

#### **4. NEPAD'S EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

- Economic growth and development and increased employment
- Reduction in poverty and inequity.
- Diversification of productive activities, enhanced international competitiveness and increased exports.
- Increased African integration.

#### **5. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE AFRICAN UNION**

- NEPAD is a project of the OAU / AU.
- The Implementation Committee has to report annually to the AU Summit.
- The AU Chair and Secretary General are ex-officio members of the Implementation Committee.
- The AU Secretariat participates at Steering Committee meetings.
- The management structures of NEPAD are designed to ensure follow-up and implementation in the phase of transition from the OAU to the AU.
- NEPAD is the socio-economic development blueprint for the AU to implement its objectives.
- It is the mechanism for accelerating implementation of the Abuja Treaty.
- The Secretariats of the Regional Economic Communities will participate fully in the NEPAD programme development through workshops and consultation.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Why this initiative, why now and what is the value added?

Many fine initiatives have been developed in the past, such as the Lagos Plan of Action and the Abuja Treaty, but have failed due to three major reasons: timing (Cold War paradigm); lack of capacity for implementation; and a lack of genuine political will.

We are at a significant juncture in history. A critical mass of leadership has developed both on the continent and abroad that are genuinely committed to the regeneration of the continent. Africa's advances in recent years, the convergence of agreement on international development goals and a common agenda for Africa illustrate this.

Also, the NEPAD provides three new key elements, namely, it is African developed, managed and owned; it brings the concept of a new partnership (with mutual commitments, obligations, interest, contributions and benefits); and Africa is undertaking certain commitments and obligations in its own interests which are not externally imposed conditionalities.

In conclusion, we must grasp this precious opportunity. We must maintain the present goodwill and momentum in ensuring implementation. We cannot afford to fail.