

**NEPAD CEO Closing Remarks at the
2nd Africa Regional Meeting on Development Effectiveness
5 November 2010, Tunis, TUNISIA**

*Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the African Development Bank;
Distinguished delegates;
Ladies and Gentleman*

First, we should congratulate ourselves for a successful Second Regional Platform Meeting. Our deliberations have been vibrant and engaging. Evidently, Africa has matured and is more committed to taking forward a common agenda on Development Effectiveness that is country-led, coherent, coordinated and results driven.

From the opening of this Regional Meeting, the tone was set by inspiring statements. We underscored the critical need for progressive leadership, stability, lessons learning and governance reforms for development effectiveness, informed by the historical and present context of development cooperation.

Africa's preparations for global engagements through this Forum have been a milestone. Major stakeholders were mobilized, notably Parliamentarians and civil society, for Bogota and now for Busan. However, a lot still needs to be done on engaging the private sector in these important continent-wide processes.

It is now time for ACTION. Africa must take leadership of its development. We must put ownership and accountability into practice. A common and consolidated African voice is fundamental. This will help contribute actively to reshaping the global development architecture and impact on policy design and implementation.

It is timely and appropriate that we have in place a mechanism to eloquently express this voice. The Africa Platform on Development Effectiveness is this voice in action.

For Busan in particular, the Africa Platform is the hub to guide the continent's preparations. Energies are required towards investing in this platform as a rallying point for top priority actions on the 3 themes. We must tap into our innate resources to collectively articulate the African voice. The Africa Platform allows us to effectively link evidence to policy for the African renewal to be a reality for growth and development.

I would like to reinforce some key messages from our deliberations over the past 2 days:

Most significantly, the African discourse and preparations towards Busan will be driven by the Continent's vision for Development Effectiveness. This locates Aid as one of the tools for African development, hence allows us to change more decisive the orientation to more developmental outcomes.

1. Ownership, Accountability and Sustainability

- The centrality of Ownership, Accountability and Sustainability in Africa's commitment to achieving development effectiveness is not in doubt. We need to strengthen and up-scale African tested mechanisms of accountability such as the APRM for broader ownership. We must promote the values of freedom, voice and accountability irrespective of national boundaries, maximizing on regional and continental frameworks for wider application;
- We should invest in capacitating our Parliaments, civil society, academia and the private sector, for inclusiveness towards attaining Africa's development.

2. South-South Cooperation and Capacity Development

- The underlying need is for Africa to re-define its partnership and coalition-building agenda. Both North-South and South-South relationships need to prioritize the qualities of mutual respect, equality, accountability and transparency
- There is consensus that South/South Cooperation continues to be a promising mechanism. However, the consistent integration of capacity development into South/South practice is essential to impact on public policy design and contributes to development effectiveness.

3. Developing Capacities by Using and Strengthening Country Systems

- The strengthening of country systems is in itself a developmental agenda, beyond managing aid. The effective use of country systems will only be achieved through the overall and targeted development of capacities;
- Development partners must use country systems for aid delivery as agreed to under the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action. Given that country systems are often weak in Africa, development partners should support national institutional development as a core component of aid programmes. This will help reduce use of parallel systems.

4. Regional and Sub-regional Perspectives on Development Effectiveness

- Promotion of the issue of value chain in enhancing regional integration. Therefore, African countries to embrace regional objectives while focusing on the national development imperative;
- The need to harness external resources for joint regional integration, particularly directed at promoting trade and market access;

- Strengthening capacities of regional bodies such as the Regional Economic Communities to foster enhancement of private sector activity for regional integration.

5. Innovative Funding for Development Effectiveness – growing out of Aid

- We must work towards raising our own domestic resources. The alignment of banking systems to the key issues of development is critical;
- Africa should employ innovative mechanisms for the smart use of aid to catalyze sustainable development, while developing productive capacities. It is also important that we shift aid more towards productive sectors of our economies;

6. African Aid Architecture in a New Development Cooperation Landscape

- BRICs are a huge opportunity for the continent, and Africa needs strategic leadership to shape and set priorities to effectively marshal resources for development.
- Among all donor interests Africa should define and articulate national interests and developmental needs and have the capacity to drive towards a convergence of approaches.

In conclusion, it is my hope that we can more consciously draw on the synergies between the 3 themes of Aid Effectiveness, South-South Cooperation and Capacity Development.

Overall, the success of this African process and the forthcoming HLF4 Busan will be measured against the challenge of putting in motion credible, and time-bound objectives in ensuring that effective cooperation can contribute to the end of aid dependency. There is a fundamental need to build on regional peculiarities yet drawing on what works within the broader global framework.

It is imperative Africa that charts a new course. Africa's next generation will only thrive within capable states and growth-enhancing institutions for quality livelihoods.

In conclusion, I want to thank the African Development Bank for successfully co-organizing this event with NEPAD. The African Union Commission and NEPAD are encouraged by the fact that the Bank continues to strengthen its efforts in supporting key African development processes.

In particular, let me also thank the German Government and UNDP who have been most instrumental in supporting the foundation of the Africa Platform. We call on development partners to support the African Union agenda on regional integration.

Under the umbrella of the Africa Platform, the NEPAD Agency will be consulting with key stakeholders at national and sub-regional levels on the outcomes of this important 2nd regional meeting. We call for the support of all to take forward the Tunis conclusions.

We must go to Busan better organised and build coalitions between countries and sub-regions and with partners in fulfilling our development objectives.

Thank you.