



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture  
Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura



**SEMINAR UNESCO – NEPAD**

**« UNESCO and NEPAD : From Vision to Action »**

**Ouagadougou 5-7 March 2003**

**Executive Summary**

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**SEMINAR “UNESCO AND NEPAD: FROM VISION TO ACTION”**  
**(OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO, 5-8 MARCH 2003)**

1. The joint NEPAD-UNESCO seminar entitled “UNESCO and NEPAD: From vision to action”, held in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) from 5 to 8 March 2003, was attended by the members of the UNESCO Committee for NEPAD, high-level African politicians, African experts and representatives of regional institutions.
2. The seminar was organized in response to the Executive Board’s decision (164 EX/Decision 8.6), in which it invited the Director-General to organize a joint NEPAD-UNESCO seminar to specify the ways and means of applying the NEPAD plan of action in the Organization’s fields of competence, and obtain from the appropriate sources the requisite funds for the purpose. It also follows on from the international seminar on “Forward-looking approaches and innovative strategies to promote the development of Africa in the twenty-first century”, held at UNESCO Headquarters in November 2001, and ties in with the framework of the regional strategy for Africa (2002-2007).
3. The general aim of the seminar was to set up an action strategy to specify the ways and means of applying the NEPAD plan of action in the Organization’s fields of competence. The UNESCO Committee for NEPAD, which was set up by the Director-General and brings together representative figures from the five (5) African subregions, will provide ongoing monitoring of the activities carried out to implement this plan of action.
4. Two Heads of State took part in the high-level session held in the framework of the seminar, in the presence of the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura: His Excellency Mr Blaise Compaoré, President of Burkina Faso, and His Excellency Mr John Kufuor, President of Ghana and current President of ECOWAS. The following figures took part in the proceedings: Professor Laya Sawadogo, Minister of Secondary and Higher Education and Scientific Research, President of the Burkina Faso National Commission for UNESCO; Mr Marcel Diouf, Representative of Mr Amara Essy, Acting President of the Commission of African Union; Mr Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for West Africa; Mr Hakim Ben-Hamouda, Regional Director for Central Africa, Office of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); Mr Jean-Pierre Patat, Representative of Mr Camdessus (France G8 Sherpa for NEPAD); Mr Abderahmane Merouane, Human Resources Coordinator, NEPAD Secretariat; and representatives from the International Office for Migration (IOM); the International Organization of the Francophonie and the Arab Maghreb Union.
5. The Seminar was preceded by three round tables on the following topics:
  - **Round table 1: Exchange of views on the future of rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes in Africa.** Rehabilitation and reconstruction processes in Africa involve many African countries in post-conflict situations. UNESCO must therefore make the reconstruction of education systems a priority. In order to do this the Organization must have a clear policy, drawn up with all partners involved, and an action strategy enabling it to

harness the human and material resources required to implement specific programmes, particularly in the field of education.

- **Round table 2: Critical analysis of projects submitted by field offices.** When projects submitted by field offices were examined in the light of guidelines laid down in UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy and the priorities established by NEPAD it emerged that most of them were national in scope and that the regional dimension, with which NEPAD is concerned, was less in evidence. It was also noted that culture had not been sufficiently acknowledged as a priority by NEPAD. It was therefore recommended that the projects be revised in order to incorporate the subregional dimension and issues of cultural development and that mechanisms for the management, coordination and implementation of these projects be established to this end.
- **Round table 3: The Forum of Subregional Organizations.** This Forum suggested that greater coordination be achieved between the different partners and that UNESCO establish a framework of priorities for its modalities of action and partnership with the subregional organizations. It was also suggested that these organizations become key focal points for NEPAD.

6. The first two round tables brought together the heads and directors of field offices as well as representatives from the programme sectors. The third involved representatives of regional and subregional organizations, representatives of the NEPAD secretariat and UNESCO programme sectors.

7. Furthermore, a **Ougadougou Declaration** and **Action Plan** were adopted by representatives of African subregional organizations convened at the initiative of UNESCO's Africa Department. The aim of the Action Plan is to create a forum of African regional and subregional organizations to support cooperation between UNESCO and NEPAD (FOSRASUN). It recommends that a focal point for the forum be designated in each of the regional institutions. FOSRASUN will meet every two years in ordinary session. Pending the formalization of its structures, UNESCO's Africa Department will have responsibility for the functions of its secretariat.

8. During the seminar, work focused on the following three topics:

- (i) How can UNESCO help Member States to incorporate NEPAD's objectives in their national programmes?
- (ii) What ways and means does UNESCO have at its disposal to involve parliamentarians, the private sector, NGOs and civil society, especially women and children, in strategies to promote development and combat poverty in Member States?
- (iii) What contribution can UNESCO make to capacity-building and the setting-up of subregional projects?

9. Each of these topics was covered in the light of the priorities of UNESCO's programme in the following areas: Education for All, sustainable development (follow-up to the Johannesburg Summit) and access to information and knowledge.

10. At the end of the proceedings, recommendations were drawn up for the attention of Member States, regional, subregional and international organizations, donors, and the secretariats of the African Union, UNESCO and NEPAD.

11. In an intersectoral approach involving programme sectors and field units UNESCO – in association with African Member States and their National Commissions, the partners concerned and the UNESCO Committee for NEPAD – will take all the necessary measures to implement the recommendations appended to this document.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### I. TO THE MEMBER STATES

1. Make the National Commissions for UNESCO into focal points within States for the implementation of UNESCO-NEPAD cooperation. In this regard, they should be provided with sufficient human and material resources. As such, their assigned objectives should be to make the NEPAD philosophy generally known, in particular in civil society and local communities, through the media and cultural and educational events, taking care to make it accessible by using national languages to ensure that it is taken up by communities.

2. Establish a national plan of action in which the participants will be parliamentarians, the private sector, NGOs and civil society, in particular women and young people; they will be given responsibility, in development and poverty reduction strategies, to monitor the implementation of NEPAD priorities. In that regard they must participate actively in defining, carrying out and evaluating NEPAD-related activities.

3. Strengthen institutional mechanisms by fostering women's participation in decision-making and by establishing partnerships and linkages among associations, the media, civil society, decentralized bodies and States in order to facilitate the joint implementation of NEPAD-related activities.

4. Place the issue of the free movement of citizens and goods on the agenda of the summit of African subregional organizations with a view to enabling genuine integration of States.

5. Demonstrate strong political will by creating an environment for change in the areas of democratic renewal, defence of human rights and transparency.

6. Ask UNESCO, NEPAD and the African Union to convene jointly an interdisciplinary meeting of experts to work out the general principles of civics education, which each subregion and each nation will then adapt to its context.

7. Co-organize each year a **National NEPAD Day**, which will lay emphasis on good governance, the culture of peace, acceptance of cultural diversity, and protection of biodiversity and the African environment. In view of the conflicts and tensions that beset the continent, the Director-

General of UNESCO and the Head of the NEPAD Secretariat should give high priority to the organization of the Day.

8. As NEPAD is not only an economic programme, it is important that an inter-ministerial body be put in charge of NEPAD in each State and act as the interface between partners and each beneficiary country.

9. Support rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes in areas of Africa in post-conflict situations. The Director-General is requested to take into account the recommendations made by the round table on the future of rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes in Africa.

10. Guarantee and speed up access to education, in particular for girls, strengthen adult literacy in the context of the United Nations Literacy Decade and develop non-formal adult education with a view to education throughout life.

11. Promote training geared to employment and private entrepreneurship for young graduates and accelerate the mobilization and provision of funding for microprojects.

12. Support health education programmes (preventive education against HIV/AIDS, malaria, STDs and other endemic diseases).

13. Promote non-formal education, popularize the sciences and, in that regard, take note of and implement with UNESCO's support the resolutions and recommendations of the Workshop on Developing a Scientific and Technological Framework for NEPAD, which was held in Johannesburg from 17 to 19 February 2003.

14. Strengthen the private sector's capacity for involvement in the implementation of NEPAD programmes that are in UNESCO's fields of competence.

15. Strengthen the culture component of the education process so that education is not limited to instruction.

## **II. TO REGIONAL, SUBREGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

1. Build the capacities of regional and subregional organizations so as to improve their ability to accomplish tasks linked to the implementation of NEPAD in the fields of competence of UNESCO.

2. African States should provide the subregional economic communities to which they belong with greater resources to implement NEPAD programmes at the subregional and national levels and to promote the integration of migrant population groups and the protection of the rights of minorities.

3. Improve linkages between the electoral group divisions at UNESCO and the Pan-African structure of NEPAD.

4. Encourage the establishment of multilateral partnerships (regional and international organizations).

5. Strengthen the establishment of UNESCO Clubs, places for meeting, discovery and the practice of citizenship by young people, and consider the establishment of clubs and similar networks for women. Encourage these clubs and their federations to adopt NEPAD by making it

one of the core themes of their activities during the period covered by the Medium-Term Strategy for Africa (2002-2007).

6. Strengthen and energize regional and subregional cooperation in the context of the forum of regional and subregional organizations in support of cooperation between UNESCO and NEPAD (FOSRASUN), which was set up in Ouagadougou on 5 March 2003.

7. Foster, with UNESCO's assistance and support, the implementation of practical regional integration projects to which priority is given in the fields of competence of UNESCO and NEPAD. To that end, the Seminar requests the Director-General to take into account the recommendations made by the round table on the critical analysis of projects submitted by the field offices.

### **III. TO DONORS**

1. Respect the concept of partnership with NEPAD Member States and the control of projects by the governments concerned.

2. Generate synergy at field level through effective coordination and collaboration among donors, for the long-term benefit of the recipient countries.

3. Favour partnership and cooperation at the regional and subregional levels, rather than bilateral relations, in accordance with the fundamental principles of NEPAD.

### **IV. TO THE AFRICAN UNION SECRETARIAT**

1. The NEPAD Secretariat should be provided by the African States with sufficient financial and human resources to enable it to be administratively operational, taking gender-related issues into account.

2. Raise awareness of NEPAD by civil society, donor agencies and other stakeholders, in an appropriate manner.

3. Strengthen, with UNESCO's support, the harmonious and peaceful interaction of individuals and groups with multiple identities, the wealth and diversity of local cultures and the multifaceted contributions of cultural diversity to development, in a world tending towards uniformization through the globalization process.

4. Make NEPAD a multilingual programme (publications, reports, media support, etc.) to enhance grass-roots access and promotion. In order to achieve this goal, the Secretariat publications must take into account the official languages of the African Union.

5. The Heads of the African Union Member States should call on UNESCO and NEPAD to draft and submit for their approval a project for the revitalization of higher education and research.

### **V. TO UNESCO AND NEPAD**

1. Implement a common UNESCO-NEPAD planning process to facilitate collaborative activities.

2. Ensure that internal structural reform is carried out across the board in order to obtain positive results and avoid systemic dysfunction.

3. Make better use of the enormous reservoir of African talent, present both inside and outside of Africa, by cooperating with other institutions, such as the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), to set up databases and directories with a view to mobilizing human resources as and when required.
4. Ensure that increased contributions from the African diaspora become a vital component of technical assistance.
5. Set up a joint mechanism for follow-up, evaluation and reporting, and make quality and relevance the most important considerations in all projects.
6. Draw up a joint plan of action to tackle the water crisis foreseen on the continent and submit it for adoption by the NEPAD Implementation Committee.
7. Contribute to the revitalization of scientific and intellectual work in African universities. UNESCO in particular should seek to support and promote scientific studies, research and development, and to foster the introduction of inter-university networks. Access to knowledge and information should also be encouraged through universities and centres of excellence for research and training (UNESCO Chairs for instance). Accordingly, NEPAD and UNESCO should work together to accelerate implementation of the recommendations of the World Summit on Higher Education and of the ACP Least Developed Countries Ministerial Declaration, adopted in Cape Town.
8. In order to strengthen cooperation at the continental level in regard to capacity-building in science and technology, scientific networks and associations geared towards strengthening scientific centres of excellence should be reactivated or created as from the 2004-2005 biennium. One result of the higher priority given to scientific capacity-building and to the management of such capacity should be the regular holding of the Conference of Ministers responsible for Application of Science and Technology for Development in Africa (CASTAFRICA).
9. Identify ways and means of strengthening ties between UNESCO and the African Ministers of Planning and Finance, such that during periodic meetings the Director-General may further raise their awareness and bring to an understanding of the need to integrate UNESCO's priorities more fully, particularly in the field of education, and thus give the latter a more prominent place in budget priorities and national development plans.
10. UNESCO and NEPAD should contribute to a vigorous campaign on the importance of a fuller understanding of the links between the protection of biodiversity and the promotion of cultural diversity. They must raise awareness about Africa's very special role in this area, as a region and as a group of societies which have managed to respect and safeguard endogenous knowledge.

## **VI. TO UNESCO**

### **A. General recommendations**

1. Strengthen the human and financial resources of UNESCO's structures directly responsible for implementing UNESCO-NEPAD programmes, in particular the Africa Department and field offices.
2. In order to promote NEPAD's integration into the Member States' national programmes, each country should take account of those of NEPAD's aims and objectives that are relevant to

UNESCO's fields of action and incorporate them into the design and implementation of their own programmes.

3. Encourage twinning between schools and between local communities or their groupings served by a given cluster office.
4. Foster, by means of practical activities, intercultural dialogue and the development of cultural policies and the emergence and development of cultural industries and semi-industrial cultural activities, whose headquarters should be located in an African country.
5. Promote State secularism through civics education, tolerance and the dissemination of the principles of a culture of peace, in order to bring individuals and communities closer together.
6. Support environmental education programmes.
7. Encourage legislative initiatives, through regional unions of parliamentarians and leagues of parliamentary friends of UNESCO, with a view to securing their more active participation in the harmonization of legislation within UNESCO's fields of competence.
8. Involve women in environmental management and the fight against poverty by developing income-generating activities and enhancing endogenous women's skills.
9. Promote the appropriation of NEPAD by local communities through existing UNESCO networks (National Commissions, Associated Schools Project, UNESCO Clubs, FAPED, regional and subregional EFA forums) and provide this new approach with all the necessary assistance.
10. Provide NEPAD Member States with technical support for devising and implementing priority regional projects dealing with HIV/AIDS, the eradication of poverty, etc.
11. Give priority to projects focusing on the development of ICT contents and not only on the supply of machinery and equipment.
12. Promote sustainable development based, among other things, on a quality-oriented relationship between biodiversity, a fact of nature, and cultural diversity, the fruit of human creativity.

## **B. Specific recommendations**

### 1. Education for All (EFA)

UNESCO needs to step up its partnership activities with African Member States with a view to meeting EFA objectives, in particular concerning the quality of education, the culture of peace and, more generally speaking, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

### 2. Physical education

Establish jointly with NEPAD an action plan for promoting physical education and sport as part of Education for All, in particular in order to set up as a priority a regional and subregional physical education curriculum in education systems.

### 3. Higher education and research



- (a) Although UNESCO is currently implementing an excellent higher education programme it should make further efforts in this field, for example by advocating that a greater role be played by higher education in strengthening EFA along with all other levels of the education system (training of trainers, management training ...).
- (b) UNESCO and NEPAD should facilitate access to higher and post-university education by girls and women, in order to foster their active presence in decision-making circles.
- (c) UNESCO should contribute to the design, production and dissemination of textbooks and new teaching aids, making use of scientific publications such as the General History of Africa, to widen and improve knowledge of Africa from the NEPAD viewpoint.
- (d) UNESCO should encourage the revitalization of intellectual and scientific activity in Africa through programmes aimed at improving training and research conditions in African universities.

#### 4. Sustainable management of the marine and coastal environment

Strengthen the role of UNESCO and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) in finalizing and implementing NEPAD's plan of action for the environment, for example by facilitating the implementation of projects resulting from the African Process concerning the management of coastal areas, and by strengthening Member States' ability to take on board the objectives of that action framework.

#### 5. Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and distance teaching

- (a) UNESCO should reinforce its programme for the use of ICTs in teacher training and for improving higher education. In this regard, the International Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa (IICBA) needs to have its own capacities strengthened so that it can pursue its software refinement and distance education activities.
- (b) So that learners in rural areas are not at a disadvantage compared with those in urban areas when it comes to being initiated in the use of computers, and ICTs in general, UNESCO and NEPAD should rapidly set about studying the ways and means of proposing to the appropriate decision-making bodies a plan of action for introducing renewable energy sources into school establishments and health centres in rural areas.
- (c) Promote and support the African Virtual University, based in Nairobi, whose action could help to offset the dearth of qualified teaching personnel and improve teacher quality.
- (d) UNESCO should set an example in the use of ICTs and telecommunications, to avoid lengthy and costly conferences.

#### 6. Publication and distribution of new educational materials in NEPAD countries

UNESCO should help to design and produce new educational materials aimed at improving knowledge of Africa among pupils in the NEPAD framework.

7. Field offices and Africa Department

- (a) UNESCO should endeavour to optimize its presence in the Africa region and strengthen the region's ability to coordinate its NEPAD support programmes. It should also improve exchanges of information with its field offices.
- (b) UNESCO should effectively establish a regional office in Africa with responsibility for culture, in accordance with the resolution adopted at the World Conference on Cultural Policies (Mexico City, 1982) and in order to implement the Dakar Plan of Action adopted by the African Heads of State and Government in June 1992.

8. NGOs and civil society

In order to make them more operational UNESCO should strengthen the capacities of African NGOs, promote the integration of civil society groups and associations and help to create a synergy between existing mechanisms and activities under way that are compatible with its fields of competence and NEPAD priorities.

9. Culture of peace

UNESCO should step up its action in the field of peace consolidation, taking pains to raise awareness among the people in the region of the importance of integration and good governance. UNESCO Clubs and UNESCO Associated Schools should be the key elements in that campaign.

10. Parliamentarians

UNESCO should continue with its activities involving parliamentarians, so that they may become a key resource in the dissemination of information and the promotion of debates on NEPAD, in particular FAPED.