



## Press Release No. 04/2012

### **AU/NEPAD Hold Colloquium of High Level Panel Discussion ahead of NEPAD 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**Addis Ababa, 27 March 2012** –The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Planning and Coordinating Agency in collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC) hold high level colloquium grouping former African Heads of States and Professors, as part of activities marking the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NEPAD. The colloquium under the theme ***"Africa's Decade of Change: Accelerating NEPAD Implementation through Domestic Financing"***, took place on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2012 in the plenary hall of the new Conference Center of the African Union (AUCC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



Other partners who support the NEPAD in organizing this colloquium include: the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) and the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ).



Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the



Present at the colloquium were: Mr. Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson of the AUC; Mr. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, who is also the Chairperson of the NEPAD Heads of States and Government Orientation Committee; Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA); Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NEPAD.

The remarkable presence of H.E. Federal Republic of Nigeria; and H.E. Jerry Rawlings, former President of the Republic of Ghana was an exciting moment of the Colloquium especially when they took the floor to address issues of related to the theme of the discussion.

Prime Minister Zenawi outlined the achievement of a key milestone with NEPAD serving as a common and shared vision for Africa's renewal. He stated that the year 2012 signals the beginning of the second decade for NEPAD. "The journey

so far has been a learning experience since its establishment in 2001", he said, adding that in the process of reviewing the accomplishments of NEPAD there has been some good lessons learnt with regard to sustainable development in the continent.

The Prime Minister pointed out that, NEPAD has contributed immensely to the transformation of policy design and implementation of Africa's development objectives. He underscored the need for Africa to adapt to the most innovative mechanisms and methods to financing major programmes in the future.





Mr. Mwencha stated that the AU Commission and its NEPAD Agency are working closely particularly for to ensure the successful implementation of the joint projects including: Infrastructure and Energy; Rural Economy and Agriculture. The Deputy Chairperson of the AUC said African Union plays a key role in efforts to mobilize local resources for the development of the continent. He highlighted some key challenges Africa is facing in the financing and sustainability of its development projects. He pointed out that Africa has a sound vision and strategy as well as a set of viable programmes and projects such as

CAAP, PIDA and CARMMA whose implementation “would radically transform Africa”. Concluding his statement, Mr. Mwencha reiterated that the involvement of local partners in the funding of Africa’s projects would help to strengthen project ownership by Africans themselves. He said it will promote a culture of transparency and good governance, reduce the degree of risk dependence on non-regional donor agendas and encourage the search for innovative financing.



Mr. Abdoulaye Janneh started by congratulating the NEPAD Agency and Member States for their leadership and determination to foster a new set of rules for Africa’s development, based on African ownership and leadership that is built on true partnership. Mr. Janneh indicated that programs such as: Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) have enabled continental organizations to promote peace and security, human rights, economic

and social development in Africa. He said the RCM has assisted NEPAD in priority areas such as strategic planning, development strategy, macroeconomic analysis, sustainable development, climate change, regional integration among others.

In the same vein, Dr. Maxwell Mkwezalamba, Commissioner for Economic Affairs of the AUC expressed satisfaction to the excellent relationship between the ECA, the NEPAD and the AUC. He said his department will continue to give support to ensure the full integration of the NEPAD in the structures of the AUC particularly with regards to the implementation of the different socio-economic programmes.



Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki expressed appreciation to the constant support of the ECA under the leadership of Mr. Abdoulaye Janneh. He reiterated that NEPAD in the last ten years has played a critical role in promoting democracy and good governance through one of its flagship projects: the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). He noted the difficulties and unpredictability of external support saying that, this has inevitably affected the pace at which NEPAD ambitious programmes

have been implemented. Recognizing the importance of domestic resources in accelerating the socio economic transformation of Africa, Dr. Mayaki called on the member states to continue to provide support to ensure a sustainable implementation of the NEPAD programmes. “Increasing domestic resources for financing regional programmes will shape our continent for better” he emphasized.

The launch of a commemorative book titled: “*A Decade of NEPAD: Deepening African Private Sector and Civil Society Ownership and Partnership*”, crowned the event at the new AUCC.

HG/SW/ETA