

Kenyan Civil Society Position on NEPAD

A gender perspective



FIDA Kenya



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Foreword

The Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA Kenya) in partnership with the National Council of Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and the Heinrich Böll Foundation organised a civil society workshop last year on the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) to disseminate and exchange information on the programme; identify existing gaps, focusing primarily on gender gaps; and discuss and develop strategies to get more involved with the process of developing and implementing the plan. In recognition that NEPAD is centred on development inspired by African countries, it was noted that ensuring gender mainstreaming within the document would be a vital step towards guaranteeing economic empowerment of women, who have historically been marginalised. In addition, it was established that steps taken to include women in both micro and macro development strategies would contribute significantly towards the eradication of other human rights violations which are often linked to their economic marginalisation.

It is therefore important for civil society to contribute a strong and critical analysis of this plan, pressuring governments to re-evaluate the NEPAD document, and ensuring that they implement gender sensitive and sustainable solutions. This will ensure that all stakeholders' interests are protected, thereby guaranteeing a holistic approach towards providing an enabling programme for Africa's development.



FIDA Kenya recognises that regional integration provides both opportunities and challenges for empowerment. The advocacy for policy and legal reform will be strengthened if the continental arrangements have progressive strategies that will strengthen our national advocacy. In addition, it is important to ensure the growth of regional activities. Our leaders should take the front seat in this initiative and ensure appropriate resource allocation. This, therefore, calls for intensified efforts by civil society actors so that Kenyans are aware of the regional processes. The dissemination of NEPAD documents is, therefore, premised on the need to empower and initiate Kenyans' excitement and interest in these processes.




Objectives

1. Disseminate the NEPAD document to key stakeholders so that there is wide ownership and Kenyans can involve themselves with the programmes of implementation.
2. Undertake to analyse and critique the NEPAD document to identify whether there are gaps, especially from the gender perspective, and ensure issues of gender are mainstreamed. This is particularly important, considering that all Governments involved in NEPAD have made commitments in various international and regional treaties on gender mainstreaming.
3. Identify any gaps that can be communicated to the programme implementors.

Introduction

The Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA Kenya) in partnership with the National Council of Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and the Heinrich Böll Foundation, held a workshop for key stakeholders, on 24 July 2002. The purpose of the workshop was to review, understand and focus on the way civil societies working in the area of gender in Kenya, can become involved in, and contribute to the processes and mechanisms of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), in the eradication of poverty. A further aim of the workshop was to develop strategies for the wider dissemination of the NEPAD document, and to identify existing gaps, particularly with regard to gender mainstreaming, in the document.






In her introductory remarks, FIDA Kenya Chairperson, Martha Koome, observed that solutions that will free Kenyan women from discrimination, are continuously being sought, together with facilities where women can realise their full potential. She reiterated FIDA Kenya's commitment to global and regional initiatives that are targeting the victims of poverty and bad governance.

Martha Koome highlighted the vision, thrust and components of the NEPAD document, pointing out that the authors of NEPAD had come to the realisation that the eradication of poverty is imperative, if African countries, individually and collectively, are to plan a path of sustainable growth and development, and become globally competitive. She concluded that the key challenge for NEPAD was that although the initiative was meant to be people-centred, people focused, and people driven, it had turned out to be a top-down initiative, with a document that had not been effectively disseminated.

The Chairperson of the NGO Council, Oduor Ong'wen, on his part, sent out a wake up call to civil society. He cautioned, in reference to the NEPAD document, "You cannot shave somebody's head in his absence", and asked, "Where are the people? Where are the women? Where are the girls? Where are the people with disabilities? Where are



the small traders? Where are the peasant women who sustain nations?" He further sought to know what had happened to all the other recovery initiatives of the past, such as the Lagos Plan of Action, and asked how we could ensure that NEPAD did not become a victim as all the others had.

Oduor Ong'wen concluded by recommending that in spite of its shortcomings, NEPAD should not be dismissed, but as an "adopted child", could be socialised into our own household. He called for the identification of the existing gaps, and for the working out of a strategy for engaging in the process; thereby owning it, setting the pace, and driving the strategy towards the realisation of the development goals.


In her opening remarks, the Regional Gender Co-ordinator of the Heinrich Böll Foundation, Anne Nyabera, pointed out that there was currently very little knowledge on the NEPAD document, even at the level of the leaders. She challenged civil societies, whose principle role is to inform society, not to simply criticise the NEPAD, but to propose workable alternatives.

NEPAD: Historical Background

The New Partnership for Africa – NEPAD, is a product of the continuing search by African people and its leaders for pan-African structures that can lead to the social and economic transformation of the continent in a rapidly ‘globalising world’. It is at the same time an instrument of contestation between Africans seeking self-determination in their development efforts and the forces that seek to continue exploiting the continent’s resources for the accumulation of their own wealth (neo-colonial instrument of domination).

President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, prior to the crafting of NEPAD, made a ringing call for an “African Renaissance”. In July 2002, the African Union was inaugurated in Pretoria, with Thabo Mbeki as its first Chairperson. NEPAD must be seen in conjunction with the birth of the African Union, as well as the operationalisation of the Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation – CSSDC. In short, NEPAD is part of a process of setting in motion the new institutionalisation as part of placing Africa squarely in the globalisation process.

NEPAD was initially conceived concurrently by Presidents Thabo Mbeki of South Africa and Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal through the documents: Millennium Partnership for the African Recovery Programme – MAP and the OMEGA Plan. The



MAP, although initially conceived by President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, was drafted with the support of the Presidents of Algeria and Nigeria. At a later stage, there was the involvement of Senegal and Egypt in the process of merging the two documents. The MAP received its first official endorsement at the Extraordinary OAU Summit in March 2001 in Sitre, Libya, which at the same time declared the establishment of the African Union to replace the OAU.

Right from the beginning, the MAP was a detailed project for the economic and social revival of Africa, which involved constructive partnerships between Africa and the developed world. The MAP tried to commit African leaders to a pledge based on 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. The MAP was entirely thought out and planned by Thabo Mbeki.

African civil society was not consulted. Mbeki adopted a two-pronged approach in trying to get consensus around his programme. The first was to bring the more strategic African leaders aboard his plan. Participation was to be open at a later stage, to all African countries, prepared and ready to commit themselves to the underlying principles guiding the plan. MAP was then put forward for discussion within African political and economic institutions and later still received the endorsement of the OAU, at its Extraordinary Summit, at Sitre, Libya, in March 2001.

Another approach was to engage the states, which Mbeki considered 'weak', by trying to strengthen their capacity of governance and implementation.

At about the same time, President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal, announced his OMEGA Plan for Africa. This Plan identified the need to develop physical capital and human capital as the key prerequisites for sustained and balanced growth, and argued for investment needs in priority sectors to be brought under the purview of a single international authority. The OMEGA Plan had the same vision and objectives as the MAP. Both were inspired by the need to launch Africa on a path of sustained growth and development at the dawn of a new century and both were based on the premise that Africa must assume the primary responsibility for that effort.

President Abdoulaye Wade presented the OMEGA Plan to the France-African Summit in January 2001. It was formally launched in June 2001 at the International Conference of Economists on the OMEGA Plan.

After some time, efforts were made to merge the two Initiatives. This was done and the merged document was referred to as the New African Initiative – NIA. In its preamble, the NIA stated that the Initiative was Africa's strategy for achieving "sustainable development in the 21st century". The NIA was submitted and adopted by the OAU-AU Summit in Lusaka, Zambia on 11 July 2001, as the new continental framework for development.

Origins

- **OAU EXTRAORDINARY Summit in Sirte, Libya (September 1999)**
- **South Summit in Havana, Cuba (April 2000)**
- **OAU Summit in Lome, Togo (July 2000)**
- **Outline at G8 Summit, Okinawa (July 2000)**
- **Appointment of Steering Committee and development of MAP initiative (September 2000)**
- **Mandate for merger of MAP with OMEGA Plan and ECA Compact Initiative for Africa's Renewal (OAU Extraordinary Summit, Sirte, Libya, March 2001)**
- **Merger completed on July 2001**
- **Presentation to the OAU Summit in Lusaka by President Wade and approved by Summit on 11 July**
- **Mandated the establishment of a Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee**
- **G8 Summit, Genoa, Italy (20 July 2001).**

Provisions of the NEPAD

The Programme itself contained a vision, a perspective, and the outlines of a plan for the redevelopment of Africa. It clarified the objectives and approach to development projects that were being appraised, further developed and negotiated between partners in Africa and the rest of the world. These objectives and ideas have been modified from time to time to accord with the new situation as it develops.

The prime vision of NEPAD is to attain and sustain regional integration in Africa, embracing positive African concepts and promoting self-reliance and self-sustenance.

The stated vision in the NEPAD is to eradicate poverty and propel Africa into the 21st century and solidly onto the path of sustainable development.



Primary Objectives

- To accelerate the eradication of poverty and inequality in Africa;
- To place African countries, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development;
- To halt the marginalisation of Africa in the globalisation process; and
- To promote the empowerment and economic integration of women.

Principles

- Encouraging African ownership and leadership;
- Anchoring the redevelopment of the continent on the resources and resourcefulness of the African people;
- Accelerating and deepening of regional and continental economic integration;
- Creating conditions that make African countries the preferred destination by both domestic and foreign investors;
- Setting a framework for interaction and new partnership with the industrialised world and multilateral organisations; and
- Providing a comprehensive, holistic and integrated development programme for Africa.

NEPAD Programme of Action

The areas of action include:

- The need to reduce the proportion of the people living in extreme poverty by half by the year 2015.
- The need to increase the enrolment of children of school going age by 2015.
- The need to make progress towards gender equality and empowering women by eliminating gender disparities in all social fields.
- The need to reduce infant mortality rates by two-thirds by the year 2015.
- The need to make provision for access to reproductive health facilities and services for all those in need by 2015.
- The need to implement national strategies for the achievement of 'sustainable development' by the year 2005, so as to reverse the loss of environmental resources by 2015.

All these hopes are anchored on the need to promote peace, democracy, human rights, and sound economic management, as well as regional co-operation and economic integration.

NEPAD insists on the centrality of peace, security and stability of Africa; it seeks to facilitate the popular participation of the people in development; and it recognises

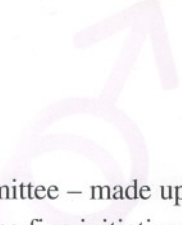
the importance of engaging Africa's development partners on Africa's own terms.

NEPAD's components provide for:

- 1) Preconditions for sustainable development: peace, security, democracy and political governance initiative; economic and corporate governance initiative; and sub-regional and regional approaches to development.
- 2) Sectoral priorities: bridging infrastructure gap; human resource development initiative; environmental initiative; cultural initiative; and science and technology initiative.
- 3) Mobilisation of resources – capital flows initiative and market access initiative.

NEPAD has a three tier governing structure:

- 1) The Implementation Committee (with President Obasanjo as Chairman and Presidents A. Bouteflika and A. Wade as Vice Chairmen). The Committee is made up of the 15 states and is supposed to meet every four months. It is responsible for setting policies, priorities and programmes of action.
- 2) The Coordinating NEPAD Secretariat, with a very small staff, to be located in Pretoria, South Africa, providing the liaison, coordination and administrative and logistical functions for NEPAD, and out-sourcing of work on technical details to lead agencies and continental experts.

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- 3) The Steering Committee – made up of the personal representatives of the five initiating presidents. The Steering Committee was charged with the task of developing a strategic plan for marketing NEPAD at national, sub-regional, regional and international levels. It is also responsible for developing terms of reference for identified programmes and projects, and for overseeing the Secretariat.

There is a common view that the lack of consultation with stakeholders such as academia, civil society, and women's groups, and by extension African citizens, is a serious problem.

The role of civil society

Without the pressure of strong civil society, African issues generally are not handled in a democratic manner.

It is important for civil society to work for a new world, where a people-propelled transformation in which the local knowledge of all communities is used.

The task of civil society is to be critical and radical in analysing society in order to bring about social transformation in society; to emancipate and empower the marginalised to fight for their rights for self-transformation.



Session I

Kenya Government's Position on NEPAD

A representative of the Ministry of Finance and Planning, Mr. David Nalo, Director of Statistics, presented the position of the Kenya Government on NEPAD.

He corrected the misinformation that Kenya was not involved in the NEPAD process by enumerating the various meetings Kenya has participated in since July 2001. He clarified that a secretariat had been established in the Ministry of Finance, to ensure Kenya's engagement in the process.

Mr. Nalo noted that, "the Government, together with all stakeholders, went through a consultative process and prepared the National Development Plan. The Plan has translated the long-term objectives of the National Policy Eradication into actionable policy recommendations. It defines growth targets that are desirable in order to create wealth and reduce poverty. It recognises that pro-poor growth strategies are necessary, that HIV/AIDS is a major challenge, that globalisation presents new challenges and opportunities, and that advancement in information technology is crucial for the attainment of our development goals. In this context, our national policies are consistent with the NEPAD priorities in so far as the development plan is concerned."

He pointed out that a national workshop on NEPAD was being planned, and he believed that the position taken by civil society, to ensure their own engagement and participation, was a healthy initiative.

He challenged civil society organisations to play, in addition to their watchdog role, a pro-active role, by making a contribution, for example through re-afforestation, etc.

Session II

Domesticating NEPAD: The position of Civil Society

In her presentation, the Advocacy Programme Officer at FEMNET (African Women's Development and Communication Network), Mary Wandia looked at NEPAD in the context of the African Union.

She highlighted the following advocacy issues as pertinent:

- Lobby for all the protocols of the African Union to be reviewed with respect to gender participation and also ensure civil society participation in developing the protocols establishing ECOSOC, specialised technical committees, the peace and security council, and financial institutions.
- Share information, start the process of identifying female candidates for the positions of Commissioners at the national level and also lobbying governments to support them.
- Ensure that gender is mainstreamed at the national level in the NEPAD country strategies, before they are submitted to the NEPAD Secretariat for incorporation in the regional action plan.
- Develop strategies on how to use the Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation

(CSSDC) mechanisms to hold governments accountable, particularly on commitments they have made on gender. A standing conference will be held every two years (the first one in 2004).

- Encourage women to apply for positions in the Commission of the African Union to ensure gender equity.
- Before the next experts/ministerial meeting in December 2002, through the gender machinery of the Women's Bureau, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Gender respectively, and the Attorney General's Office should re-open the negotiations in order to have strong Protocol that recognises, promotes and protects African women's human rights. Also engage the women parliamentarians both at national and East Africa Assembly level, to support this advocacy position.
- Lobby governments to sign the Protocol establishing the Pan African Parliament, adopted at the Lusaka Summit. Only 3 out of 27 countries needed, have signed it. There is need to lobby for its amendment to increase women's participation. Currently it proposes only 1 woman out of 5 representatives per country.

Session III

Discussions

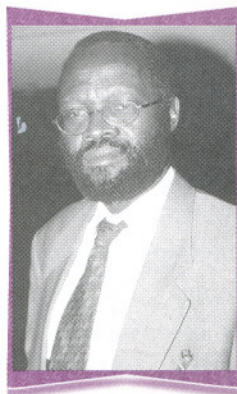
In the ensuing discussions, reference was made to the paper on "African Civil Society Declaration on NEPAD". Dr. Davinder Lamba of the Mazingira Institute pointed out

that the NEPAD framework is basically an economic framework and excludes civil, political and cultural as well as gender content. He expressed the need for the NEPAD document to be reframed. FIDA Kenya Council member, Ms Violet Amadi also expressed the need to include an element on corruption. Quoting Prof. Adebayo Adedeji, “Africa needs fundamental change and development, not just adjustment”, she pointed out the need for a ‘directorate on gender’, to mainstream gender, as well as a specialised technical committee on gender, to make inputs to the directorate.

Session IV

Challenging Civil Society Organisations on NEPAD

In his challenging address, Member of Parliament, Hon. Prof. Anyang’ Nyong’o gave a historical perspective of economic recovery attempts over the past three decades – Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), and Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs). He noted that whereas SAPs had sought to liberalise, privatise and de-regulate economies, after two decades, poverty was observed to be on the increase, together with escalating violence. NEPAD was therefore to be seen as an ‘alternative vision to give African states a new mission’.



Prof. Nyong'o pointed out that PRSPs had set formats and left no room for creativity. Observing that Africa had been labouring for the world economy, he saw that NEPAD was an opportunity for Africa's collective self-reliance, and collective bargaining position.

He challenged civil society organisations to take their mission seriously, demystify NEPAD, and engage in the process by asking questions and offering viable solutions. He pointed out that aid should be correctly understood to be concessional loans, and not gifts. He concluded that the resources being sought from external sources should be seen as a transfer back to the continent, of resources that were historically pillaged from the continent. "This is a right, not a privilege," he stated.

Session V

Discussions

During the ensuing discussions, Mary Wandia of FEMNET, wanted to know whether NEPAD was giving Africa anything new, or was it simply a continuation of the old things? Prof. Nyong'o asked the participants to consider whether indeed we understand and appreciate the goals of NEPAD. He challenged, "To what extent can we improve without direct foreign investment?" He went on to suggest that "we must ensure that participation gets translated into consultation (for decision-making)". He concluded by posing the question, "Is this a realistic response? Is it in the interest of Africa?"

Session VI

Working Groups

The workshop participants were divided into 4 thematic groups - to come up with resolutions and propose civil society activities for the next 6 months.

Resolutions

We the members of civil society organisations, gathered at the Landmark Hotel, on the 24th day of July 2002,

ACCEPTING in principle, the NEPAD document,

RECOGNISING the flaws of the document,

SEEKING to rectify those flaws,

CONSIDERING that the NEPAD document is little known,

RECOGNISING that it is the responsibility of civil society to inform society,

REALISING that civil society organisations must take the initiative to engage in the NEPAD process and cause their interests to be taken into account,

COMMITTED to ensuring a wider dissemination of the NEPAD document,

RESOLVE as follows:

On Peace and Security

1. The interpretation of Peace and Security must be made broad, as lack of war does not necessarily mean there is peace. Situations of internal conflicts that bring about displaced people, must be identified as situations threatening peace and security.
2. NEPAD must ensure that women are well represented and involved in the entire process of enhancing peace, as they suffer more in situations of conflict.
3. That the current initiatives must not only be on peace-making and peace-keeping, but must be about peace-building.

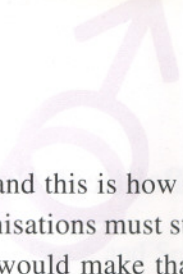
Activities:

- i) Civil society organisations to immediately simplify and synthesise the NEPAD document, and make it reader friendly. To disseminate the document to civil society at all levels.
- ii) Civil society organisations to divide themselves into thematic groups, which can then work in their areas of expertise and build consensus within civil society first. It is then important to link up with the on-going initiatives within PRSP and the Millennium Development Goals, and come up with a way forward.
- iii) Civil society organisations to strive to know the framework and the working committees, and then to start to lobby at that level.

Democracy and Political Governance

Activities:

- i) Make NEPAD document better known through civil society networks. Receive feedback, from the networks. Kenyans must take ownership of the process, and the only way is to bring that feedback into a motion in Parliament, to be debated and eventually domesticated.
- ii) Strengthen the document and formulate problem-solving ways that can be achieved, by setting tangible benchmarks.
- iii) Build capacity in institutions to enable them achieve the set goals.
- iv) Civil society must be included in the NEPAD process, in a similar way to the process of constitution making in Kenya, so that a new social contract between the state and society is created.
- v) Ensure gender mainstreaming and address all systematic barriers. Re-write the document to include a non-discrimination clause.
- vi) Civil society organisations can participate in the peer review mechanism that has been recommended. Recognising that it is very difficult for African leaders to actually peer review themselves, and going by the recent happenings in Zimbabwe, as an example of the African leaders being completely unable to say, 'this

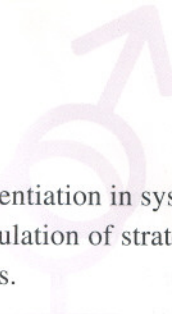


is what is wrong and this is how we can come in', civil society organisations must step in by proposing mechanisms that would make that peer review system effective. Civil society organisations must be the ones to ask questions of their government; and be the ones to drive the forces of the economics that they want in their society.

Gender and NEPAD

The gender analysis of NEPAD, based on CEDAW, and the Africa and Beijing Platforms for Action, illustrated that there were gaps in the planning stages of the NEPAD, as there has been no use of the women's rights and gender principles. The women's empowerment framework, when used in this analysis, looking at the five levels of empowerment, from the welfare level, to the level where women have control over their lives and destinies, reveals that the NEPAD document falls short of empowering women, and rather keeps them at the level of meeting basic needs – farming, feeding and rearing, working at the micro level, with little or no time to be preoccupied with macro issues such as the environment and other emerging issues at national and regional levels.

Gender issues, while acknowledged fleetingly, have not been well identified and it is clear that the planners of the NEPAD did not study other processes, which would be beneficial, such as the Beijing Platform for Action and the recommendations of the Dakar process. Comprehensive integration of gender issues would have resulted in the collective recognition that there are unjust, unfair systems,

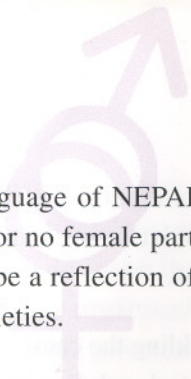


which had led to differentiation in systems of most societies, and the formulation of strategies to effectively address these injustices.

This would involve tackling the causes of gender injustices, such as patriarchal control and discrimination that has seen the formation of a gap between men and women in African societies. In the NEPAD, the attempt is merely to ameliorate the situation and circumstances of women, not to effectively deal with the underlying causes of their marginalised position, in order to develop viable and long-lasting strategies.

The tendency to exclude women at the decision-making level has been repeated in the NEPAD, where women are missing from peer-review and Implementation Committee levels of the process. Affirmative action, needs to be integrated into the NEPAD process, and international agreements on women's rights and gender issues domesticated.

Women have been referred to only eight times, and even then, in general terms. These references are a clear indication of NEPAD's inability to adequately solve the problems of African women. NEPAD does not appear to deal with gender perspectives of development. It does not address how narrowing the gender gap in all sectors – not just by promoting girls' education – is key to progress. NEPAD does not bring out the element of partnership between the sexes. Besides being the majority and prime movers in African society, women face discrimination and do not have equal access to resources.



The structure and language of NEPAD reflects a culture that encourages little or no female participation in its evolution. This may be a reflection of the partriarchal nature of African societies.

In many African societies, women are family unit heads, decision-makers and leaders in development and peace-building. They take part in conflict prevention and resolution. But women's roles in the NEPAD initiative are vague. They have neither been consulted, nor involved in the numerous processes, nor invited to make their inputs.

Paragraph 49 of the NEPAD document states that African leaders will take responsibility for "promoting the role of women in social and economic development by, first, reinforcing their capacity in the domains of education and training and, second, by developing revenue-generating activities through facilitating access to credit and thirdly, by assuring their participation in the political and economic life of African countries".

This is a token offer to African women. The women themselves must make their own initiatives. African women must discuss possible mechanisms of engagement, input and eventual part ownership of NEPAD.

Building popular support for NEPAD will require concerted efforts to invite national dialogue aimed at all levels of African society – especially the lower levels, where civil society, the majority of women, and all other vulnerable

groups belong. This calls for an analysis of NEPAD as a framework for development.

If African women are to be architects of their own sustained upliftment, they will need to move a step further. Despite the fact that women have not been consulted seriously or invited to the table, they must get engaged in the NEPAD process.

This can be done by stock-taking of the operating mechanisms put in place post-Beijing at national and regional levels. This could play an important role in bringing women on board NEPAD. Women NGOs will also need to build bridges with key institutions that have direct input into the NEPAD process.

Establishing mechanisms within NEPAD for consultation with women leaders and groups at all levels of policy making, engagement in the design of budgets and enforcement of accountability to all citizens in each African country, should be considered a priority.



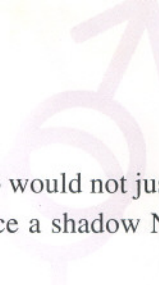


Resolutions

- 1) We reaffirm that gender issues are intrinsic within all the problems that need to be addressed in African development. Gender is missing and we feel as civil society that it is important to do that.
- 2) We regrettably note that in the very few places where African women are specifically mentioned, it is in the context of interventions and strategies, and at the micro level rather than the macro level. Without altering the neo-liberal and gender blind macro-economic framework that has for long marginalised African women.
- 3) To analyse, from a gender perspective, Kenyan strategies on NEPAD.
- 4) To mobilise civil society organisations to develop gender responsive and viable alternatives with the ultimate goal of ensuring that Kenyan women participate and benefit from the NEPAD process.

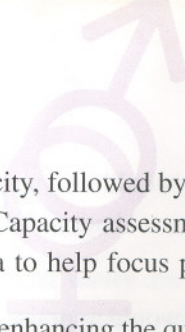
Activities:

- i) Establish a working group on Gender and NEPAD, drawn from civil society organisations in Kenya. The group would analyse the Kenya Government documents on NEPAD (strategy/position paper), from a gender perspective.
- ii) The working group to link up with the Kenya Government standing committee on NEPAD, to influence mainstreaming of gender in the strategies.

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- iii) The working group would not just seek to be involved, but actually produce a shadow NEPAD; to have its own document.
 - iv) The working group would appraise all the African Union processes, from a gender perspective, including the various protocols, and constitutive act, and then prioritise these interventions at the national level so that by the time Kenya is linking at the national level, the Kenyan civil society organisations will already have set up an agenda of their priorities for Kenya.
 - v) We are disappointed about the role of the Women's Bureau, and felt that instead of just being disappointed, we should proactively link up all these processes, assuming that maybe they have been relegated to a very lean budget, and therefore, they are not in the know of everything. We need to link up these processes with the Women's Bureau, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Finance and Planning (now separate ministries of Finance, and Planning and National Development).

Economic and Corporate Governance

Acknowledging that State capacity building is a critical aspect of creating conditions for development, and recognising that the State has a major role to play in promoting economic growth and development, and in implementing poverty reduction programmes, the reality is that many governments lack the capacity to fulfil this role. Therefore targeted capacity-building should be given high priority. Programmes in every area should be preceded by



an assessment of capacity, followed by the provision of appropriate support. Capacity assessments should generate gender-segregated data to help focus programmes.

Activities are aimed at enhancing the quality of economic and public financial management, as well as corporate governance.

The five sub-regional economic groupings of the continent must be strengthened, as African countries pool their resources and enhance regional development and economic integration on the continent, in order to improve international competitiveness.

The focus is on the provision of essential regional public goods such as transport, water, energy, Information Communication Technology, environmental preservation, disease eradication and provision of regional research capacity, as well as the promotion of intra-African trade and investments. The focus will need to be on rationalising the institutional framework for economic integration, by identifying common projects compatible with integrated country and regional development programmes, and on the harmonisation of economic investment policies and practices. There needs to be coordination of national sector policies and effective monitoring of regional decisions. Women must be involved at all levels of these processes.

Resource mobilisation

Capital flows: Debt relief

In order to reduce by half, the proportion of Africans living in poverty by the year 2015, Africa will need to increase its domestic savings, as well as improve its revenue collection

systems. This focus will, of necessity, run alongside the planned objective of debt reduction and overseas development assistance (ODA). Needless to say, improved governance is a necessary requirement for increased capital flows.

Africa also needs to mobilise additional resources, both domestic and foreign in order to achieve higher levels of growth, and more effective poverty reduction. There is need, therefore, to create conditions conducive to private sector investments by both domestic and foreign investors.

Activities:

Market access – e.g. Agriculture

African economies are vulnerable because of their dependence on primary production, and narrow export bases. Although women are the major actors in the production process, their needs and voices are often neglected in terms of production improvements. Apart from the need to diversify production, value added in agro-processing and mineral beneficiation must be increased.

- Increase the security of water supply for agriculture by establishing small-scale irrigation facilities, improving local water management.
- Improve land tenure security under traditional and modern forms of tenure, and promote the necessary land reforms, including women's property rights.
- Foster regional, sub-regional, national and household food security through the development and management of

increased production, transport, storage and marketing of food crops, livestock and fisheries, involving women in the process.

- Enhance agricultural credit and financing schemes, and improve access to credit by small-scale and women farmers.

Kenyan level

- Analyse the Kenyan Resource Mobilisation Strategy to establish why resource mobilisation and distribution is poor in Kenya.
- Initiate public debate to obtain diverse views on how to enhance Kenya's resource mobilisation.
- Develop a Kenyan resource mobilisation and distribution strategy.
- Agree on the way forward for Kenya - Debt relief or debt cancellation?

We need to interrogate those principles/ mechanisms – what are we doing about our own gender policies at the national and sub-regional levels? – and seeing how we are able to make interventions ourselves before we move on to the NEPAD level.

The use of women's rights and gender principles was found to be lacking in the document. The tendency to exclude women at the decision-making level has been repeated in the NEPAD, where women are missing from peer-review and Implementation Committee levels of the process. Affirmative action, it was suggested, should be integrated into the NEPAD process, and international agreements on women's rights and gender issues domesticated.

