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28th Session of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee Convene in Addis Ababa



26th Jan 2013, Addis Ababa: Ahead of the 20th African Union Summit, twenty African leaders who make up the membership of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC), convened on Saturday 26th Jan 2013, at the African Union New Conference Center, in the framework of the 28th Ordinary Session of the HSGOC.

In her address to the Session, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini- Zuma Chairperson of the African Union Commission commended the synergy between AUC and NEPAD in the area of agriculture, food security and nutrition and infrastructure.

She added that the NEPAD Agency worked closely with the Commission to determine the modalities for the operationalization of the Institutional Architecture for Infrastructure Development in Africa and the capacity building needs of the Regional Economic Communities and continental institutions.

Within the context of knowledge management and the development of policies and strategies, the AUC Chairperson also noted that AUC and NEPAD Agency intensified their work towards achieving higher levels of coordination, consistency and synergy in the planning, implementation and monitoring/evaluation of regional programs.

She also added that the NEPAD Agency is involved in the development of the AUC Strategic Plan for 2014-2017, on the basis upon which the Agency will also develop its own. Further, the Agency is working closely with the Commission on the development of the AU-wide Strategic Framework, where other African institutions are also involved.



However, despite NEPAD's accomplishments to date, AUC Chairperson said that "a lot still needs to be done in order for the ordinary man and woman across the continent to feel the impact of NEPAD's deliverables in a consistent and concrete manner". This requires, among other things, addressing the challenges facing the NEPAD Agency. "These challenges include inadequate financial resources to implement in a timely manner

continental and regional projects and inadequate human capital to facilitate the implementation of programs and projects" she added.

The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Mr. Carlos Lopes outlined some key issues to be reflected upon in an ongoing comprehensive study on the mobilization of domestic resources for financing Africa's development and, in particular, the implementation of NEPAD projects.

He also highlighted the need to tap into the thriving private equity industry, adding the need to continue to promote the establishment of Africa-based private equity funds.

The Executive Secretary also mooted the need for an African Bonds Market, saying, African bond issues are flourishing in the international bonds market, though relatively new and limited to a few countries. He also took the opportunity to pledge support to a new initiative set up to honor the leadership and commitment of the late Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi to Africa's development and especially NEPAD.

Stressing on the need for Africa to end its dependency on external aid, Mr. Haile Mariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, in his address to the session, urged African countries to increase their investments in agriculture and infrastructure to maintain the economic growth that the continent registered in the last ten years.

He also emphasized on the need for implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) in all the African countries. He added that NEPAD will assist the countries that are willing to implement CAADP, adding that this program aims to improve food security, enhancing agricultural development in Africa.

The NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC) was established through Declaration of the 2001 OAU Summit in Lusaka, Zambia. At the 14th African Union (AU) Summit held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in February 2010 the HSGIC was transformed into the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC). This decision was in line with the integration of NEPAD into AU structures.

The HSGOC provides leadership to the NEPAD process, sets policies, priorities and the programs of action.

For more information, consult the African Union website: www.au.int and visit the 20th Summit web page of the AU at the following link: <http://summits.au.int/en/20thsummit>

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