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**OECD/GOV COLLABORATION WITH AFRICA ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND  
BUDGETING ISSUES**

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## **OECD/GOV COLLABORATION WITH AFRICA ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND BUDGETING ISSUES**

### **1. Overall context**

- The new African Union (AU) is the former Organisation of African Unity (OAU). The African Union was officially launched by African Heads of State in Durban (South Africa) on July 9, 2002, with a view to accelerating the process of integration in the continent to enable it play its rightful role in the global economy
- The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is a vision and programme of action for the redevelopment of the African Continent. NEPAD was adopted at the 37th session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in July 2001 in Lusaka, Zambia. The plan was endorsed by the leaders of G8 countries on 20 July 2001. The policy framework was finalized by the Heads of State Implementation Committee (HSIC) on 23 October 2001, and NEPAD was officially created.

### **2. OECD/GOV – NEPAD collaboration**

- The programme on 'Capacity Development for Governance of Public Administration in Africa' (CDGPA) is co-ordinated by the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) of South Africa for the Pan-African Conference of Ministers of Public Service, as their Minister, Mrs Fraser-Moleketi, is the chair of the sponsoring group of African Ministers. This programme was incorporated as a priority component of the overall NEPAD programme at the meeting of the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee of NEPAD in July 2003. Following this incorporation, it was decided in July 2004 that the African Union will take ownership and leadership of the Ministers' Programme.
- Instead of a permanent, single location-based secretariat, the NEPAD programme is being carried out by a network of implementing partner organisations including regional and pan-African institutions, donor countries and international organisations. Modelled on OECD working methods, the programme aims to employ a variety of tools including peer review mechanisms, professional networks, and secretariat-based data collection and analysis to improve governance and public administration systems in Africa.
- The immediate interest of NEPAD is in building up a Secretariat with a capacity and way of operating with member countries that would be effective in the longer term in strengthening public governance across Africa. They consider the OECD's Public Governance Committee and its networks and Secretariat as their role model for developing this capacity for the African Union.
- In 2004, four areas of immediate collaboration were identified on professional networking, research and peer review to support the CDGPA Secretariat as they put their basic working processes in place. This work has included for GOV staff several missions to South Africa to

provide policy advice and support on the shaping of the future AU Secretariat on Governance and substantial inputs and peer review of specific reports prepared by NEPAD within the framework of the governance programme. This collaboration between GOV and NEPAD was made possible by a voluntary contribution by the Belgium government in 2004, of 50, 000 €.

- The collaboration between GOV and NEPAD has made very good progress since late 2003, and GOV's approach and advice to NEPAD is contributing significantly to the shaping of the future Secretariat on Governance that will be integrated within the African Union. Ms Fraser-Moleketi, Minister of Civil Service of South Africa, who is chairing the NEPAD Pan African programme on governance, has officially acknowledged to the OECD the positive achievements of this collaboration.

### **3. African Senior Budget Officials**

- A parallel initiative to the one to NEPAD has been the invitation from the South African Treasury for GOV to provide technical support to create a professional regional network of African Senior Budget Officials (ASBO) to strengthen professionalism and peer review in the allocation, management and oversight of public expenditure.
- The first meeting of what is known as the Collaborative Africa Budget Reform Initiative (CABRI) to launch the network will take place in Pretoria in December this year. It involves about 20 countries mainly from the SADC region but also including Nigeria, Senegal and Mali.

### **4. GOV supports an integrated approach of governance issues within the African Union**

- The sub-regional African SBO initiative does not involve either NEPAD or AU at this stage. However because of the common public governance objective, the intent to extend the budgeting network across the continent, the intimate connection between financial management and public management, and because of GOV's involvement in both areas, GOV supports an integrated approach of the two projects for the purposes of seeking support and providing a coherent view of OECD's involvement in public governance in Africa.
- The overall goal of this programme of activities aims to help African countries strengthen their own regional professional networking, mutual learning, data collection, standard setting and mutual review capacity in the area of public governance and management. This kind of capacity is essential to underpin and sustain the larger aims of the African Peer Review Mechanism, other on-going efforts to strengthen the African Union's technical capabilities and its ability to ensure that the aims and objectives of NEPAD are achieved. The OECD is well placed to be a technical partner because of its experience as a successful, member country driven, consensus –based, standard setting and mutual review body in the public governance and management area.

### **5. Professional Standard Setting and Peer Review Capacity in Public Management in Africa : OECD Co-operation Proposal: 2005-2007**

#### ***Public Management Bench-marking Partnership***

It is proposed that the OECD provides technical support to NEPAD in the following areas over the period 2005 to 2007:

- Peer review of Secretariat's strategy and modus operandi (Review of drafts from Paris and, where appropriate, involvement in Secretariat development workshops in Africa)
- Peer review of Development of Working Party Structure.(Review of draft proposals and engagement of OECD member country Chairs or Bureau members of OECD Public governance Committee and related Working Parties)
- Peer review of survey instruments, data collection and indicator development.
- Specialised technical inputs to regional meetings.
- Extension of selected international public governance surveys to African region
- Secondment of NEPAD/AU public governance secretariat staff to GOV.
- Access to OECD /GOV expert networks
- Support for development of country peer review processes.

#### ***African Senior Budget Officials Network***

It is proposed that OECD/GOV enter a bench-marking partnership for the creation of an African Senior Budget Officials network modelled on the OECD SBO and affiliated regional networks. It is proposed that GOV provide support in the following areas for the period 2005 to 2007:

- Involvement in the founding meeting this December by providing technical input and explaining and promoting ASBO vision.
- Peer review and technical support for development of ASBO Secretariat.
- Peer review of development of ASBO and associated network structure and way of operating.
- Peer review of management of surveys, data collection and country case studies.
- Extension of selected OECD international surveys to African countries.
- Access to OECD/GOV/SBO committee and expert networks.
- Technical support for establishment of Peer Reviews of Country Budgeting Systems in Africa. (This would involve peer reviewing review methodology, and for the first few reviews, providing a team member)

**ANNEX****RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS FOR OECD INVOLVEMENT****1. OECD /NEPAD Public Management Bench-marking Partnership**

- Resources required for each of the three years of the activity will be:
- Professional staff: 1 A3 person year equivalent
- Support staff: 0.5 B3 person year equivalent
- Secretariat support travel to Africa: 3 person visits x 1 week
- Committee support travel to Africa: 1 member country rep x 1week
- Technical support visits: two persons x 1 week plus paper preparation costs
- Staff secondment to OECD Paris: 1 person/year plus relocation costs
- Support of country reviews: 1 review per year involving visit by 1 OECD staff x 2 weeks plus 4 person weeks professional time
- OECD corporate overhead charge

**2. African Senior Budget Officials Network**

- Resources required annually for the three years will be:
- Professional staff: 0.5 A3 person year equivalent
- Support staff: 0.25 B3 person year equivalent
- Secretariat support travel: 2 person visits x 1 week
- Provision of presenters from OECD member countries – 2 person visits to Africa x 1 week
- Country budgeting reviews: 2 persons by 2 weeks plus 8 person weeks professional time
- OECD overhead charge.

### **3. Potential funding sources**

- The OECD inputs above could be funded directly from donor or other funds within the control of the respective African partners, or from special grants to the OECD Secretariat from individual OECD Member countries, or from a combination of both.