

STELLENBOSCH DECLARATION

We, the African Public Service Ministers, meeting at the invitation of the Republic of South Africa, in Stellenbosch, from 4-7 May 2003, organised under the auspices of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), by the Government of South Africa and the African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development (CAFRAD), and supported by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and specific donors (ACBF, DFID, The Italian Government, GTZ, WB, CPSI), agree on the following:

Noting that state capability is critical for creating the conditions for development, promoting economic growth and implementing poverty reduction programmes.

Recalling NEPAD's commitment to supporting regional and continental initiatives directed at 'strengthening the political and administrative framework' of African countries.

Affirming the need for the work of governance and public administration to be located within NEPAD, the social and economic programme of the African Union.

Reaffirming the need to identify specific programmes of action that give effect to the spirit and intent of the Charter for the Public Service in Africa.

Having considered the Governance and Public Administration in Africa Programme as presented and amended at this conference:

1. Accept the Governance and Public Administration Programme (G&PA) for Africa which:
 - is built on the principles of regional cooperation, identification of common needs and pooling of available resources, in the spirit of NEPAD and its intention to build African capacity to deal with regional challenges.
 - identifies as critical areas of intervention the following: institutional capability development; knowledge and policy learning; data collection and exchange; innovation and partnership support.
 - creates a framework for regional organisations, national management development institutions and international development partners to collaborate in a manner unprecedented on the continent.
 - identifies specific programmes of action for which African and international funding and other assistance can be sought, and the implementation of which can be monitored, to ensure impact and sustainability.

Declaration

2. Request the Chairperson of the Conference and the Committee of Ministers to submit the text of the programme to NEPAD for incorporation into its detailed programme of action and to the African Union for endorsement.
3. Propose that the Pan-African Conference of Ministers of Public Service from henceforth become a meeting held under the auspices of the African Union, and request the Chairperson of the Conference and the Committee of Ministers to submit a request in this regard to the African Union
4. Request the regional, sub-regional and national institutions to play a proactive and effective role in implementing the programme, in collaboration with international partners and to report to the Committee of Ministers periodically on progress made.
5. Commit to building the capacity of regional, sub regional and national institutions to play the role necessary for the success of the programme.
6. Reinforce the importance of strong African leadership and the role of international and regional partners, as well as national management development institutes, in capacitating and supporting leaders.
7. Challenge African academics and intellectual leaders to actively engage with the approach and content of the programme, to ensure that vigorous debate is generated, assumptions questioned and the programme enriched and improved.
8. Request that the current work of the regional and sub-regional institutions focusing on public sector research; data collection and analysis; knowledge management and learning be supported, and incorporated into the overall G&PA programme.
9. Request international and continental development partners to actively support the G&PA programme and the Conference of Ministers of Public Service, through the provision of critical resources, and collaboration in building the capacity of local institutions and their staff to ensure sustainability into the future;
10. Express our deepest condolences at the loss of a great son and father of Africa, Mr. Walter Sisulu, who past away on the 5th May 2003.
11. Express our profound gratitude to the President of the African Union, the President of the Republic of South Africa, for his presence and guidance at the Conference.
12. Express our gratitude to the government and people of South Africa for their concerted efforts in the preparation and hosting of this important event.