

NEPAD PRIORITY PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

VII. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT

186. Recognising the need to sequence and prioritise, the initiating Presidents propose that these programmes be fast-tracked, in collaboration with development partners:

- Communicable diseases: HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis;
- Information and communications technology;
- Debt reduction;
- Market access.

187. Work has already been done on all these programmes through a variety of international partnerships and institutions. However, Africa's participation and leadership need to be strengthened for better delivery. We believe that addressing these issues could fast-track the renewal of the continent. (Detailed proposals on each programme are available as annexes.)

Projects

188. Much as the promoters of the *New Partnership for Africa's Development* appreciate the dangers of a project approach to development, they are proposing a number of projects that are crucial to integrated regional development, as conceived by the *New Partnership for Africa's Development*. Not only will these projects strengthen country and regional development programmes, but they will also go a long way in kick-starting the regeneration of the continent.

189. The projects presented below are for illustrative purposes only. A detailed list of projects can be found on the web site of the *New Partnership for Africa's Development* (www.mapstrategy.com).

(i) Agriculture

190. Expand the ambit and operation of the integrated action plan for land and water management for Africa. The project addresses the maintenance and upgrading of Africa's fragile agricultural natural resources base. Many African governments are already implementing these

initiatives as part of this programme. Partners include the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the FAO and other bilateral donor agencies.

191. Strengthen and refocus the capacity of Africa's agricultural research and extension systems. The project addresses the issue of upgrading the physical and institutional infrastructure that supports Africa's agriculture. Technological innovation and technology diffusion hold enormous potential for accelerating agricultural output and productivity, but the continent lacks the research capacity necessary for major breakthroughs. Major players include the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), the World Bank, the FAO and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

(ii) Promotion of the Private Sector

192. International experience suggests that one of the best practices in promoting enterprises in highly innovative areas is through the establishment of business incubators. This project will formulate required guidelines and policies for the establishment of such incubators at the national level, drawing on international experience and established best practice, tailored to African needs and conditions.

(iii) Infrastructure and Regional Integration

193. The *New Partnership for Africa's Development* process has identified many energy, transport, telecommunications and water projects that are crucial to Africa's integrated development. The projects are at various stages of development and require funding. The next step is to accelerate their continued development in collaboration with the African Development Bank, the World Bank and other multilateral institutions.

194. The view of the initiating Presidents is that, unless the issue of infrastructure development is addressed on a planned basis – that is, linked to regional integrated development – the renewal process of the continent will not take off. Therefore, the international community is urged to support Africa in accelerating the development of infrastructure. Detailed infrastructure projects can be found on the web site of the *New Partnership for Africa's Development* (www.mapstrategy.com).

Needs Assessment

195. As part of assessing the required action in the priority sectors, a needs assessment will be undertaken, progressing from the national level to the subregional and regional levels. The aim is to assess the needs in the five priority sectors in terms of structures and staff.

196. The assessment of subregional sectoral needs will start from the national needs assessment. It is proposed that the experts and ministers in each subsector meet in one of the subregional capitals. For each sector, national data would have been aggregated and used to elaborate a subregional sectoral plan. Once subregional sectoral needs have been assessed in the five sectors, they can be aggregated to formulate an overall regional plan.

197. It should be stressed that subregional sectoral needs are not to be simply added up – the starting point is a subregional perspective leading to at least two new elements:

- Specific needs of the subregion perceived as a single space for all states in the subregion. For instance, roads and railroads will not be conceived from a national perspective but from a subregional one;
- Needs that should be rationalised on a subregional basis. For instance, universities should be distributed according to a subregional territorial rationale;
- Finally, the continent's needs will be assessed in the five sectors considered priority sectors in the light of the global subregional plans. The details can be found on the web site of the *New Partnership for Africa's Development* (www.mapstrategy.com).