



The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is a development framework adopted in 2001 to ensure Africa's renewal and strengthen its role on the international scene. Initiated by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), the project required from Algeria, Egypt, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa to design an integrated socio-economic development plan which could address the current challenges that the African continent deals with. The priorities NEPAD had identified are the increasing poverty levels, underdevelopment and the persistent marginalisation of Africa in the globalisation process as well as the necessity to accelerate women's empowerment. The gender dimension of the organization appears in its focus on human development specifically through the lenses of health, education, science and technology and skills development (www.nepad.org).



International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration since 1951. Dedicated to promote an organized management of migration taking into account migrants as human beings, IOM encourages international cooperation on migration issue. The aim is two-fold i.e. to look for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need. IOM activities include the promotion of international migration law, policy debate, the protection of migrants' rights, migration health and the gender dimension of migration. More specifically, the Gender Coordination function and the Working Group on Gender Issues support the mainstreaming of the Organization's gender policy both in programmes and evaluations, while encouraging the development of innovative initiatives to address the gender-related needs of migrants (www.iom.int).



United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) is a fund providing financial and technical assistance to innovative approaches aimed at increasing and strengthening women's empowerment as well as gender equality in more than 100 countries since 1976. In addition, UNIFEM brings women's voices at the UN to underline critical issues and advocate for the implementation of existing commitments made to women. Four strategic goals orient UNIFEM's activities: reducing women's poverty and exclusion, stopping violence against women, reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS among women and girls and enhancing women's leadership in governance and post-conflict reconstruction. It designs and implements laws and policies to eliminate gender discrimination and promote gender equality. UNIFEM also aims to transform institutions to make them more accountable to gender equality and women's rights (www.unifem.org).



The African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) is the first Africa-wide fundraising and grant-making initiative created in 2001 to support the initiatives of the African Women's organisations working towards women's empowerment. The Fund's mission is to mobilise material and human resources within and outside Africa to support local, national, sub-regional and regional projects for transformation led by African women. It also communicates the achievements of African women's organisations and provides technical assistance to grantees. The AWDF funds work in six thematic areas: women's human rights, political participation, peace building, health and reproductive rights, economic empowerment and HIV/AIDS. It is also an institutional capacity-building and programme development fund,

which aims at building a culture of learning and partnerships within the African women's movement (www.awdf.org).



The African Union (AU) is Africa's main organization for the promotion of increased socio-economic integration of the continent, which will lead to greater unity and solidarity between African countries and peoples. Established in 1999, the AU finds its basis in the vision of a united Africa and on the necessity to build a partnership between governments and all segments of civil society, in particular women, youth and the private sector, in order to strengthen solidarity and cohesion amongst the peoples of Africa. The promotion of peace, democracy, security and stability on the continent are presented as prerequisites for the implementation of the development and integration agenda of the Union. It defends African common positions on issues of interest to the continent and its peoples and encourages international cooperation, taking into account the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (www.africa-union.org).



African Development Bank (ADB) is an African development finance institution dedicated to fight poverty and to improve living conditions across the continent through loans, investments and technical assistance. Created in 1964, the ADB is also committed to mobilizing resources for the economic and social progress of its Regional Member Countries. Approved in 2001, the Bank's gender policy confirmed the organization's willingness to consider mainstream gender equality and sustainable human and economic development in Africa as priorities. The development of the Gender Plan of Action between 2004 and 2007 guarantees the effective implementation of the Gender Policy. It ensures the accountability of institutions and is designed to encourage a systematic approach to gender mainstreaming, expand and accelerate current efforts, and lead to the creation and utilisation of best practices in the Bank's gender mainstreaming efforts (www.afdb.org).



Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) is a non-profit foundation created in 2000 which supports the creation of open societies in West Africa identified by the following criteria: democracy, good governance, the rule of law, basic freedoms, and widespread civic participation. OSIWA aims at collaborating with advocacy groups, foundations, governments and donors which develop innovative initiatives. In addition, OSIWA seeks a greater commitment to the region by rich nations. Its programs particularly focus toward supporting organizations that promote the interests of marginalized communities, such as women and youth. OSIWA emphasizes participatory mechanisms i.e. the consultation with civil society groups, non-governmental organizations and governments throughout West Africa, as a basis for its staff to set funding priorities and target specific areas of need (www.osiwa.org).



The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) was established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations in 1958 to promote the economic and social development of its member States, nurture integration within the region, and encourage international cooperation for Africa's development. It specifically operates at the regional and sub regional levels to

develop partnerships, share knowledge and mobilise resources. ECA's work programme now focuses on achieving results in two inter-related areas: promoting regional integration in support of the African Union vision and priorities through research and policy analysis as well as meeting Africa's specific needs and new global challenges. It places African countries on the path of growth and sustainable development and accelerates the empowerment of women (www.uneca.org).



International Organisation of the Francophonie (IOF) is an intergovernmental organization which members share a language, French, and fight for the recognition of universal values such as peace, cooperation, solidarity and sustainable development. Established in 1970, the organisation counts 55 member states and governments and 13 observers which are all linked by the French language. Defending peace, democracy and human rights, IOF ensures its members' participation through frequent consultations and discussions among them. Member states can benefit from the support of the organisation regarding specific policies. IOF also promotes multilateral cooperation according to its 4 year- plan established by the Francophonie Summit (www.francophonie.org).



The Senegalese Ministry of Family and Female Entrepreneurship is the section of the government which is dedicated to ensure a humane economic development and growth. The ministry targets families since they constitute the basis of the society in which socialization takes place and ensures social order. Family has been through quick socioeconomic changes which require its adaptation complicating its missions such as reproduction, production, consumption, social formation, education and transmission of values. Two main strategies of the ministry are the socio cultural enhancement and the economic promotion of the family. It also fights against poverty and strengthens national solidarity. Acknowledging that inequalities subsist between men and women, Senegal confirms in the Constitution its commitment to respect international conventions in this regard, to eliminate any discrimination against women in terms of access to education, to health, to employment and to decision-making (www.famille.gouv.sn/Index.php).



The Diasporan Touch is a multicultural and female-owned strategic planning consulting firm that advocates a holistic approach to sustainable development that specializes in being on the cutting edge of international public affairs, special events and celebrity advocacy. Bringing over 20 years of experience in Africa, the United States of America, Europe, the Caribbean and Japan through the U.S. State Department, the African-American Institute (AAI) and the UNDP to each assignment, *The Diasporan Touch* provides a unique cross-sectoral perspective and skill set that integrates respect for cultural differences with achievement of common goals. The company specializes in creating global multicultural teams for specific assignments: particularly in Africa, the Caribbean and the U.S. It has demonstrated an exceptional capacity to respond effectively and efficiently in complex and crisis-oriented environments within a broad range of significant political, cultural and economic contexts.



The Italian Development Cooperation comes from the need to grant the respect of human dignity and economic growth for everybody in the planet, and to ensure global interdependency through the widening of markets. As an essential part of its foreign affairs, Italian cooperation with developing countries contributes to UN efforts to combat poverty all over the world; and to help developing countries to strengthen their institutions in terms of ‘good governance’, in respect of human rights and democratic participation to economic development – with no discrimination against social and gender actors. Some of the most important initiatives carried out by Italian Cooperation include women’s empowerment and protection, the G8 Plan for Africa supporting African countries, and its fight against human trafficking to prevent and stop children’s exploitation in risky conditions, armed conflicts and work.



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