. In carrying out its promise, NEPAD must give hope to every poor and thin African child that the 21st century is really Africa’s century.
Questions for discussion

These are a few questions to encourage discussion and action in your organisation and community around NEPAD and NEPAD issues. Please add your own questions and concerns.

1. What does the spirit of NEPAD and its Programme of Action mean for your organisation or community?

2. What do you feel are NEPAD’s main strengths and weaknesses?

3. Are you aware of NEPAD’s main strategies and priority sectors?

4. Do you know of any NEPAD projects and have they had an impact on your region, country or community?

5. What are the key issues affecting development in your region, country or community? Do you feel that NEPAD sufficiently deals with these issues? For example, does NEPAD meaningfully address HIV/AIDS challenges?

6. Do you think the launch of the African Union has assisted in taking forward NEPAD and the addressing of development issues?

7. Do you think the World Summit on Sustainable Development and its outcomes will meaningfully advance NEPAD and African development?

8. What do you feel about the NEPAD process so far? For example: do you feel there was enough consultation with civil society organisations?

9. Do you feel civil society organisations should get involved with NEPAD? If you support involvement:
   - How do you feel civil society organisations can get involved and meaningfully contribute to NEPAD programmes and projects?
   - What practical steps can your organisation take to meaningfully get involved in the process of implementing NEPAD?

10. What else should NEPAD and its implementing structures be doing to consult and involve people in urban and rural areas?
Useful words and concepts

This is a selected A to Z list of key words and concepts we put in italics the first time we used them.

Access
Able to get, have or use, eg access to health care.

Accountable
Having to report and be answerable for your actions.

Agro-industry
Industries based on agriculture.

Best practices
Good examples or standards that serve as a model.

Biodiversity
The rich variety of plants and animals that live in their own environment.

Bridging the digital divide
Making up the gap in information and communications technology between developed and developing countries.

Capacity
Being able to do something, eg the capacity to start a small business.

Civil society
The non-government part of our society, eg non-governmental organisations, community organisations, religious bodies and trade unions.

Communicable diseases
Diseases that can be spread by human contact, eg TB, HIV, malaria.

Corporate
To do with companies.

Debt sustainability
Keeping debts at a level so that countries can afford to pay them back.

Dependency
Relying on donors or other countries financially.

Desertification
When fertile land gradually turns into desert.
**Developed countries / world**
The industrialised, richer countries of the world.

**Developing countries / world**
The less developed, poorer countries of the world.

**Diversified / Diversification**
Spreading and expanding by taking on new activities, eg diversifying by making a new product.

**Domestic**
To do with a country, within a country, eg domestic policies.

**Ecotourism**
Tourism activities that are sensitive to the environment.

**Empowerment**
Training, building capacity and giving people the power to do something, eg economic empowerment.

**Entrepreneurs / Entrepreneurial**
Describing owners or managers of businesses that aim to make a profit.

**Equitable**
Fair and reasonable.

**Exploitation**
Being used in an unfair way, eg exploiting Africa’s labour and minerals.

**Fiscal**
To do with government-controlled finances.

**Food security**
Access to enough of the right kind and quality of food to live a healthy life.

**Global economy**
The world economy.

**Globalising / Globalisation**
Becoming part of the world economy, and thus affected by world market forces and pressures.

**Global warming**
The gradual rise in temperature on Earth because the sun’s heat cannot escape the build-up of gases in the atmosphere.
**Governance**  
Way of running, governing or managing, eg corporate governance, environmental governance.

**Gross domestic product**  
Total value of all goods produced and services given in a country, usually measured over one year (often called ‘GDP’).

**Gross national product**  
Total value of all goods produced and services given in a country, plus its income from overseas, usually measured over one year (often called ‘GNP’).

**Harmonise**  
Bring together to co-operate or support each other.

**Heads of State Forums**  
Structures of NEPAD that will carry our monitoring and other tasks to ensure that NEPAD’s initiatives and action plans are carried out.

**Heads of State Implementation Committee**  
The NEPAD committee with the overall responsibility of ensuring that NEPAD programmes, projects and commitments are carried out and reviewed.

**Health literacy**  
Being educated and aware of health rights, duties and issues.

**Indigenous knowledge**  
Knowledge that belongs to and is part of African culture, eg tradition-based literacy, artistic works, scientific discoveries.

**Informal sector**  
Part of the economy where people are self-employed and earn a living through activities like street-trading.

**Infrastructure**  
The structure that enables a country to function effectively, eg public services, communications, transport network.

**Integrating / Integration**  
Fitting into, merging, or combining with, eg integrating into the world economy.

**International Development Goals**  
Internationally set development targets to measure progress (called ‘IDGs’).

**Land tenure security**  
Having legally secure rights to live on and use land.
**Legitimacy**
Having moral and legal authority, eg the legitimacy of a government after free and fair elections.

**Macro-economic**
To do with the economy of a country or group of countries.

**Marginalised / Marginalisation**
Being sidelined, left out or given a very small role, eg the marginalisation of Africa in the world economy.

**Multilateral organisations**
International organisations with members or partners from different countries.

**Non-tariff barriers**
Obstacles blocking African access to trade that have nothing to do with export taxes.

**Peer review**
When countries monitor and assess each other’s performance, eg in carrying out commitments under NEPAD’s Democracy and Political Governance Initiative.

**Preferential trade system**
Giving incentives or advantages to encourage trade.

**Primary production**
Producing natural raw, unmanufactured materials, eg gold, oil, coffee.

**Priority programmes**
NEPAD has prioritised these 4 programmes: a) HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB; b) ICT; c) debt reduction; d) market access.

**Priority sectors**
NEPAD highlights these 5 priority sectors: a) Infrastructure; b) Human resources; c) Health; d) Agriculture; e) Market access for African exports.

**Programme of Action**
NEPAD’s action strategy that covers these 3 broad areas: a) Conditions for sustainable development; b) Sectoral priorities; c) Mobilising resources.

**Public-private partnerships**
Partnerships between government and business (usually called ‘PPPs’).

**Regulatory framework**
Legal rules and structures that control different sectors.
Reversing the brain drain
Stopping the loss of knowledge and skills when professionals leave Africa.

Rule of law
When a country respects internationally accepted legal principles, standards and procedures.

Sustainability
When something is able to survive and continue in a productive and safe way.

Sustainable development
Development that is planned to meet the needs of present and future generations, eg the need for basic social services. Sustainable development includes using resources responsibly and ensuring that the environment is protected.

Sustainable growth
Economic growth that can be maintained over time.

Transparency
Openness, eg transparency in government.

Underdeveloped / Underdevelopment
Historical exploitation leading to Africa being poor and less developed, eg Africa’s underdevelopment compared to Europe.
Useful contacts and resources

Open Society contacts

Open Society Foundation for South Africa (OSF-SA)
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Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA)

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Useful websites and links

www.nepad.org
www.nepadsn.org/entry.html
www.allafrica.com
www.sarpn.org.za