



HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG

WORLD SUMMIT 2002



JOHANNESBURG

NEPAD SEMINAR SERIES

The Southern African office of the Heinrich Böll Stiftung announces the launch of a series of five seminars focusing on the New Partnership for Africa's Development. We invite you to participate in the seminars, which will allow for expert presentations, and debate led by critical discussants.

Letters of invitation providing details of speakers, discussants, and venue will be provided to you prior to each seminar. We hope to see you there!

THEMES

Five key themes have been identified under a main theme:

**THE CHALLENGE TO DEVELOP AFRICA:
ENGAGING WITH THE NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S
DEVELOPMENT**

Theme 1: The “Newness” of NEPAD

NEPAD has been presented as the “new” plan for African development. But Africa has seen many plans for development come and go since 1948, from structural adjustment programmes to OAU Programmes of Action. What is new about NEPAD? Does NEPAD present feasible options for economic and human development on the continent, and how are these to be achieved in light of previous attempts to initiate development on the Continent?

The speaker will focus on the intentions of the plan, and the proposals contained therein to highlight the similarities and innovations compared to development experience previously in Africa. The discussion and debate should centre on the feasibility of these proposals.

Date: Friday 21st June 2002

Time: 14:00 – 16:00

Theme 2: NEPAD, Governance and Citizen’s Rights

A key element of NEPAD relates to the establishment of principles and monitoring mechanisms for democracy, human rights and peace in Africa. A key aspect of these principles is the need to promote the capacity government to act in a more accountable and democratic manner, and to develop their capacity and institutions to support this principle. Does this mean that a continent wide framework for promoting socio-economic rights is a possibility? Can such a framework deal with problems of land and labour rights, housing rights, and the right to work? Moreover, can this framework promote stronger citizen’s rights within local governance?

The speaker will focus on how specific measures may be developed which could practically implement the principles of NEPAD. The discussion and debate should focus on what the desirable framework of rights could be, and what is possible in addressing socio-economic rights in Africa.

Date: Friday 5th July 2002

Time: 14:00 – 16:00

Theme 3: Civil Society and NEPAD

Civil society organisations have criticised NEPAD for the lack of civil society consultation and participation in its formulation. Is this a sign that NEPAD will ignore the promotion of civil society through its implementation, or will it recognise a role for civil society in developing the continent? How will this recognition be established: As participation in implementation only, or as an important element of planning and monitoring? Will NEPAD promote advocacy by critical civil society organisations in African countries?

The speaker will examine some of the critical features of NEPAD in relation to civil society, and identify possible contradictions and conflicts. The discussion and debate will focus on the extent to which NEPAD will enhance or restrict civil society capacity to advocate and assist in Africa's development and governance.

Date: Friday 19th July 2002

Time: 14:00 – 16:00

Theme 4: NEPAD and Environment

NEPAD explicitly outlines environmental concerns to be addressed through its implementation. Furthermore, the Programme outlines eight sub-themes for priority intervention, including combating desertification, wetland conservation, coastal management, and addressing global warming. Apart from the natural environmental concerns, NEPAD also proposes to address environmental management and financing concerns. NEPAD also talks of environmental “investment” and “returns”. Does this mean that environmental strategies in Africa only relate to economic strategies, or will the challenge of creating sustainable human environments be a primary concern?

The speaker will examine how the natural and human environmental concerns are addressed in NEPAD. Moreover, the discussion and debate will attempt to deliberate on whether environmental concerns may be contradicted by economic strategies which promote industrialisation and export led-growth.

Date: Friday 26th July 2002

Time: 14:00 – 16:00

Theme 5: NEPAD and Gender

Despite numerous references to women, NEPAD does not present a comprehensive gendered approach to poverty eradication and development. As a result it is unclear how NEPAD will relate to and impact on existing instruments such as the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); the Dakar Platform for Action; the Beijing Platform for Action and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights; and the forthcoming Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa. Does this mean that NEPAD will subject men and women across the continent to policies and programmes which may undermine progress toward equitable rights? Will NEPAD promote or undermine gender progress?

The speaker will analyse the gendered nature of NEPAD, and examine possible implications of the strategies and principles. The discussion and debate should centre on the practical mechanisms to enhance a comprehensive gender strategy.

Date: Thursday 8th August 2002

Time: 14:00 – 16:00