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*African Dynamics in a Multipolar World*

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## **STRENGTHENING NEPAD AS A STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA: THE ROLE OF THE DIASPORAS**

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## **Abstract**

*This paper examines one of the ways through which sustainable development can be attained in Africa. It notes that the New Partnership for Africa's Development, NEPAD, is a holistic plan of action for the achievement of this goal. However, the paper observes that Africans are good at policy formulation but grossly deficient at policy implementation. The New Partnership for Africa's Development is a well articulated plan of action for the achievement of sustainable development in Africa but the challenge has been in the area of implementation and sustenance of these noble objectives. NEPAD, being a call for a new relationship of partnership between Africa and the international community, especially the highly industrialized countries, to overcome the development chasm that has widened over centuries of unequal relations, needs the support, assistance and commitment of the African diasporas to succeed.*

## **Introduction**

It has often been documented that, in Africa, 340 million people or half the population, live on less than US \$1 per day. The mortality rate of children under 5 years of age is 140 per 1000, and life expectancy at birth is only 54 years. Only 58% of the population have access to safe water. The rate of illiteracy for people over 15 years is 41 percent. There are only 18 mainline telephones per 1000 people in Africa compared with 146 for the world as a whole and 567 for high income countries. The picture painted above is an eloquent testimony of the underdevelopment and impoverishment prevalent in Africa.

These tragedies are not without fundamental causes. The legacies of slavery and colonialism, the depredations of neocolonialism which denied Africa the autonomy and self confidence to see itself and analyze the world objectively are no doubt fundamental causes of the African malady. The workings of the international economic system and the inadequacies of, and shortcomings in the policies pursued by many countries in the post independence era, no doubt, accentuated the African problem. For instance, Africa was incorporated and integrated into the world capitalist economic system at a time they were not prepared and at a rate that placed them at disadvantage. Africa thus became mainly suppliers of cheap labour and raw materials. This meant the draining of Africa's resources rather than their use for the continent's development. Thus, Africa remains the poorest continent despite being one of the most richly endowed regions of the world.

No doubt, the legacies of slavery, colonialism and neocolonialism as well as integration into the world economic system disorganized Africa. This made Africans to abandon their traditional modes of produced to follow the developed world; copying them and imitating them. The developed world started dictating and prescribing development strategies for Africa and

several of these strategies had been implemented and the after effect had been catastrophic for the continent.

There is an adage to the affect that: “to fall over the same stone twice is a proverbial disgrace”. After the disgraceful and dismal performance of several development strategies especially the Structural Adjustment Program (SAP) as prescribed by Western Scholars and policy makers, Africans had come to the realization that the continued poverty and underdevelopment in the continent, is a clear manifestation of the unbelievable inadequacies of Africa’s agenda so far. They therefore rejected the continuation of traditional servitude, prostrate dependency and supine passivity. They decided to take their destiny in their own hands. But in doing that, they recognized the import of globalization. They discovered that they have to partner with other peoples and agencies of the world hence, Africa adopted NEPAD as a development strategy. The question is: how can NEPAD be strengthened so that Africa will not fall over the same stone twice? How can the African Diaspora strengthen NEPAD? This is the focus of this paper.

The departure of this paper is not afro-pessimism, that myopic fatalism, which portrays Africa as doomed forever. It is not also “Afro-optimism”, that stance which posits that Africa needs only to adopt democracy and the era of bliss will unfold. “Virtue stands in the middle”. This paper therefore shuns either extremes but toes the path of “Afro-realism, a hard critical examination of the objective socio-economic realities on ground and those that may unfold to strengthen NEPAD.

According to Richard Joseph (1999), “The seed of a new Africa must be nurtured within Africa. “The change is to discover those seeds; identify how they can be fertilized and protected,

how they can be enriched especially from the New African Diasporas, and finally helped to become an irresistible movement for change throughout the continent”.

### **Theoretical foundation**

The term “development” as used in contemporary social science literature is not only vague and nebulous but also polemical. Meier (1989) has observed that it is difficult to advance any precise meaning for the term development and perhaps easier to say what development is not than what it is. As Okoli (2000) notes, “any attempt to define development will always open a Pandora box of ideological conflicts, of conceptual vagueness, of strategic confusion and of ideational muddle”. He notes that the implication is that there is no generally accepted definition of development. However, from whatever angle one looks at development, nobody can deny the fact that when we talk about development, we mean the promotion of the welfare of the individual.

However, development can be examined from two major perspectives, namely, the liberal perspective and the Marxist perspective. The liberal perspective mirrors development from an economic point of view. Most liberal scholars see development as economic development which can be gauged in terms of the growth of the GNP through capital accumulation and industrialization (Maier, 1989). In this context development implies change which according to Thirlwall (1983), “often follows a well- ordered sequence and exhibits common characteristics across countries”, or what Michael (1979) calls “ a series of successive stage of transformation”. Thus, for most liberal scholars development means the capacity of a national economy, whose

initial economic condition has been more or less static to generate and sustain an annual increase in its Gross National product (GNP) at rate of perhaps 5 to 7 percent or more.

Experience of the third world countries gave impetus to the liberalist to change their stance on the meaning of development and as Meier (1989) observes, “development is more than the acquisition of industries, but includes such ideals of modernization as rise in productivity, social and economic equalization, modern technical known- how, improved institutions as well as rationally coordinated policy apparatus”. However, Michael (1979) notes that “while economic progress is an essential component of development, it is not the only one. Development encompasses more than the financial and material sides of peoples lives”. Thus some development economists define development as an instrumental process of overcoming persistent poverty, absorbing the surplus labour and diminishing inequality. Defined in this way, development implies what Torado (1979) calls “the reduction or elimination of poverty, inequality and unemployment within the context of a growing economy”.

The last three decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century witnessed yet another conception of development super-headed by M.D. Little (1982) who argued that “getting the prices right” is one of the salient policies that could enhance development as industrialization and removal of poverty are not enough to stimulate development. Little argued that beyond the elimination of price distortions development and growth could be stimulated if the following innovation are introduced. Firstly, inward orientated strategies of development must give way to liberalization and export promotion. Secondly, inflation must submit to stabilization programmes. And thirdly, state owned enterprises should be privatized.

### **The Marxist perspective**

Another way of looking at development is from the Marxist binocular. In the view of the Marxists, development, rather than being an abstract economic category is a multidimensional concept. When viewed against the background of the dialectical materialists, development rather than being restricted to macro economic variable focuses on man and his well-being. As a result of this, human beings constitute the fulcrum on which development revolves.

The Marxists view development from three broad levels, namely, the individual level, social group level and the mode of production level. At the individual level, human beings are seen as the epicenter of development. Without the man developing, there cannot be real development for it is man that development is for and who develops as well as who gingers development. Development at the individual level implies mental and academic sophistication, moral rectitude as well as material well-being. According to Okereke and Ekpe (2002), it is contended that the acquisition of this type of development will inevitably catapult the society to the frontiers of genuine development and thus explode the shells of backwardness. For instance, the development of man will lead to increase in productivity, ability to harness the forces of nature, and the capacity of man to eke out a living in the face of harsh natural forces. It must be noted that this process is not influenced much by increase in GNP. In view of this, the radical scholars forcefully maintain that the first step towards development is the overall improvement of man who is expected to be the harbinger of transformation and change. Summarily, at the individual level, development is defined as the interplay between man and nature in the process of production of material needs.

At the social level, development as Rodney (1972) argues, implies an increasing capacity to regulate both internal and external relationships. It also involves the ability to safeguard the independence of the social group. In addition, it implies the ability of members of the society to concertedly deal with their environment. And this directly depends upon the extent to which they understand the laws of nature (Science), on the extent to which they put that understanding into practice by devising tools (technology), and on the manner by which work is organized.

The third understanding of development by the Marxist organically ties development to the socialist mode of production. The thinking here is that the capitalist mode of production is an impediment to development and peoples well being. It breeds inequality, exploitation and crisis. Therefore, socialism is seen as the only method of bringing about development that can duly ease the lives of working class people and improve their well being as much as possible. (Onimode, 1983). However, we are well aware that socialism is dead long ago and as such, all about it is also dead.

At any rate, from our exploration of both the liberal and Marxist perceptions of development, it is worthy to note that no matter from which-ever angle one looks at development, it means the promotion of the welfare of the individual and society as well. In other words, the enhancement of the good of the citizenry is the ultimate goal of development in any society. The Marxist conception of development is therefore the theoretical foundation of this paper.



***The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)***

Since the independence of most African States, they had individually applied many development strategies ranging from import substitution which was a deliberate policy of import substitution industrialization whose aim was to turn away from a policy of development towards the inside as Ian Roxborough (1979) noted; the indigenisation policy which in the view of Claude Ake (1989) was an attempt to increase local control of the economy and thus reduce foreign dominance and control of these. The structural adjustment programme (SAP) which Onimode (2000) described as an unprecedented historical experiment which combines at one and the same time, elements of enslavement, colonization and neocolonialism in one gigantic new form of domination exploitation and social imperialism. Transfer of technology was another strategy equally adopted at one time to alleviate the development problem of Africa.

However, the debut of NEPAD as a development strategy for Africa is the beginning of development wisdom for Africa in the sense that it is an all embracing strategy aimed at addressing holistically the development problem of Africa. Fred Cooper (2000) has reminded us that development economists had earlier argued at the dawn of African independence that “poor economies needed a big push” to give them infrastructure, the quality of workforce, and concentration of capital needed to compete in world markets”. Through NEPAD Africa has demanded from developed world, the ‘big push’ through partnerships.

The New Partnership for Africa's development is a pledge by African leaders based on a common vision and a firm and shared conviction that they have a pressing duty to eradicate poverty and to place their countries both individually and collectively on a path of sustainable growth and development and at the same time to participate actively in the world economy and body politic. The programme is anchored on the determination of Africans to extricate

themselves and the continent from the malaise of underdevelopment and exclusion in a globalizing world.

It is a fact of reality that the resources including the capital, technology and human skills required to launch a global war on poverty and underdevelopment exist in Africa. What is lacking is only the will power to mobilize these resources and use them properly. What is also lacking is a dynamic, bold and imaginative selfless leadership that is genuinely committed to a sustained human development effort and poverty eradication, as well as a new global partnership based on shared responsibility and mutual interest. However, the birth of NEPAD heralds the willingness of African leaders to address the poverty and development problem of the continent.

How did NEPAD originate? According to Josh Startup (2000), NEPAD is a culmination of the merger of the Millenium Partnership for the African Recovery program (MAP) and the Omega plan, which was finalized on July 31, 2001. The idea began in 1999 when presidents Mbeki (South Africa) Obasanjo (Nigeria) and Bouteflika (Algeria), agreed that Africa had been reacting for too long to ideas and offers of support from the rest of the world, without developing its own plan. Africa, they felt, had programs of action in the past, but for a variety of reasons- including timing, a lack of capacity and resources, a lack of political will and the interference of outside interest in the cold war era- the plans failed.

The Millennium Partnershi for African Recovery program (MAP) was a pledge devised by President Wade of Senegal for African leaders to both independently and jointly pursue a path of sustainable development with the goal of eradicating poverty and actively participating in the world economy. MAP sought to achieve this lofty objective by changing the traditional relationship between Africa and developed nations. Hence, MAP did not call for further foreign aid for African countries nor for marginal concessions. Instead, it called for the mobilization of

technology, human skills and capacity- all of which it stated were already within its grasp- combined with creative new African leadership and a new global partnership based on joint responsibility and mutual interest. The overarching theme of MAP according to Startup (2000) was for Africa- and more especially, African leaders to take more leadership and responsibility for the development of the continent, instead of relying on, or blaming others. MAP invited the developed world into partnership with Africa, based on a more footed relationship between the parties, with mutual self-interest as the driving force behind it.

The OMEGA Plan on the other hand did not toe the line of MAP in its entirety, rather, it deviated a bit. In the first instance, it took a critical evaluation of Africa's need vis-à-vis the developed world. The aim was to find out what was on ground and what was needed with a view to bridging the gap. The plan initially focussed on education, health, agriculture and infrastructure. It called for a massive infusion of investment in Africa, until it was at a point where it could harness its large human and natural resources, along with modern technology. This would narrow Africa towards the productive line, thereby paving the way for Africa's entry into the world of international trade and global economy.

However, it is in the area of funding that Map and OMEGA differed sharply. OMEGA called on African countries with large financial reserves invested in Western markets to lend those resources instead to Africa. The plan also implored developed countries to use their treasury bills to invest in African resources. It also called for "special drawing rights" designed especially for Africa, as well as interest rates reduction, which eventually would fall to zero in Africa.

The MAP and OMEGA plans were really good plans devised for Africa's development. But one thing none of them addressed was the critical issue of debt relief which has been the Achilles' heel of Africa with regard to development. To fill up the yawning lacuna created by this deficiency, the Organization of Africa Unity (OAU) during its Summit of Heads of State and Government which took place in Lusaka, Zambia in July 2001, decided to marry the two development agenda. Thus, heralding the birth of NEPAD.

NEPAD, is really an ambitious proposal by the African leaders who adopted it. While NEPAD set out to do the following:

- Promote accelerated and sustainable development
- Eradicate widespread and severe poverty,
- Stop the marginalization of Africa in globalization
- Accelerate the empowerment of women; its anticipated outcome include:
- Reduction in poverty and inequalities
- The diversification of productive activities
- Enhanced competitiveness in international market and increased exports and
- Increased African integration

In order to achieve all the above mentioned objectives, NEPAD contains three major priorities.

1) The first priority is to create the enabling environment for sustainable development by ensuring:

- Peace/security
- Democracy
- Good governance
- Capacity building
- Regional cooperation and integration.

2) The second priority is that NEPAD calls for policy reforms and increased investment in the following key sectors:

- Agriculture
- Human development
- Infrastructure
- Diversifying export product
- Accelerating access to inter-African markets and markets of developed economies
- The environment

3) The final priority of NEPAD is the mobilization of resources which encompass:

- Improving domestic savings and the management of public resources
- Gaining a larger share of global trade
- Attracting foreign direct investment (FDI)
- Increasing capital flows through debt reduction.

To crown it all, NEPAD has a mechanism for the reevaluation of its action, hence, NEPAD's one key feature is the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) which all African Union (AU) members are expected to participate in, even though it is voluntary. The APRM requires each country to perform a self evaluation of itself in the areas of democracy, governance and socio-economic development. The Review is expected to increase a country's attractiveness to foreign investors, with each country's rating acting as an indicator of that country's potential. The G8, African Development Bank (ADB) and bilateral donors have all indicated that their aid may be tied to a country's APRM's score.

### ***Assessment of NEPAD vis-à-vis African Development***

If there is any development initiative which will place Africa on a path of sustainable growth and development, NEPAD comes readily at hand. It is really an ambitious plan and all embracing. It takes into consideration all facts of development. According to Startup (2000) "foreign investors see NEPAD largely as a beacon of promise for Africa to transform into a viable place for investment." The Canadian government mapped out \$500 million for the Canadian fund for Africa to support NEPAD's efforts. It claims that NEPAD has provided an organizational framework for the United Nations and other International Community to work from.

- (2) Stopped the erosion in support of Africa from its development partners.
- (3) Incorporated peer-review and mutual accountability as important elements in the decision making of African government".

Startup (2000) equally noted that in 2003, Horst Kohler, the managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) emphasized that the partnership and peer review mechanism would be a critical element to its success. NEPAD has also received praise from the internationally renowned economist Jeffrey Sachs who also served as the special Adviser to the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. Sachs praised NEPAD for its leadership and contribution towards helping Africa meet the Millenium Development goal.

Equally, Gambari (2003), a United Nations under secretary reports that “over the years, there has been progress by both African countries and the International Community in implementing the continent’s development plan. African countries have increased spending for health and education and are coordinating efforts to promote regional transportation and communication links and have set up a peer review mechanism to improve standards of political governance, economic management and respect for human rights. He noted that the donor countries including the industrialized group of eight, have modestly increased aids flow to Africa, reversing a decade long decline to the continent. These actions, he maintained have been taken in support of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development NEPAD.

Gambari (2003) equally noted that, “the initial steps taken so far in furthering NEPAD’s goals contrasts with the overall failure of previous African development plans. Those earlier programmes failed because they were not owned by Africans. NEPAD, instead is based on the “twin concepts of ownership and partnership by which Africans take the lead and the continent’s external partners back their efforts”.

In the highlights of the Secretary General’s report on NEPAD, Annan (2003), noted that “one year after the UN General Assembly endorsed the New partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) and urged the international community to organize support for African

countries in accordance with its priorities, there has been a modest increase in donor support. Annan also noted that although official development assistance to Africa declined throughout the 1990s, falling from a total of \$26.6bn in 1990 to \$16.4bn in 2000, it has now begun to recover, rising to \$17.8 bn in 2001 and \$18.6bn the following year. This rebound reflects the pledge of increased assistance made at the international conference on Financing for development in Monterrey, Mexico in early 2002”.

It is worthy to note that the developed counties can only genuinely assist the less developed ones when they are convinced that the developing country has taken a step to help itself, for it is said that “heaven only helps those who help themselves”.

### ***Strengthening NEPAD: the role of the diasporas***

Experience has shown that African are good at policy formulation but are grossly deficient at policy implementation. An adage has it that a bad workman quarrels with his tools”. So has be the situation of Africa. They have been formulating, copying and initiating one strategy or the other but hardly has any one of such strategies taken Africa to the Eldorado. As we had observed, NEPAD is really an ingenious idea and the concept seems noble and near perfect but if care is not taken, it may led Africa nowhere and before long, another strategy of development will be formulated while NEPAD will be thrown away and jettisoned to the garbage bins of history. But we do not pray for this to happen.

Therefore, in order not to let this happen, this paper recommends the urgent intervention of the Diaspora by way of strengthening NEPAD. Who are the Diaspora?



## **The African diasporas**

The Diasporas are the African living outside the African continent. These are people who by birth are African but are today citizens of other countries and are residing permanently in countries other than Africa. We may do well to remember that there was forced migration of millions of able bodied men and women of African origin to plantations of Europe and North America. We remember that the “brain drain” has also removed from Africa, the best of Africa minds in terms of education and technical knowledge. These are people separated by hundreds of years, miles, ocean, or environmental circumstances from their own people with whom they are united through blood ties, cultural affinity and shared history and to some extent, a common destiny.

Writing on the African Diaspora Akukwa and Jammeh (2004) noted that according to the 2000 United States Census, there are 34,658,190 African- Americans in the United States. Of the 35 million people that claimed Hispanic heritage in 2000 US Census, at least one third are likely to have African ancestry. Nearly 1.8 million people from the Caribbean lived in the United States in 2000. About 0.6% of all people living in the United States, (1,781,877) identified themselves as sub-saharan African. Conservatively, in the United States alone, at least 50 million individuals and significant proportions of individuals in Latin America have African ancestry. The international Office of migration (IOM), a United Nations Agency, estimates that the African Diaspora population in France is 1,633,142 and another 1.5 million African Diasporas live in other European countries. This is an indication that Africa has African people outside and they constitute the Diaspora.

The International Office of Migration further highlight the quality of Africans outside Africa. It provides a picture of an affluent Africa in the Diaspora. According to Akukwa and Jammeh (2004) “about 22% of African Diasporas are in the teaching, education and research professions; 20% in finance, investment and economics, 20% in Public health; 15% in engineering; 9% in agriculture; 5% in information technology; 5% in legal science; 3% in administration; and 1% in natural sciences. The 2000 US Census indicates that foreign-born sub-saharan Africans (recent immigrants) have the highest proportion of foreign born individuals 25 years and over who have bachelors degree (49:3%) compared to Europe (32.9%) and Asia (44.9%). At least 38.2% of sub-saharan householders in the US own their own homes. The average household income of foreign- born households headed by sub-saharan Africans was \$36,371 according to the US Census.

For the period 2000 through 2002, the median household income for African American was \$29,483 according to the US Census. Home ownership for the African American was 48% in 2003. Black-owned business in 1997, the latest period for which data is available, employed 718,300 persons and generated US \$71. Billion in revenue according to the US Census. Remittances by Africans in the Diaspora to their countries of origin are substantial. According to the International Office of Migration, Nigerians in the Diaspora remitted \$1.3 billion in 1999 equivalent to 3.71% of the country’s GDP and 55% of overseas development assistance.

The background information given above is to underscore the worth and quality of resources Africa has overseas in the Diaspora. From the numerical strength of the Diaspora outlined and the professions they are engaged in, it is obvious that they are in a good position to help Africa overcome the development chasm that exist between Africa and the West. Thousands

of African Americans are doctors, lawyers, engineers, economist business executives, politicians etc. Many African Americans are also millionaires. Many occupy very sensitive positions in the West where vital decisions about Africa are taken. They can use their connections to turn those decisions into goldmines for Africa. They can play decisive roles in both short and long terms measures to accelerate the fortunes of NEPAD, hence Africa's development

The African Diaspora can indeed strengthen NEPAD in various ways.

#### 1. Strengthening Public Institutions

One way through which the Diaspora can strengthen NEPAD is by strengthening public institutions. According to Richard Joseph (2004) "a large number of development experts with Africa over the past three decades have reached the conclusion that poor government and declining institutional capacity were at the core of the African predicament". Therefore, in order to help NEPAD achieve its desired noble objectives, the African Diaspora should help in the enthronement of an accountable government in African nations. They should help to strengthen the African Union so that the leaders will be focused on the implementation of NEPAD.

#### 2. Wealth Creation

The Diaspora can strengthen NEPAD by focussing on wealth creation in Africa. As we noted earlier many of them are millionaires. If such people should invest in Africa by way of citing industries, they will create job opportunities for the teeming population of unemployed African youths, who will now start earning their living and in return, start contributing to the economy. The multiplier effect of this strategy is enormous.

3. Strengthening civil societies

The Diaspora can also strengthen NEPAD through the strengthening of civil society. They should help in enthrone strong democratic traditions in Africa. This can be done through the agency of NGOs. The civil society can be strengthened in areas of policy advocacy, community mobilization, macroeconomic activities as well as gender equity issues.

4. Through the formation of African High Command

Peace and security in Africa is very vital for the success of NEPAD. The Diaspora can strengthen NEPAD by causing the formation of an African High Command which will be there to handle conflict related issues in the African continent. It will be a permanent body which will always intervene as soon as there is conflict. They will help in negotiation, in peace keeping and peace enforcement if need be etc. This permanent body is a sine qua non for Africa's development. The Diaspora is in a better position to help in the formation and funding of this body.

5. Corporate Sponsorship

Many African Diasporas are movers and shakers of the corporate world in the industrialized countries of the world. Experiences across the world today have indicated that "companies are drawn to supplement the efforts of government and civil society in tackling societal problems, it has been discovered that business system can be applied to social development objectives, even in helping to build NGO capacity." The African Diasporas can help in strengthening NEPAD by inducing corporations where they are working to engage more

extensively in building capacity in Africa through appropriate fiscal incentives and subjects. The African Diasporas who own corporate organizations can equally on their own embark on ways of strengthening NEPAD.

#### 6. Think Tank

The African Diaspora can help in strengthening NEPAD by constituting a think tank among themselves whose duty is to brainstorm about the development problem of Africa and at the end, discover possible ways of making a break-through in African development through NEPAD. These groups drawn from among themselves according to their professions will act as advisory body to the African Union on development issues.

#### 7. Mobilization of Funds

There are extensive financial resources available for development now lodged abroad. Many of the African Diaspora are millionaires and can contribute to African development in cash and kind. Many have friend who have enough financial resources that can help to improve African economy: There is need for the African Diaspora to mobilize funds for the NEPAD programme. With such funds mobilized, NEPAD will surely be strengthened as a development policy for Africa.

#### 8. Funding of Policy Relevant Research

The importance of research for any venture or organization cannot be over stressed. For NEPAD to succeed, there is need to research into past development strategies adopted in Africa with a view to finding out why they succeeded or why they failed and at the same time

juxtaposing them with the current development strategy, NEPAD. There is also the need to research into how NEPAD can be used to advance Africa forward, development wise. Writing on this, Richard (2002) opines: “There should be a significant increase in funding for policy relevant research and collaborative investigation by researchers and practitioners concerned with Africa”. He notes that policy makers charged with seeking ways to accelerate development in Africa have benefited from the research and writing of African and Africanist scholars. The time has come to strengthening academic research and training on African issue and to provide niceties for scholars to engage in policy-relevant as well as more strictly academic studies. Richard (2005).

This is where the Diaspora can help, they can institute research grants to African scholars as ways of making NEPAD deliver.

#### 9. Promotions of Africa’s Image abroad

There are so many misconceptions about Africa and her development programmes. The Diaspora has a role to play in marketing Africa and her development programme- NEPAD to their host countries. It is the duty of the Diaspora to put the records about Africa straight to their host countries. It is equally their duty to work towards a beneficial partnership of Africa with the industrialized countries where they reside. They are part and parcel of Africa irrespective of the fact that they are now domiciled in the advanced countries of the world.

It is hoped that by implementing all the above recommendations faithfully, NEPAD would have been strengthened by the African Diaspora.

## **Conclusion**

According to Annan (2002), the former Secretary General of the United Nations, “there is a new deal on the table: when developing countries fight corruption, strengthen their institutions, adopt market-oriented policies, respect human rights and the rule of law, and spend more on the needs of the poor, rich countries can support them with trade, and investment and debt relief” NEPAD is an eloquent testimony of Africa’s preparedness to embrace these conditionalities for support, nay, partnership in her development.

In the words of Englebert (2000), “there is now a broad consensus that what has most distinguished Africa from the rest of the world over the last three-and-a-half decades is the weak capacity of its states to respond to environmental, external and other supply shocks and to design appropriate policies and institutions for growth”. Really, for long, Africa had devised many development strategy, but none had actually addressed the real development peculiarities of Africa because, they are recommended for Africa by external bodies. But NEPAD is the creation of an African development strategy by Africans and for Africans. It is an owner facilitator and implementator kind of programme which, can be described as home grown and indigenous. It has great potentials for success.

However, it needs to be strengthened by another set of Africans who are living with the industrialized partners to Africa’s development. These are the African Diaspora. They can strengthen NEPAD in terms of economic development through remittances, trade and investment. They can also do this by way of conflict mediation/resolution and post-conflict reconstruction. They can equally strengthen NEPAD by way of lobbying and advocacy at international, regional and national levels. By monitoring and implementing development commitments, the Diaspora can equally strengthen NEPAD. This can also be done through

policy advice and analysis. Another way is through capacity building by way of skills and knowledge transfer exchange as well as through information technology. Above all, the Africa Diaspora can strengthen NEPAD by making a balanced portrayal of Africa in the international media as well as in pushing the African agenda.

Finally, every member of the African Diaspora in any part of the world is urged to stand up and be counted today or never as having used his or her resources or position to advance the cause of Africa, for whether Europe or America, Africa is our root.

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