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Agenda item 9

Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-seventh session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Rodrigo **Yáñez Pilgrim** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)

Addendum

Coordination questions: New Partnership for Africa's Development

(Item 5 (b))

B. United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

1. At its 6th meeting on 18 June 2007, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (E/AC.51/2007/4).
2. The Director of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa introduced the report of the Secretary-General and responded to the questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. Appreciation was expressed for the comprehensive and informative dimension of the report. Some delegates suggested that future reports should provide more details on the concrete outcomes and results of the various initiatives undertaken by the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system. It was also suggested that the report should place more emphasis on priority activities.



4. Strong support was expressed for NEPAD. Several delegates acknowledged the importance of Africa's ownership of, and leadership in, the progress in implementing NEPAD, combined with enhanced international support.
5. Much appreciation was expressed for the important work done by the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in support of the implementation of NEPAD. A number of delegates commended the steps taken by the United Nations system to provide more focused and better coordinated support for the implementation of NEPAD. At the same time, several delegates emphasized the need to further strengthen inter-agency cooperation and coordination, in line with the recommendations of the seventh regional consultation meeting of United Nations agencies working in Africa, which was held in Addis Ababa in November 2006.
6. The declaration on enhancing United Nations-African Union cooperation was welcomed and some delegates expressed the hope that it would give impetus to the United Nations 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union. The United Nations system was urged to further strengthen partnerships with regional and subregional organizations in Africa.
7. Appreciation was expressed for the role of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa as the focal point for United Nations system support for NEPAD at the global level. One of the delegates noted with concern that the Special Adviser had not yet been appointed and urged the Secretary-General to appoint the Special Adviser in the near future.
8. It was emphasized that, while there was encouraging progress in a number of areas, significant challenges remained in many African countries, among them widespread poverty and lack of access to basic infrastructure. With regard to addressing Africa's development challenges, several delegates stressed the need to move from debates and commitments to tangible support and results-based action. A number of delegates stressed the need to step up capacity-building efforts in Africa, as well as resource mobilization for NEPAD priorities. Some were concerned about slow progress in the Doha Round of trade negotiations and in addressing the bilateral and private debt owed by low-income African countries.
9. Several delegates emphasized the link between peace and development, noting that the persistence of conflict was still hampering development in some African countries. In this regard, the efforts of the African Union to enhance peace and security were commended.
10. Clarification was sought on the channels of cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union. In that regard, the Director of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa explained that the specific modalities of implementing the declaration on enhancing United Nations-African Union cooperation were currently being finalized. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa was expected to play a key role, and a mechanism would also be established at United Nations Headquarters to ensure effective cooperation. In response to another question, the Director of the Office explained that the Economic Commission for Africa was at the heart of the coordination of the United Nations system work at the regional and subregional levels.

Conclusions and recommendations

11. The Committee welcomed the annual report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in paragraphs 87 through 90 of the report.

12. The Committee stressed the urgent need to fill the position of the Special Adviser on Africa in order to direct the advocacy role of the Office of the Special Adviser for Africa to ensure that Africa remained squarely on the global development agenda; mobilize support, capacity and resources for NEPAD priorities; align funds, agencies and programmes with NEPAD objectives; and play a vital role in the consolidation of peace and democracy on the continent.

13. The Committee called upon the United Nations system and relevant regional organizations, in collaboration with the joint African Union/NEPAD secretariat, to continue to fully support action programmes to sustain the implementation of the priorities identified by the leadership of the continent.

14. The Committee called upon the United Nations system to increasingly mainstream strategies in support of NEPAD in order to build support among Governments, the donor community, civil society and international organizations for Africa's development, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/265.

15. The Committee stressed that the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa should focus on enhanced inter-agency cooperation and coordination in order to create cross-sectoral synergies in the promotion of a comprehensive approach to the planning and implementation of activities in support of NEPAD.

16. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to ensure that United Nations support for NEPAD moved from debate, assessments and recommendations to tangible action and results in respect of NEPAD projects across the continent.

17. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to support the joint African Union/NEPAD secretariat proposal in order to provide a more structured and synergized support base for NEPAD activities within the context of the African Union.

18. The Committee supported the outcomes of the seventh regional consultation mechanism, held in Addis Ababa in November 2006, and reiterated the decision that the Economic Commission for Africa should, through the mechanism, assume the role of strategic coordinator of United Nations support for NEPAD implementation.

19. The Committee welcomed the renewed commitment by the United Nations system to provide coordinated support for NEPAD as evidenced by the emergence of the enhanced 10-year capacity-building programme, together with the declaration signed in November 2006 in terms of United Nations-African Union cooperation and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to indicate in the next report to the Committee

the steps taken to implement the declaration and the progress made with the capacity-building programme.

20. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to indicate in its next report to the Committee the steps taken to increase the effectiveness of the revitalized clusters and the enhancement of United Nations partnerships with regional and subregional organizations in Africa.
