

IMPACT AND PROSPECTS OF NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD) ON ICT AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AMONGST AFRICAN NATIONS

Orji, Chidi Paul, PhD

Department of Philosophy, University of Agriculture
and Environmental Sciences, Umuagwo

hipaulco@gmail.com, paul.orji@uaes.edu.ng

ORCID iD: <https://orcid.org/0009-0000-2941-5398>

Abstract

In their quest to redress Africa's development problems after previous development initiatives failed, African leaders realized that if the continent is to matter in the international community in the 21st century, there is a need for it to rethink its development strategy. The emergence of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is basically a pledge by African leaders predicated on a common and firm vision that they have a pressing duty to eradicate poverty and place their country, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable development. The challenging concern of African political leaders since the attainment of political independence by African countries has been the question of the poor social life and underdevelopment, which manifests itself in the form of poor health conditions, general poverty, infant mortality, and economic backwardness. It is therefore believed that NEPAD will reposition the African

continent on the path of long-term development and minimize its marginalization and neglect in international economic relations. This work aims at examining the impact of NEPAD on the African continent. And how NEPAD's Programmes have brought a renewed optimism and hope to its people. Key policy frameworks and programs on Africa's socio-economic sectors, including those on agriculture and food security, infrastructure, science and technology, education, ICT, and capacity development amongst others, have been developed. Africa, through NEPAD, has witnessed a decade of change and significant progress in improving political and socio-economic governance policies and implementation. Relative successes have been chalked up in the areas of peace and security, governance, economic growth, and women and youth empowerment.

Keywords: NEPAD, Africa, Partnership, Development, Nations

Introduction

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) has gone by many names. NEPAD is typically depicted by architects and foremost proponents as an attempt to address Africa's vast development challenges. Some have even called it Africa's 'Marshall Plan'. Others see it as a development strategy and a programme of the African Union (AU). Critics, on the other hand, depict NEPAD as a 'neo-liberal' project, clearly contrary to

the views of its supporters who see NEPAD as a revolutionary plan. Critics have even called NEPAD the 'Africanisation of GEAR'. Whatever name and epithet one chooses, NEPAD has clearly generated a great deal of debate. As a development plan, NEPAD sees a dialectical relationship between politics and economics. It explicitly makes a link between development, peace, security, governance, and democracy. It has been taken seriously by supporters and critics alike, NEPAD, and it seems to have two clear rationales. On the one hand, it wishes to inculcate into African politics a culture of democracy, accountability, and 'good' governance. On the other hand, it seeks a 'new', enhanced partnership with the countries of the industrialized North to involve them in efforts to underwrite such new African initiatives through debt relief, increases in levels of official development assistance, infrastructural development, and direct foreign investment. Thus, NEPAD is based on a trade -off: in exchange for African leaders holding each other accountable, the industrialized powers of the world would recommit themselves to Africa's development.

In order to gain a proper understanding of what NEPAD is, we have to ask the question: what prompted NEPAD? From whence does NEPAD come? NEPAD is, in a real sense, quite visionary. It seeks to bring about a paradigm shift in both Africa's international relations and intra-African politics. NEPAD was triggered by the post-Cold War reality

of power imbalances between Africa and the northern industrialized countries. It is trying to react to Western military and political disengagement from the continent, and outside powers shirking in their historical obligations toward the continent. NEPAD is also an attempt to change the negative perceptions of Africa. If the outside world were to respond positively and constructively to NEPAD, its re-engagement of the continent would help to arrest growing poverty and inequality on the continent, and assist in transforming the political, economic, and social landscapes in Africa.

Even before assuming the position of president, Thabo Mbeki made plain his determination to tackle Afro-pessimism in the quarters of the developed world. He wanted to shun the image amongst western observers, governments, and even investors that Africa was a continent inhabited mainly by a bunch of kleptocratic regimes that are typically dictatorial, with a strong penchant for violating human rights and democracy. But NEPAD is not only an attempt to turn around Africa's image abroad. NEPAD is also targeting African constituencies, most notably African governing elites. NEPAD's hope is that Africans should break with the culture and attitude of victimization. It sees itself as pursuing a very 'mature' approach by breaking with a perceived tendency of blaming the outside world for all of Africa's ills. It hopes to do so by inculcating into African politics a culture of 'taking responsibility' for

Africa's own mistakes, and by becoming more self-critical of African political development. The view about the West in Africa, in turn, was that of a club of powerful white governments that were racist towards Africa, and who viewed Africa as having lost its strategic significance after the Cold War. Such governments gradually shirked in their economic and political obligations towards the continent as they saw little point in sending their troops to far-off countries in the 'Dark Continent' of which they knew little about and cared even less.

The marginalization of Africa in every aspect, and its current high level of poverty, are no longer in doubt, and all the evidence has been researched, written, and discussed. The issue arising out of these is how to arrest this downward trend and put Africa back firmly on the world's development agenda, and on the path to irreversible and sustainable development, so that Africa truly claims this millennium. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is a new initiative to overcome Africa's problems, such as underdevelopment, poverty, undemocratic regimes, and lack of cooperation between African states. Initiated by the most significant states of Africa and supported by the industrialized world, NEPAD raised an intense debate about whether it would be an exact solution for Africa or "another false dawn". This essay will begin with a description of NEPAD and refer to the previous attempts with the same objectives. Afterwards, it will discuss the components

of NEPAD, mentioning their strengths and weaknesses. It will conclude with the comment that although NEPAD is a valuable framework for addressing Africa's challenges, it is far from finding permanent solutions for them.

NEPAD has been conceived by African Heads of State as a development framework that will do precisely these things, hence the emphasis on partnership. It is based on the realization that Africa has offered and continues to offer much to the world and humanity, and the rest of the world owes it a duty to respond to its present situation. NEPAD is about uniting the continent as an economic and trading bloc and increasing its competitiveness. It is about changing the current global market and financial architecture. It recognizes that to do so, Africa must first put its house in order and all African countries must work together toward common goals and objectives.

What is NEPAD: Conceptual Clarifications?

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is a holistic, integrated, sustainable development initiative for the economic and social revival of Africa involving a constructive partnership between Africa and the developed world. It is a pledge by African leaders, based on a common vision and a firm and shared conviction that they have a pressing duty to eradicate poverty and to place their countries, both individually and

collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development and, at the same time, to participate actively in the world economy and body politic.

The initiative is anchored on the determination of Africans to extricate themselves and the continent from the malaise of underdevelopment and exclusion in a globalizing world. It is a call for a new relationship of partnership between Africa and the international community to overcome the development chasm. The partnership is to be founded on a realization of common interest, obligations, commitments, benefit and equality.

Ogbinak points out that:

Previous development policies for Africa implemented by African leaders shared a common family semblance; they are Western initiatives, often mounted to stall self-driven indigenous developmental programs by Africans. As with their forebears, they are incapable of achieving any good purpose for Africa, and once these policies have done the jobs for which the initiators installed them, or if they are perceived as not serving the interest of their initiators, they are dismantled without apologies, hence the goals of such policies (which the Asians did not get themselves fooled about) operate to (1) make the African economy subservient to the Euro-American economy; (2) cause socio-economic-political dislocation in Africa; and (3)

disconnect African self-reliant resources (human and natural) from sustainable development (Ogbinaka, 2006:5).

The initiative is premised on African states making commitments to good governance, democracy, and human rights, while endeavoring to prevent and resolve situations of conflict and instability on the continent. Coupled to these efforts to create conditions conducive for investment, growth, and development are initiatives to raise the necessary resources to address the development chasm in critical sectors that are highlighted in the Programme of Action, such as infrastructure, education, health, agriculture, and ICT.

Resources will be mobilized by way of increasing savings and capital inflows via further debt relief, increased targeted ODA flows, and private capital. There will be an emphasis on the better management of public revenue and expenditure. The founding document of the NEPAD contains both a strategic policy framework and a Programme of Action. The New Partnership for African Development, which is a direct reflection of the poverty and general backwardness of Africa, in stark contrast to the prosperity of the developed world, is stated thus:

‘This New Partnership for African Development is a pledge by African leaders, based on a common vision and a firm and shared conviction, that they have a pressing

duty to eradicate poverty and to place their countries, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development and at the same time to participate actively in the world economy and body politics. (NEPAD Summit, Abuja, October 2001:3)

The NEPAD offers a historic opportunity for the advanced countries of the world to enter into a genuine partnership with Africa, based on mutual interests and benefits, shared commitment, and a binding agreement, under African leadership. In proposing the partnership, Africa recognizes that it holds the key to its own development. The adoption of a development strategy, together with a detailed programme of action, marks the beginning of a new phase in the partnership and cooperation between Africa and the developed world, including multilateral organizations.

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) was officially adopted at a July 2001 summit meeting of African heads of state. The regional plan expressed the determination of Africa's people "to extricate themselves and the continent from the malaise of underdevelopment and exclusion in a globalizing world." It called for a new relationship between Africa and the international community in which the non-African partners would seek to complement the region's own efforts. The

United Nations, the major industrialized nations, and various donor agencies pledged to extend their support.

NEPAD, therefore, evolves as a reversal of this abnormal situation (poverty and general backwardness of the continent) by changing the relationship that underpins it. In strong pursuit and support for NEPAD as a lasting solution to the development challenges facing Africa, one of its progenitors, Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, presented NEPAD's ability in managing and transforming Africa from the dependency stage to that of independence, boasting thus:

Across the continent, Africans declare that we will no longer allow ourselves to be conditioned by circumstances. We will determine our own destiny and call on the rest of the world to complement our efforts. There are already signs of progress and hope. Democratic regimes that are committed to the protection of human rights, people-centered development, and market-oriented economies are on the increase. African people have begun to demonstrate their refusal to accept poor economic and political leadership. These developments are, however, uneven and inadequate and need to be further expedited (Africatoday, August/September 2002:11).

While much time was initially spent in setting up ad hoc institutional arrangements for NEPAD and explaining its goals and principles to both African and international audiences, the plan also registered a number of accomplishments during its first decade. These have included:

- The establishment of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), by which African governments voluntarily agree to allow their political, human rights, and economic policy performance to be scrutinized by panels of prominent Africans. Thirty African countries had joined the APRM as of January 2011, with 14 of them having completed a full peer review.
- The elaboration of the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), designed to help African governments, farmers, and businesspeople better plan and coordinate efforts to promote agricultural productivity and food security, in an environmentally sustainable way. By May 2011, 26 African governments had signed CAADP "compacts" committing them to increase agricultural investments (see *Africa Renewal*, April 2011).
- The start of construction of an underwater fibre-optic cable (Uhurunet) off Africa's coasts to better connect its information and communications lines to the rest of the world, as well as a cross-border land network

(Umojanet) to improve connectivity among African countries.

- A variety of projects to strengthen road networks and electricity grids among African countries, to help improve regional trade and cooperation.

-

Rationale for the NEPAD

The idea of developing a new Agenda for African Recovery dates back to 1999. President T Mbeki, President O. Obasanjo, and President A Bouteflika, as leaders of three major organizations representing the interests of Africa and the South, found themselves in a unique position to put Africa's case to the global community. They realized that Africa has been reacting for too long to ideas and offers of support from the rest of the world, without developing and articulating its own vision and programme of action.

Africa has produced a variety of initiatives and programmes of action in the past, in particular the Lagos Plan of Action and the Abuja Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community. However, for a variety of reasons, including timing, a lack of capacity and resources, a lack of political will, and the interference of outside interests in the Cold War era, the plans failed in their implementation. A convergence of favourable circumstances within the continent and internationally provides the ideal opportunity now to take the existing plans, e.g., for

economic integration, forward within the context of a new initiative developed by Africans for Africans.

Faced with the challenge of addressing poverty and underdevelopment, both in their respective countries and on the continent, and with demands to address world forums on African issues, the Presidents resolved to request the OAU to mandate them to prepare a comprehensive development programme that could serve as a foundation for the regeneration of the continent and the forging of a new partnership with the rest of the world, more specifically the industrialized countries and multilateral organizations. This would be a programme that went beyond debt reduction, which was the immediate trigger for the initiative. The result is the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

Process of Development of the Final Initiative

The mandate for the Millennium Partnership for the African Recovery Programme (MAP) had its genesis at the OAU Extraordinary Summit held in Sirte, Libya during September 1999. The Summit mandated President T Mbeki of South Africa and President A Bouteflika of Algeria to engage Africa's creditors on the total cancellation of Africa's external debt. Following this, the South Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement and the G77, held in Havana, Cuba, during April 2000, mandated President Mbeki and President O Obasanjo to convey the concerns of the South to the G8 and the Bretton Woods institutions.

Realising the correlation between the two mandates and the fact that debt relief forms but one critical aspect of the overall development agenda for Africa, the OAU Summit held in Togo in July 2000 mandated the three Presidents to engage the developed North with a view to developing a constructive partnership for the regeneration of the Continent.

Following this, the three Presidents raised the issue of a partnership with the leaders of the G8 at their Summit in Japan during July 2000. The work on developing the MAP then began in earnest, and a process of engagement on a bilateral and multilateral level was pursued. For example, a presentation on MAP was made to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, in January 2001. The first concept paper was prepared by President Mbeki and was approved by the other two Presidents in September 2000. A Steering Committee was appointed to develop a more detailed proposal immediately thereafter. Each President appointed two members to the Steering Committee in October 2000. After a number of consultations with the three Presidents regarding an evaluation of past and current development agendas for Africa, the Steering Committee produced a Policy Framework document, Draft 3 (a), in February 2001.

Draft 3 (a) was both a vision statement and an outline of a Programme of Action for the political,

social, and economic recovery of the African continent. It argued the case for the initiative, its timing and its strategic focus, as well as outlining actions, duties and responsibilities for African leaders on the one hand and for industrialized countries on the other. The next four months were then devoted to the preparation of a detailed Programme of Action.

The OMEGA Plan was conceived by President A Wade and was first presented at the Franco-Africa Summit in Yaounde, Cameroon, in January 2001. It was then also presented at the OAU Extraordinary Summit in Sirte in March 2001. The three original MAP Presidents became aware of the Omega Plan for the first time at the World Economic Forum in Davos on 30 January 2001. The OMEGA Plan is premised on four central pillars, dealing with the building of infrastructures, including the new technologies of information and communication (ICT), education and human resource development, health, and agriculture. At the 8th Session of the African Ministers of Finance in Addis Ababa in November 2000, the Executive Secretary of the ECA, Mr. KY Amoako, was tasked with developing a Compact for Africa's Renewal.

The document that he produced was then presented and discussed at the Conference of African Ministers of Finance in Algiers, Algeria, from 8 to 10 May 2001. The ECA New Global Compact with Africa

discusses operationalizing the MAP and is comprised of six Chapters.

During the 5th Extraordinary Summit of the OAU held in Sirte, Libya, from 1 to 2 March 2001, President Obasanjo made a presentation on the MAP, and President Wade of Senegal presented the OMEGA Plan. The work being done by the four Presidents, i.e., Presidents Mbeki, Obasanjo, Bouteflika and Wade, was endorsed, and it was decided that every effort should be made to integrate all the initiatives being pursued for the recovery and development of Africa. In reaching this decision, the Summit recognized the synergy and complementarity that existed between the various initiatives. In the final analysis, Africa has to present a single, coordinated plan to its international cooperating partners. To have more than one initiative will be confusing to Africa's partners, will undermine credibility, and will inevitably lead to a splitting of scarce resources, focus, and capacity. The Conference in Algiers of 8-10 May 2001, discussed above, represented the first step in carrying forward the mandate for integration given by the Extraordinary Summit in Sirte in March 2001. Apart from the ECA Compact, the MAP and the OMEGA Plan were also discussed, and the Ministers urged the experts of the three initiatives to work together to achieve the merger and consolidation.

Following this, a meeting of experts from nine African states, as well as the MAP Steering Committee, was held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 2 to 4 June 2001. Immediately following the Extraordinary Summit in Sirte, Senegal and Egypt were included on the Steering Committee, along with South Africa, Nigeria, and Algeria. At the Abuja meeting, Gabon, Mali, Tanzania, and Mozambique were also invited to attend. The Abuja meeting discussed the issue of merger in general, while the majority of the meeting was utilized to further develop the MAP Programme of Action. Input papers were provided by a number of states under each of the 8 Themes, and these were extensively workshopped to arrive at a consolidated background paper per Theme. A Theme on Environment was also added. An integration team was assembled at the Development Bank of Southern Africa following the Abuja meeting.

The task of this team was to produce a comprehensive, coherent plan from the papers and positions developed at the Abuja Workshop, which they did. Furthermore, a meeting was held in Dakar, Senegal, from 11-13 June, where the final details of the OMEGA Plan were discussed. A broad spectrum of the Senegalese public and private sectors was represented at the meeting, as well as a number of countries, including South Africa, and multilateral organizations. President Bouteflika sent a Special Envoy to the meeting, his Minister for African Affairs,

to further develop the process of merging the various initiatives.

Following this, the MAP Steering Committee held a meeting in Cairo, Egypt, from 18 to 21 June. Apart from the five core Steering Committee states, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda, and Libya also attended the meeting. The Cairo meeting aimed to finalize the MAP Programme of Action documents and also to discuss the merger of the MAP and the OMEGA Plan into one consolidated initiative. Most of the discussion at the meeting centred on the MAP Theme documents.

Good progress was made in finalizing these Programme of Action documents. The meeting agreed that there must be a two-page summary of each of the MAP Programme of Action Theme papers. The Programme of Action is designed to give effect to the strategic framework outlined in the MAP Draft 3 (a) document. The question of the MAP/OMEGA integration was discussed on the last day, and Senegal repeated their assertion that it was fully in favour of the merger of the two documents. A framework and process for the integration was agreed upon to guide the drafting and integration team, dealing with the work at the conceptual, sectorial and structural levels.

The integration process continued again after the Cairo meeting and culminated in the production of

the MAP Final Draft 3 (b) on 29 June. The executive summaries arising from Cairo were utilized to produce this document, consisting of a framework and the key priorities and programmes. Finally, a meeting of the five core MAP Steering Committee countries (South Africa, Nigeria, Algeria, Senegal, and Egypt) was held in Pretoria, South Africa, on 2 and 3 July 2001. The OAU and the ECA were also invited, and the ECA Executive Secretary himself attended. MAP Final Draft 3 (b) was presented to the meeting. Following much vigorous debate, the meeting was successful in finalizing a common, coordinated, and integrated document for presentation to the OAU Summit in Lusaka, Zambia (9-11 July). The document, entitled A New African Initiative: Merger of the Millennium Partnership for the African Recovery Programme and the Omega Plan (NAI), was unanimously approved by the members of the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee formally presented the consolidated initiative to the five initiating Presidents and their representatives in Lusaka on 9 July 2001. The presentation was preceded by a consultative meeting between President Mbeki and President Wade in Pretoria on 7 July, and a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the five Steering Committee states was held in Lusaka on 8 July to discuss the finalized common initiative and the procedure for introducing the document to the Summit.

On 11 July 2001, the NAI was presented to the OAU Summit of Heads of State and Government in Lusaka, Zambia. It was enthusiastically received and was unanimously adopted by the Summit in the form of Declaration 1 (XXXVII) of the Summit. In the post-Lusaka period, an extensive programme to lobby support for the initiative has been undertaken. This began with the UN ECOSOC Ministerial meeting on 16 July in Geneva, the G8 Summit in Genoa, Italy, on 20 July, and the SADC Summit in August in Blantyre, Malawi. It was also a crosscutting agenda item during the World Conference Against Racism in September in Durban, South Africa.

Engagement with key continental and international cooperating partners will be ongoing, in particular with the AU, the RECs, the G8, the EU, the UNO, and the Bretton Woods institutions. Synergies and linkages will be consciously established with all existing processes and initiatives on the continent, e.g., the TICAD and Sino-Africa initiatives. Finally, the first meeting of the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee, as mandated at the OAU Summit in Lusaka to drive the process forward, met in Abuja, Nigeria, on 23 October 2001. The Committee, comprising Nigeria, South Africa, Algeria, Senegal, Egypt, Mozambique, Botswana, Tunisia, Mali, Ethiopia, Mauritius, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Gabon, and Cameroon, finalized a name for the initiative, namely the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and the definitive text.

NEPAD replaces NAI, which was merely intended to be a working title for the purposes of the OAU Summit. Furthermore, the Committee finalized the management structures for NEPAD, consisting of the Implementation Committee, which will meet three times a year and must report annually to the AU Summit, a Steering Committee, comprising personal representatives of the five initiating Presidents, and a Secretariat, to be based in South Africa. The Committee also identified a list of five priorities that are to be pursued in the short term for their next meeting. This meeting marks the start of the critical implementation phase of the initiative.

Vision and Goals of NEPAD

According to Mayaki:

Africa is the continent of the future. Although endowed with a wide repertoire of resources, the development challenges facing Africa are complex and enormous in all spheres. However, over the past decade, Africa's development landscape has been improving. A new story of steady transformation and growth is evolving on the continent. A driving force behind the transformation of Africa is the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which marked ten years of existence in 2011. Inspired by the urgency to transform the fortunes of the continent, African leaders

adopted NEPAD as the framework for Africa's development (Mayaki, 2012:1).

NEPAD was a remarkable vision by African leaders. The past 10 years have provided increased confidence and hope about what is actually achievable in Africa. There has been a demonstration of resilience, with Africa leapfrogging onto a viable development path, alongside China, the so-called dragon economy, India, and others. One senses a momentum that has been re-energized by NEPAD. There have not been too many development frameworks that have lived as long as NEPAD; 10 years is quite remarkable. NEPAD is an African spirit for renewal, which will genuinely transform African economies. On the security front, we have never seen such a momentum [towards peace]. There is an increased commitment by African leaders to direct resources to their private sectors.

Our leaders' engagements with the Group of Eight and other global leaders have clearly shown that the international community is beginning to listen and respond to African-driven development priorities. Of course, the international community could have done better in terms of commitment and financing, but there is a response emerging. African civil society groups and the media often ask: Where are the tangible results? Agreed. A lot of people would like to see the impact on the ground. But let's not forget that planning is as important as impact. Look at

China. It took decades to plan, and the results are coming only now. Planning is critical. And if you look at the qualitative aspects of the planning process in Africa, there is increased sensitivity to the NEPAD vision of good governance, transparency, and accountability. We have come a long way from the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, when civil society organizations had no say in the management of the affairs of the state.

It serves as a platform for mutual learning and peer reviewing. They engage their own constituencies, and we are hoping that this continental platform can also be a conduit for channeling ideas to African leaders, for example, on facilitating regional markets. But obviously, we need to do more by looking at other civil society organizations than just in agriculture. African leaders are absolutely clear that infrastructure development is a priority, alongside agriculture, education, health, and so forth, indeed, alongside all the MDGs. Infrastructure is an area that will fast-track regional integration, connecting people across borders. But it will also connect rural communities with urban areas and ensure that food flows from remote corners of the countryside into urban areas. It will ensure that local communities have access to health services, so that people are able to go to hospitals within a short space of time. African leaders have agreed that they will champion increased financing of infrastructure initiatives, including for energy, which is in such short supply in

Africa, despite huge available natural resources and huge hydroelectric potential. And the financing cannot just be from public sources, but must also come from the private sector? The future growth of national African economies will be driven by the increased participation of the private sector. Equally important will be strengthening public-private partnerships, not just with the African private sector but also with the international private sector. Increasingly, we are seeing that Africa is emerging as a destination for future investments by the international community. In the area of agriculture, Africa is one place that has a surplus of productive land.

Hammed & Kabo maintain that:

NEPAD is a project that places at the heart of the continent's renewal, Africa's presidents. Indeed, paragraph one of NEPAD opens with the stamen that 'This New Partnership for Africa's Development is a pledge by African leaders, based on a common vision and a firm and shared conviction that they have a pressing duty to eradicate poverty and to place their countries, both collectively and individually, on a path of sustainable growth and development. Paragraph six follows with the assertion that what is required is bold and imaginative leadership that is genuinely committed to sustained human development effort and poverty eradication (Hammed & Kabo, 2013:15).

Hammed & Kabo further state that:

Thus, while NEPAD is projected as the AU's socio-economic programme and it is about good governance and democracy, it is paradoxically depicted as excluding political governance. In reality, the three areas of governance identified by NEPAD are not mutually exclusive. Africa's corrupt and wasteful regimes are almost always dictatorial, non-transparent, and often create propitious conditions for conflicts through their policies. The reverse sequence is also true. An attempt, therefore, to dichotomize the governance concept is both uncritical and hypocritical. Broadening the governance concept to include its political credentials is certain to expose the double-standard postures of many African states (Hammed & Kabo, 2013:19).

National governments in Africa will need to provide incentives to investors so that they can create more job opportunities and their investments will spill over to the wider society. Africa has missed out by allowing the development of the extractive industries at the expense of industries that generate employment, whether agriculture, manufacturing, or other industries. Africa must expand its industrial base by ensuring that investors move into value addition to create more jobs, to generate growth,

and to develop new sets of skills for Africans. According to Adesina:

This is one in which the coexistence of opposites and the open-ended outcome of social interaction or contending social forces provide an analytical framework devoid of teleological discourse... The outcome is not fixed beforehand. When we confront class, ethnic, religious, gender (etc.) manifestations of mutually exclusive identities, it will not be that we take them as alternative identities... Rather, it is in their interpenetration and mutual embeddedness that we understand real, lived existence as multilayered, contradictory, and context-situated (rather than the postmodern imagined identities). We are not 'either'/'or'; we are often many things embedded in one (Adesina 2002:106)

Initially, it often seemed that NEPAD was pitched to the Group of Eight and other donors, with expectations of higher aid flows. And although several G8 summits did pledge to increase aid, the global economic crash of 2008 further hampered that effort. Was that a wake-up call for Africa? Within Africa, there is recognition that development will not occur simply by relying on external donor support. Africa will need to mobilize its own domestic resources to develop itself. Africa has demonstrated that it has the capacity to generate its own resources. It will need to tend to issues of efficiency and

effectiveness, and how the available resources within Africa are utilized. That may mean increasing capacity in the financial sector, improving fiscal policies, and a whole range of other steps. Yes, global support is important, but so is what Africa can generate from within. When NEPAD was launched, the main global forum on economic issues was the G8. Now there is the Group of 20, with China, India, Brazil, South Africa, and others from the South participating. Is this shift giving Africa a stronger voice? The global architecture of development is changing, and the G20 exemplifies the very fast change, with new players coming in to assert themselves more forcefully on global issues. Africa needs to find increased space within this new architecture, especially the G20, to ensure that its voice is properly represented and that the diversities of the African continent are considered. This is part of the debate that the African Union will need to advance.

Mayaki asserts that:

NEPAD has the potential to break the vicious circle of increasing poverty, under-development, and marginalization that has characterized Africa for a very long time. There are great expectations within Africa and its peoples for NEPAD to succeed and bring about long-awaited change in re-launching Africa's development. NEPAD, being comprehensively an African initiative, is proof

that Africa holds the key to its own development. Nevertheless, NEPAD also offers a historic opportunity for the developed countries of the world to enter into a genuine partnership with Africa, based on a common vision, mutual interest, and shared commitments and obligations (Mayaki, 2012:45).

NEPAD'S Philosophy for African Development

The Philosophy of NEPAD

Mayaki points out that:

Africa is the continent of the future. The continent is endowed with a wide repertoire of natural resources, but the development challenges facing Africa are complex and enormous in all spheres. However, over the past decade, Africa's development landscape has been positively changing. A new story of steady transformation and growth is evolving in the continent. Under the common platform of the African Union (AU) and its flagship development programme -the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the continental renewal strategy has purposefully addressed the development woes of the last century. Africa has embarked on a process of articulating its own reform agenda, based on the principles of African ownership, leadership, and partnership. (Mayaki, 2012:2).

Mayaki further asserts that:

NEPAD represents a departure from the past African narratives of war, famine, stagnant economies, poverty, destructive political leadership, and poor governance. NEPAD represents more accountable and more democratic governments, enhancing rural higher income and creating new investment opportunities for Africa. Despite pockets of tragedies, the reality is that Africa has changed. When the African leaders founded NEPAD in 2001, they sent a powerful statement to the African and global community that they were now committed to defining a new development agenda for the transformation of the continent. NEPAD reflects the belief of all African leaders that they have the responsibility, working in partnership with the African peoples, to address the lack of development and growth in the continent, the pressing problems of poverty and social exclusion facing the majority of the population, and Africa's increasing marginalization from global markets for goods, services, and capital (Mayaki, 2012:2).

The African continent has been facing an uphill task in terms of its development. It cannot favorably compete with other industrialized nations of the

world. It is one of the cardinal reasons why the New Economic Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) was formed, to tackle the problems of development. Although Africa is rich in natural resources, it remains today the poorest continent, with not less than half of its people living below the poverty line on less than \$1 per day. Africa is also the most aid-dependent, the most indebted, and the most marginalized region. African leaders have launched the NEPAD initiative in order to recapture the glory of the past, regain the identity and self-confidence of its people, and put the continent back on the path of political and sustainable development. Before NEPAD, Africans tried many panaceas to develop the continent, but unlike America and Europe in an earlier time, they did not have the luxury of independence, which is central to self-regeneration. Among the well-known initiatives are,

- The Priority Programme of Economic Redressing of Africa (PPERA), adopted by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1985, and the Complementary United Nations Programme for the Economic Redressing and Development of Africa (PANUREDA).
- The 1991 Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (AEC).
- The New International Economic Order (NIEO), which implies a call for the restructuring of the present world economic system with a view to eliminating its debilitating tenets that are inimical to the

economic interest of the World Countries (and Africa in particular).

African leaders, while adopting the New African Initiative (NAI) in Lusaka, Zambia, in July 2001, advertised it as a concerted approach to actualize the African Union. The NAI was later renamed the New Economic Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) on October 23, 2001, in Abuja at the meeting of the Heads of State Implementation Committee. NEPAD is "premised on the determination of Africans to extricate themselves and the continent from the malaise of underdevelopment and exclusion in a globalizing world. Through NEPAD, a new debate is emerging, moving away from blaming all the problems the continent is facing on colonialism, to realize our collective responsibility in rebuilding the Continent and its people. Therefore, NEPAD is seen as a wake-up call to men and women to develop themselves as well as the continent. One of the criticisms of NEPAD has been that the general African populace does not know about it. NEPAD as a concept has failed to ignite the much-needed appeal, and what so many people have wondered what the pro-development initiative entails." It is against this backdrop that this study seeks to look at the sources of disseminating information on NEPAD.

This new partnership is a pledge by African leaders, "based on a common vision and a firm and shared conviction that they have a pressing duty to

eradicate poverty and to place their countries, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development, and to participate actively in the world economy and body politic. The New Partnership for Africa's Development is a "call for a new relationship of partnership between Africa and the international community, especially the highly industrialized countries, to overcome the development chasm that has widened over centuries of unequal relations. Objectives of NEPAD

To appreciate the role proper information dissemination can play in the realization of NEPAD, which is the brainchild of Presidents Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, and Bouteflika of Algeria, it is pertinent to know its objectives. Some of the objectives of NEPAD are:

- The people and government in Africa should understand that development is a process of empowerment and self-reliance.
- The eradication of widespread and severe poverty and HIV/AIDS in the continent, and progress toward sustainable development/
- The progress towards gender equality and empowering women by eliminating gender disparities in enrollment in primary and secondary schools by 2005.
- Reduction of infant and child mortality rates by two-thirds by 2015, and to provide access to all who need reproductive health services.

- Entrenchment of good governance and promotion and protection of democracy and human rights in Africa.
- Focus on the provision of essential public goods such as transport, energy, water, disease eradication, and environmental protection.
- Lasting peace and security on the continent.
- Fair and just conditions in which Africans can participate effectively in the world economy and politics.

Sources of Disseminating Information on NEPAD

Information is one element of human existence that has continued to assume a prominent position in the last decades, and is now regarded as one of the foremost factors in production, competing with land, capital, and labour in terms of importance. In fact, development programmes in Africa are often formulated and executed with insufficient information dissemination to the primary beneficiaries, and as a result, many of these development programmes fail. The benefit of information lies in keeping citizens abreast of developments. Information dissemination is a vital ingredient in planning and executing any development program. Some of the sources of information dissemination for the effective implementation of NEPAD are discussed below.

Individuals

Individuals are well known as custodians of information and constitute primary sources. Before

the use of paper and later technologies, individuals or oral traditions were the only sources of information dissemination. Individual sources of information dissemination can be anyone who is well-versed in the objectives of NEPAD. This source of information can be disseminated anywhere: in the office, in the vehicle, at home, at drinking parlours, schools, churches, clubs, and associations. In rural areas, individuals such as teachers, civil servants (retired and serving) are noted for disseminating information about government programmes and policies to the public, formally or informally.

Corporate Bodies

Corporate bodies represent another source of information on NEPAD. Corporate bodies include companies, industries, banks, and other financial institutions, universities, churches, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Corporate bodies, especially those directly or indirectly involved in the implementation of NEPAD, generate a lot of information. In universities, it may be in the form of lectures, seminars, symposia, and conferences, where the participants are told what NEPAD stands for and the role of the citizens in making NEPAD effective. Corporate bodies as sources of information have the advantage of disseminating mostly authentic and factual information.

Government Agencies and Mass Media

It is the primary aim of the government to care for the welfare of citizens. The success or failure of any government programme, no matter the sector, depends on the way the government disseminates information on the programme. For NEPAD to succeed and for full participation of citizens in the programme, there is a need for effective mobilization of the citizens through information dissemination using appropriate agencies and media. The establishment of a National Orientation Agency (NOA) in Nigeria, for example, is appropriate for the dissemination of information on NEPAD, whose objectives include the eradication of poverty and HIV/AIDS on the continent. Government agencies responsible for the implementation and success of the programme should respond appropriately by using the electronic media (radio and television) to disseminate information on NEPAD. Citizens feel a sense of belonging when they are kept informed of government programmes and policies.

Is NEPAD An Effective Development Organisation?

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), set up in 2001 as an integral part of the African Union, has been the subject of much scrutiny since its conception, particularly perhaps because it is sometimes viewed as "one last hope for Africa to reverse its slide into irrelevance. In the forty years previous to the adoption of NEPAD and the AU, the

major development strategy body had been the Organization of African Unity, which aimed at eradicating colonialism on the continent in all its forms and attempted to remain neutral in global affairs to prevent outside influence from dominating African politics, particularly in the context of the Cold War. Largely, however, the OAU was ineffective at planning and implementing a development strategy for Africa, perhaps due to internal fractures between different African nations. NEPAD is the latest attempt to create an effective development strategy for the continent as a whole and has faced both praise and criticism for its efforts during the last ten years. In the four decades previous to the adoption of the NEPAD development strategy and policy, development had been the domain of the Organization of African Unity, created in 1963 to improve the situation of all Africans, aiming to eradicate poverty and raise living standards for all. The Organization of African Unity was an important step in shaping thinking about African development policy, and could be seen as the first real link between democracy and development, as it pursued the end of colonialism on the continent in all its forms. Ultimately, however, it failed in its goals due to several reasons, including “non-interference in a member’s internal affairs...differences over the major political issues confronting Africa, and the ideological divide between the so-called Casablanca and Monrovia

groups over the pace and objectives of regional cooperation.

The formation of the African Union and the adoption of NEPAD was at least in part a continuation of principles set out by the OAU, and therefore to a certain extent the New Partnership for Africa's Development is certainly not radically new, although that does not necessarily contradict Hope's belief that NEPAD is the "most important advance in African development policy" if it can help to provide a more effective implementation of those principles. De Waal argues that this is actually one of NEPAD's main strengths, writing that "Africa doesn't need grand new paradigms; what it needs is a proper application of lessons learned, and a replication and broader application of existing best practices.

To some advocates of NEPAD, the New Partnership is also at the forefront of the idea of an African Renaissance, which originated largely with the end of apartheid in South Africa and particularly perhaps with Thabo Mbeki's appointment as President in 1996 with his 'I am an African Speech', in which he evokes a shared African identity with a shared suffering and a desire to end it by reaffirming Africa's "rise from the ashes". The idea of the African Renaissance became associated with five "areas of engagement: the encouragement of cultural exchange; the 'emancipation of African woman from patriarchy'; the mobilization of youth; the

broadening, deepening and sustenance of democracy; and the initiation of sustainable economic development". These areas of engagement are certainly evident in the framework of NEPAD, as it owes its roots to the Millennium Africa Renaissance Programme (MAP) proposed by Thabo Mbeki to the World Economic Forum in 2001, providing a 'first draft' of what would become the 'New Partnership for Africa's Development'. The basis of the New Partnership for Africa's Development is strong as it draws on existing principles and practices to improve its effectiveness, examples of which I shall now examine.

During its first ten years of existence, NEPAD has had some very significant successes, possibly most notably the adoption of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), which is designed to "candidly assess the country's biggest problems, identify needed actions and secure commitments from the country under review for fixing those problems. The APRM identifies the biggest issues and possible solutions and categorizes them into four focus areas: Democracy and Good Political Governance; Economic Governance and Management; Corporate Governance; and Socio-Economic Development, Ghana was one of the first countries to sign up to the APRM in 2003 and its first review was completed in 2005, devising a National Programme of Action (NPOA) to act on the recommendations made by the APRM which is monitored and itself reviewed

annually. The 2007 Annual Progress Report makes note of several achievements in all sectors, including the ratification of the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of Women; a reform of the Ghanaian tax administration; a reduction of both the corporate and the withholding taxes which has allowed the improvement in the operational incomes of companies; and improvement in access to key social services such as education and health services, Ghana is a particularly good example as it has recently submitted an application for its second review; however it is not the only country that has benefited from the APRM.

Following Kenya's first review, the country has made significant progress, perhaps most importantly in its response to inter- and intra-state conflicts and the promotion of civil and human rights, with the intention of improving democracy and good governance. The Progress Reports for both Ghana and Kenya provide evidence that the APRM can help improve the infrastructure of a country and "accelerate their progress towards adopting and implementing the priorities and programmes of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

Another area that appears to have achieved some significant success is the NEPAD e-Schools Initiative, an initiative that aims to "impart ICT skills to young Africans in primary and secondary schools as well as harness ICT technology to improve, enrich and

expand education in African countries”, allowing them to “participate effectively in the global information society” as part of the wider e-Africa Programme. A research study carried out in Kenya between both NEPAD and non-NEPAD schools found that the non-NEPAD schools, despite having more fully qualified staff (83% had either a diploma or degree in computer studies), had significantly less integration of Information Communication Technology (ICT) in other studies whilst the NEPAD schools had access to increased ICT facilities such as smart boards and therefore experienced significantly higher integration of technology. There are however those who criticize NEPAD on various levels, with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) often leading with their criticisms, particularly pointing to the lack of consultation with civil society and the structure of NEPAD itself which is described as being ‘top-down’ and elite-driven.

The initial draft of NEPAD was presented to the members of the G8 before it was seen by any sector of African civil society, and Greenpeace notes that this exclusion of civil society “severely diminishes the legitimacy” of the programme, a criticism that has been taken up by many other groups. This “blatant disregard for the views of the African people in the design of NEPAD” has been widely denigrated, and there have been calls for much more participation in all sectors to increase its efficiency and ensure that

the concerns of local groups are not ignored in the quest for development. The 'New Partnership' is seen as being driven by elites in society rather than local social movements, which, although it might be more effective for creating a large-scale development plan for Africa, could result in local communities not being able to benefit from the scheme.

NEPAD has also been criticized for being based on neo-liberal ideals rather than the genuine concerns of the African continent, following the principles and practices of the Washington Consensus, which has "damaged Africa over the last several decades", leading to a "sense of betrayal" amongst the civil society organizations. It has been argued that the use of the "old neo-liberal models of development" could allow poorer countries to continue suffering economic exploitation by larger economies in the name of regional development.

On a perhaps more practical side, there have been criticisms about how the initial NEPAD document and subsequent documents have been written. One example of this is that despite promoting poverty eradication as a core value, "there is very little guidance in either the NEPAD base document or associated documents on the direction for dealing with the crisis", indicating that poverty reduction is, in actuality, a secondary objective behind regional development. This quest to solve Africa's problems of underdevelopment risks the possibility of ignoring

various social issues that might arise from rapid development strategies, particularly with a large emphasis being on urban areas, which could lead to forced migration from village communities into cities, which itself could potentially increase poverty in the region.

This seeming lack of detail on how to tackle certain social issues leads to the apparent omission of one of Africa's largest health concerns: HIV/AIDS, which is mentioned just once in the initial documents, with no plan of action for region-wide containment or treatment. De Waal notes that the "HIV/AIDS pandemic is the number one survival threat both to Africans as individuals and to African countries", and yet NEPAD has accorded it no greater status than a health issue, an approach that seems to ignore the serious implications that it could have if not monitored. It is possible that increased social and economic inequality caused by the creation of jobs and opportunities could aggravate the HIV/AIDS pandemic, as studies have shown that in areas with such inequality, "those with money often have more sexual partners and this makes them vulnerable to HIV infection". It is clear that NEPAD certainly needs some refining, particularly in detailing how to combat certain issues; however, it also needs to develop a more complete view of Africa's development problems and perhaps, in particular, examine more closely the implications of health issues such as HIV/AIDS.

Perhaps one of the biggest failures of NEPAD to date is the issue that, despite publicly promoting the ideals of good governance and democracy, it “fails to take them sufficiently seriously such that obvious violations—e.g., of recent elections in Congo-Brazzaville, Madagascar, Zambia and Zimbabwe—are publicly criticized and punished.” This seeming failure to address one of the core principles that NEPAD was supposedly built on could stem from the lack of consultation in its conception, as in no African country was a referendum undertaken to gauge public acceptance, and this lack of consultation has led some to view NEPAD’s commitment to democracy as suspicious. It could also be argued that by tying itself to democracy, NEPAD could in fact limit its chances of success rather than facilitate better economic development or even provide good governance. Part of the debate must concern itself with whether Africa should be allowed to follow similar paths to those taken throughout history, eventually arriving at liberal democracy as a last stage, or whether it should be steered in a particular direction by the West, using liberal democracy as a flagship for their policies concerning the continent.

There have also been criticisms of the various policies chosen by NEPAD, for example, various social and economic measures that the programme has undertaken have in the past contributed to the marginalization of women, despite NEPAD’s

promotion of social and gender equity. Even in terms of development policy itself, whilst openly recommending “market access for African products to world markets,” NEPAD also recommends African leaders to “secure and stabilize what it calls ‘preferential treatment by key developed country partners [in particular Western European nations]. The African Peer Review Mechanism, seen as the key to providing an open view of the internal workings of African countries, has also been criticized, not for failing to provide such a view but rather for proving unable to effect any significant change. As the main example of this, Kenya completed its first peer review in 2006, in which a number of challenges were presented, including issues of “past crimes, corruption, marginalization and poverty”, which the review noted needed to be addressed before reconciliation could be achieved.

However, subsequently, there was seemingly a lack of political will by the government in implementing certain changes to the existing system despite action in other areas, the violence in 2008 showing a lack of progress in tackling the issues raised, as the review warned that future violence was indeed possible if the issues raised were not addressed.[NEPAD is undoubtedly faced with many challenges due to the very nature of the problem it is trying to address, and it seems inevitable that it will not be able to overcome all obstacles it faces at the

first attempt, and thus it will experience some failures, both temporary and perhaps absolute.

The New Partnership for Africa's Development represents the possibility of real change in Africa, particularly with its ties to democracy and good governance, and it has certainly proved that it does have the capacity to function more effectively than the Organization for African Unity, which failed to make much of a difference to the conditions suffered by the African people. NEPAD has had periods of both optimism and pessimism, and some of its ideals have been contradicted by the policies it has followed. It is important to remember that the programme is still relatively young and has the opportunity to be refined in the future. NEPAD does not represent anything radically new, instead offering refinement of existing policies, and this has been used as an argument both for and against its effectiveness. However, I believe that this is a strength rather than a weakness, as to expect a 'miracle cure' for Africa's underdevelopment problems seems rather unreasonable, and what is really needed is the "proper application of lessons learned" and the use of the best existing practices. I also believe that the successes it has enjoyed outweigh its failings, as any programme must encounter failure in order for it to eventually succeed.

NEPAD and Foreign Direct Investment in the Development of Nigeria.

It is common knowledge that post-colonial Africa may have inherited weak states and dysfunctional economies; poor leadership, corruption, and above all, bad governance have made many African countries worse off. These weak states today remain major constraints to sustainable development on the continent of Africa. The character of leadership that exists in Africa is that are devoid of strength and capacity to govern and develop long term policies and implement far-reaching reforms and programs in their respective states. Leadership is very important in the development endeavors of any society. Once political leadership looks beyond its own self-interest, then such a society can overcome some of the impediments (be it structural or historical) to development. This is very important because the leadership style of any nation is evaluated by donors and investors and diminishes or enhances the prospects for increased foreign investment. As admitted by NEPAD, 'there is a resource gap' in Africa, and therefore Africa must depend on foreign capital to fill the gap. For all intents and purposes, the foreign capital mentioned here refers to that from the highly industrialized countries, yet NEPAD admits that only a few countries in the world play a substantial role in the global economy.

The choice of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is borne out of the consciousness that credit and aid, rather

than accelerate has hindered the development and growth of the continent. Away from the issues of aids and credits, leadership in Africa will seek to mobilize resources; they will seek “the extension of debt relief beyond its current levels (based on debt sustainability)” and link debt relief with ‘coasted poverty reduction outcome’ they will seek increased ODA flow in the medium term, as well as reform of the ODA delivery system to ensure that flows are effectively utilized by recipient African countries; they will do all this, but in the final analysis, it is the flow of FDI that will decide whether Africans can meet its growth targets. NEPAD considers debt reduction and ODA as complementary external resources required in the short to medium term, and “address private capital flows as long term concern”. NEPAD set its target at an estimated 7 percent annual growth rate needed to meet the millennium goals, particularly, the goal of reducing by half the proportion of Africans living in poverty by 2015. To achieve this, Africa needs to fill an annual resources gap of 12 percent of its GDP, or US\$64 billion... the bulk of the needed resources will have to be obtained from outside the continent. The import of the view above is that, though NEPAD will collaborate with the foreign world to achieve development on the continent through pressure for debt relief in order to reduce poverty on the continent, seek increased ODA flows in the medium term in order to ensure that flows are effectively utilized by recipient African countries.

By this, it is the expectation of NEPAD that the new long-term vision will require massive and heavy external investment from outside the continent to bridge the existing gap. One question that is worth asking at this stage is “Why should the West help Africa?

Conclusion

As the implementation of NEPAD gathers steam, there will be more demands on it than can be satisfied by a vast margin. The needs of the continent are so great, the diagnosis of the causes of African poverty is so complex and so interlinked, and the financial and technical resources of NEPAD will be so attractive, that this is bound to be the case. But, apart from simple operational overload, there is a danger that in satisfying too many demands, NEPAD will squander its most precious resource-its position as a regional institution that draws its regional and global legitimacy from its democratic roots and aspirations. It is suggested in this initial commentary that in the next phase of the discussion and development of NEPAD each proposed action or program be put to a three pronged test-whether the action makes efficient use of NEPAD’s regional status without duplicating what other regional agencies are already doing, whether the action particularly and peculiarly needs the special authority of NEPAD that stems from its claim to speak for the people of Africa through democratically elected heads of state, and

whether the action will have not only a medium term but an immediate and direct benefit to the poor of Africa.

It is hoped that these criteria will help in prioritizing among the vast array of actions that are already suggested and will further be suggested for NEPAD. But a stronger hope is that as the debate develops, NEPAD will proactively generate actions and programs that are peculiarly suited to it. If that happens, then the framework suggested here will have been useful not simply in performing a gatekeeper role, but may also prove useful more positively for making the most of NEPAD's very special strengths.

Since the inception of NEPAD, Africa has undertaken a comprehensive assessment of its needs at the regional level and elaborated concrete projects with budgets and timetables. These budgets have been presented to the African private sector, international private sector companies, and Africa's financial partners. A conference on the financing of NEPAD has been held. The UN and the OECD have adopted NEPAD as the basis upon which to build future relations with Africa. Indeed, the UN General Assembly, in a resolution, has adopted the programme as the general framework around which the international community, including the UN system, should concentrate its efforts for Africa's development. G-8 leaders have welcomed African

Heads of State to discuss NEPAD on several occasions and designated. High-ranking officials are to be in regular contact with African leaders. G-8 leaders have adopted an African Action Plan (AAP) in response to NEPAD, and have begun implementing the plan, fulfilling their commitment to enter into an enhanced partnership with African countries whose performance reflects NEPAD commitments.

To be successful, NEPAD needs to build and maintain successful partnerships with civil society, business, regional organizations, and development partners, and the quality of the partnerships, particularly between Africa and the industrialized countries of the North, will be a determining factor. Why? Because even though the causes of Africa's underdevelopment are partly "African" (such as bad governance, dictatorships, and corruption), some of the causes of the continent's underdevelopment are attributable to factors and forces that African leaders cannot change by themselves. The obvious example is the regulatory mechanism governing world trade. The World Trade Organization (WTO) manages a trading system that promotes free trade in products and services in which developed countries can compete.

However, in those areas in which the developed world cannot compete, in agriculture and textiles, for example, the WTO system allows for protectionism. A good partnership is clearly needed here to ensure

benefits for the weaker side, also. A good partnership also requires the creation of trust, mutual respect, and shared values that enable partners to work together for mutual benefits. While it is the responsibility of African Governments to set the standards as well as the institutional and legal frameworks for good corporate governance, Africa will also expect the parent countries of transnational corporations in Africa to play their roles in ensuring transparency and corruption-free operations, through the enforcement of appropriate codes of conduct and business practices.

Africa also expects the private sector, especially the transnational companies, and state-owned bodies to demonstrate corporate social responsibility and sensitivity to the local environment in which they operate. While recognizing that profit is a prime motive for investment, corporations also have a responsibility to ensure transparency, fiscal discipline, accountability, and corruption-free practices. Their responsibilities also entail the transfer of appropriate technology, including manpower training and employment generation. It is our hope that Africa and all its partners in this initiative will work together to achieve the noble aims of NEPAD.

Just like we should appreciate that NEPAD is an extension of the African Renaissance – a concretization of the African Renaissance, in essence, the vehicle through which the renaissance would be

delivered – so the challenge of implementing NEPAD will be a long and sustained challenge. While NEPAD is based on a straightforward deal, a trade-off as it wishes to end the dialogue of the deaf by locking both African leaders and G-8 and other industrialized powers into a partnership, realizing this partnership is by no means guaranteed. There clearly is a need for a pact: that in exchange for Africa holding itself politically and economically accountable, and thereby creating conditions for the attraction of foreign capital to the continent, the industrialized powers will give Africa greater access to its markets, reduce and ideally end the massive debt burden, and guarantee greater AID flows to Africa. Such resources would help to build infrastructure, revamp health and education systems that the continent so seriously needs.

References

- Akande L (2002). Obasanjo, African leaders outline NEPAD's success path.
Nigeria World. Glose Press.
- Bukarambe, B. (2004). Historical overview of Africa's development efforts. In:
NEPAD in the Nigerian Dock. NIIA.
- Ebegbulem, J., Adams, J., & Achu, A. (2012). The challenges of integrating Africa into the globalized world through new partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). International Journal of

Humanities and Social Science Vol. 2 No. 6

[Special Issue.

Hope, K.R. (2002). From crisis to renewal: towards a successful implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development. *African Affairs*

Hope, K.R. (2006).Prospects and Challenges for the NEPAD: Addressing Capacity Deficits' *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*,Vol. 24. *African Affairs*

Hammed, H., & Kabo, S. (2013).African Peer Review Mechanism and Crisis of Good Governance in Africa. *Journal of Law, Policy and Globalization* Vol. 19.

ISSN 2224-3240ISSN 2224

Izeze, E. E. (2004), Keynote address. In: NEPAD for journalists. NIIA.

Kanu, A. I., Addidi, T. & Kanu, C. C., "Artificial intelligence and cybercrime in Nigeria: Towards an Ethical framework". *Dialogue and Universalism*. 32(1) 143-158, 2024.

Kanu, I. A. (2020). "Igwebuiké philosophy of science and technology". *Nnadiabube Journal of Education*. Vol. 5. No. 4, pp. 64-74.

Kanu, I. A. and Ndubisi, J. O. E. (2022). "Artificial intelligence and socio-economic development in Africa". *OCHENDO: An*

- African Journal of Innovative Studies. Vol. 3. No. 1. pp. 2-21.*
- Onyiah, S. C.; Ndubisi, J. O. E; Kanu, A. I. (2024). "Navigating the Ethical Implications of Artificial Intelligence through Carol Gilighan's Ethics of Care." *Aquino Journal of Philosophy*. Vol. 4. No. 2. pp. 1-12.
- Kanu, A. I. & Okpokwasili, O. A. (2025). "Artificial Intelligence and Digital Colonialism in Africa." *International Journal of Intercultural Values and Indigenous Ecoethics. Volume 5. Number 2.* 14-24.
- Mayaki, I. (2012). Africa's decade of change. Kenya: NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency.
- Mayaki, I. (2012). NEPAD and the Next Phase in African Development. Chatham House.
- Nadudere, D. (2002). NEPAD: Historical background and its prospects (A presentation at African Forum for Envisioning Africa. Kenya University Press.
- Ogbinaka, K. (2006). NEPAD: Continuing the Disconnections in Africa? *The Journal of Pan African Studies*, vol.1, no.6.
- Omotayo, G. (2012). Olusegun Obasanjo: Passing the Torch. The Teacher Gospel Ministry

- Omoweh, D. (2004). Theoretical perspectives on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), In: NEPAD in the Nigerian dock. NIIA.
- Perry, A. (2007). Thabo Mbeki: The dream deferred. The Times Magazine