

JULY 2005

THE SECRETARIAT OF THE NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD)

On 13th July 2005, the African Capacity Building Foundation and the Secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) signed a Grant Agreement of US\$ 2,000,000. The grant is for the strengthening the institutional capacity of the NEPAD Secretariat.

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is a vision for Africa's renaissance, which epitomizes the commitment of African leaders and people to take charge of the social, economic and political transformation of the continent in partnership with the international community. The NEPAD has been endorsed as a program of the African Union (AU) focused on achieving the eradication of poverty; placing African countries on the path of sustainable growth and development; halting the marginalization of Africa in the globalization process and enhance full integration in the global economy; accelerating empowerment of women. The NEPAD plan of action focuses on eight priority areas: infrastructure, ICTS, energy, transport, water, and sanitation, human resources development, agriculture, culture, science and technology, mobilization of resources, market access and environment.

Established in October 2001, the NEPAD Secretariat's objective is to assist the Heads of States and Government Implementation Committee to accelerate the implementation of NEPAD. The projects objectives include the strengthening of the institutional capacity of the NEPAD Secretariat through supporting of strategic organizational functions; to enhance the operational capacity of selected program clusters in order to facilitate implementation of priority programs.

A Needs Assessment of the NEPAD Secretariat was conducted with a focus on appraising the operational capacity of the NEPAD Secretariat and determination of the external assistance needed to facilitate and support the development and strengthening the capacities for the implementation of the Secretariats strategic plan. The needs assessment afforded the opportunity to better understand the roles and functions of the Secretariat and signaled factors that are affecting the efficiency and effectiveness of its operational capacity. The specific objectives of the project are:

- To strengthen the institutional capacity of the NEPAD Secretariat through support of strategic organizational functions and;
- To enhance the operational capacity of selected program clusters in order to facilitate implementation of priority programs.

The prospects for a successful implementation of NEPAD programs will be enhanced considerably with the emergence of an efficient and competent management team at the NEPAD Secretariat. ACBF's support is intended to be catalytic and should contribute to laying the ground for effective intervention aimed at strengthening the efficiency and effectiveness of the NEPAD Secretariat.