The Role of African Foreign Policies in Promoting Security and Sustainable Development: Through the NEPAD Initiative

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Abstract: This study explores the role of African foreign policies in advancing the objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which was launched in 2001. The initiative aims to achieve security and sustainable development across Africa, emphasizing the importance of regional diplomatic cooperation in enhancing stability amidst various challenges and opportunities during its implementation. The primary objectives of the study include analyzing the impact of African foreign policies, evaluating NEPAD mechanisms, and identifying obstacles such as economic, political, and social factors.

Through analytical processes, the key findings of our work indicate that NEPAD has made partial progress, particularly in improving infrastructure and regional cooperation. However, it faces operational challenges in achieving sustainable security due to regional conflicts, ter rorism, economic constraints such as lack of funding, high debt levels, political instability, and gaps in funding for sustainable development projects, which limit its effectiveness.

The study suggests that while international organizations like the United Nations and the World Bank provide support, there is an urgent need for more effective regional and international cooperation to ensure coordination in addressing security and developmental challenges.

In conclusion, the study emphasizes the necessity of improving coordination between African countries and regional bodies such as the African Union, as well as activating diverse funding strategies. It also recommends transitioning from reliance on foreign aid to local investments and ensuring long-term funding for development projects. Addressing security challenges such as terrorism and civil wars and strengthening regional cooperation are crucial for the success of NEPAD and achieving the broader goal of sustainable development across Africa.

Keywords: African foreign policies, security, sustainable development, NEPAD.

Introduction :

African foreign policies play a pivotal role in enhancing security and sustainable development across the continent. One of the prominent African initiatives aimed at achieving these goals is the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) . Launched in 2001, NEPAD provides a comprehensive framework to promote economic and social development in Africa and ensure political and security stability by enhancing regional and international cooperation. This study aims to explore the role of African foreign policies in strengthening security and sustainable development through NEPAD , with a focus on the challenges and opportunities faced by this initiative in various areas. In completing this research paper, we rely on the following objectives:

-Analyze the role of African foreig²n policies in promoting security and sustainable development through the NEPAD initiative.

-Examine the mechanisms for implementing NEPAD** and its impact on various aspects of development in Africa.

-Evaluate the economic, political, and social challenges** that hinder the implementation of African foreign policies in the context of the initiative.

-Analyze the security challenges that African countries face in implementing their foreign policies.

-Investigate how African diplomacy contributes to enhancing regional and international cooperation.

-Understand the role of regional and international cooperation in supporting NEPAD's objectives.

-Assess the impact of domestic policies on achieving sustainable development.

This study addresses the main following question: How can African foreign policies, through the NEPAD initiative, contribute to

strengthening security and sustainable development across the continent while facing economic, political, and social challenges?

As for the sub-questions, they are:

- How was NEPAD established , and what are its core objectives?
- What are the key security challenges faced by African countries in implementing their foreign policies?
- What are the implementation mechanisms used by the NEPAD initiative to promote stability and development?
- What are the challenges Facing African Foreign Policies in Implementing NEPAD?
- How effective are African foreign policies in promoting security and sustainable development?

As an attempt to answer the preceding questions, it is hypothesized that:

-The NEPAD initiative has contributed to promoting security and sustainable development in certain African countries, but faces significant challenges in implementation due to economic and political factors.

-Regional and international cooperation is a key factor in the success of NEPAD, but it remains limited in certain areas due to inadequate coordination.

-Hypothesis 3: There are significant gaps in the ability to finance sustainable development projects in Africa, which affects the success of the initiative.

This research aims to provide a detailed analytical framework of the role of African foreign policies in enhancing security and sustainable development through the NEPAD initiative. It will use a multi-dimensional methodology, including descriptive-Analytical Method, historical, Comparative, academic, and realistic analysis Method, to provide a comprehensive picture of the initiative's impact on the continent in light of the ongoing challenges it faces.

While preparing this article, I encountered difficulties in accessing accurate and up-to-date references , particularly in the areas of

economic statistics and the current security challenges in Africa. At times, specific statistics related to NEPAD or precise evaluations of developmental projects required access to government reports or international organizations, which were not readily available or required subscriptions to access. Additionally, some academic studies addressed specific topics or lacked updated data on the initiative after 2020, limiting the accuracy of the analysis.

The study is divided into five main chapters , each reflecting the theoretical and historical context, an in-depth analysis of foreign policies, and the role of the NEPAD initiative in strengthening security and sustainable development. The first chapter will review the literature on security and sustainable development in Africa, with an overview of related theoretical frameworks. The second chapter will address the challenges and opportunities of foreign policies, while the third chapter will focus on the implementation mechanisms of NEPAD and its impact. The fourth chapter will concentrate on the challenges faced by African countries in executing their policies, while the fifth chapter will provide an overall evaluation and recommendations for improvement.[64]

Chapter one : Theoretical and Historical Framework of African Initiatives in Security and Sustainable Development

In the African context, security and sustainable development are key objectives the continent strives to achieve to ensure a more stable and prosperous future. Despite Africa's vast natural resources and strategic geographical location, it faces numerous challenges that hinder the realization of these goals, including armed conflicts, poverty, political

[64] *For more on security and sustainable development in Africa see: 2024 Africa Sustainable Development Report Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises. https://www.undp.org/fr*

instability, climate change, inadequate infrastructure, and a shortage of qualified human resources.

In this context, security does not merely refer to the absence of armed conflicts but also includes the promotion of political stability, protection of human rights, and safeguarding national sovereignty. Sustainable development aims to improve the standard of living in a way that balances economic growth with environmental preservation and resource sustainability for future generations. Therefore, issues of security and sustainable development are closely intertwined in Africa, as achieving sustainable development cannot be realized without a secure and stable environment, and security cannot be attained without development that meets the basic needs of the people[65].

History of African Foreign Policies and Regional and International Cooperation Goals:

After independence, African foreign policies initially focused on gaining international recognition for newly independent states and enhancing their sovereignty. Over time, the focus shifted toward regional and international cooperation through building institutions aimed at addressing common issues such as border conflicts, regional security, and economic development.

In this regard, the African Union (AU)[66] was established in 2002, replacing the Organization of African Unity (OAU)[67], which had been in existence since 1963. The AU became the most important regional framework for promoting security and sustainable development in the

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[65] *For more see : United Nations Sustainable Development Goals , Working Together To Transform The World.*
https://mentorsinternational.org/un-

[66] *The African Union (AU) is a continental organization established in 2002 to replace the Organization of African Unity, with the aim of promoting political and economic integration among African countries and enhancing peace and security on the continent. Its goals include combating poverty, promoting human rights, and sustainable development.*

[67] *The Organization of African Unity (OAU) was founded in 1963 with the goal of promoting political and economic cooperation among African countries and supporting liberation movements. It was dissolved in 2002 and replaced by the African Union (AU), focusing on peace and development.*

continent by developing mechanisms for conflict resolution, regional economic and trade cooperation, including the creation of the African Free Trade Area, which aims to enhance economic integration among African countries[68].

On the international level, African foreign policies have been centered on cooperation with global organizations such as the United Nations and the World Bank, as well as partnerships with major powers such as China and India. These policies have focused on achieving economic and social development goals, particularly addressing developmental challenges such as education, health, and infrastructure. However, security challenges remain the greatest barrier to achieving sustainable development.

One of the key outcomes of international cooperation was the launch of the Agenda 2063 by the African Union, which serves as a comprehensive vision for Africa's development. **Agenda 2063** aims to transform Africa into an economic powerhouse by achieving comprehensive and sustainable development, contributing to the eradication of poverty and unemployment.

Establishment of the NEPAD Initiative and Its Core Objectives:

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)[69] is one of the most important African initiatives established to achieve sustainable development on the continent. The initiative was launched in 2001 by African leaders with the aim of addressing key issues affecting Africa's

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[68] *BOLAJI AKINYEMI , Africa: Challenges and Responses: A Foreign Policy Perspective, Daedalus, Vol. 111, No. 2, Black Africa: A Generation after Independence (Spring, 1982), pp. 243-249. https://www.jstor.org/stable/20024793*

[69] *See : NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA) - Annual Reports on Progress and Activities: https://www.nepad.org, - United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA): https://www.uneca.org (Reports on Africa's economic and social development)*

- World Bank: https://www.worldbank.org (Reports and articles on Africa's development strategies)

progress, such as poverty, economic development, education, health, and environmental challenges.

NEPAD was established as part of an agreement between a group of African countries to carry out the necessary structural reforms to align with the global economic development. The initiative was designed to foster close cooperation between African countries and provide the support needed to make progress in areas of sustainable development, including poverty eradication, promoting democratic governance, and supporting human development through education and health[70].

The Core Objectives of NEPAD include[71]:

1. Achieving Sustainable Economic Development: NEPAD aims to promote sustainable economic growth that ensures an improvement in the standard of living for African populations in a balanced manner. This includes improving key sectors such as agriculture, industry, and services.
2. Achieving Regional Integration: The initiative encourages economic integration among African countries by facilitating regional trade, developing infrastructure, and expanding common markets.
3. Promoting Political and Security Stability: NEPAD supports democratic governance and enhances the ability of African states to manage internal and external conflicts peacefully.
4. Eradicating Poverty: NEPAD seeks to improve living standards in rural and underserved areas through programs targeting agriculture, health, and education.
5. Promoting Human Development: Human development is a core priority for NEPAD, focusing on improving access to education, healthcare, and providing dignified employment opportunities.

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[70] *Integrating the priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) into the national development process: experiences from selected African countries, Published by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, United Nations, New York,2004,*

[71] *Ibid*

6. Environmental Sustainability: NEPAD works to support development projects that consider environmental sustainability, especially in combating climate change and minimizing its negative effects on development.

The NEPAD initiative represents a successful model of cooperation among African states to achieve the objectives of sustainable development and comprehensive security. It provides a framework for aligning policies and resources toward addressing priority issues that are genuine challenges for the continent. NEPAD has also demonstrated the ability to attract foreign investments and foster partnerships between Africa and developed nations.

As outlined above, the NEPAD initiative fits into a broader framework of African foreign policies aimed at enhancing security and sustainable development on the continent. African foreign policies have evolved to include regional and international cooperation, focusing on addressing economic, social, and security issues in an integrated manner. NEPAD is considered the cornerstone of these efforts, striving to achieve inclusive development that contributes to the stability of the continent and the realization of a more prosperous future.

Chapter two : African Foreign Policies: Challenges and Opportunities:

African foreign policies are characterized by their diversity and complexity due to the varying political, social, and economic contexts across African countries. While each African nation adopts a foreign policy that aligns with its national interests, there are common themes that connect these policies, notably: security and sustainable development.

Security is considered one of the main pillars in African foreign policies, as African nations seek to achieve internal and external stability by building strong relationships with neighboring countries and with the support of regional and international organizations. In this

context, the African Standby Force (ASF), established by the African Union, is one of the critical tools for ensuring regional security, along with peacekeeping missions conducted in cooperation with the United Nations and other international bodies.

In terms of sustainable development , many African countries align their foreign policies to enhance economic cooperation, particularly in areas important for human development such as education, health, and rural development. The NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development) initiative, launched in 2001, represents a pivotal aspect of Africa's foreign policy, aiming to foster sustainable economic growth and regional integration. This initiative focuses on improving infrastructure, developing human resources, and alleviating poverty.

Focusing on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a key aspect of African foreign policies. Africa has organized cooperation with international actors such as the European Union, the World Bank, and China to develop joint projects in areas such as agriculture, renewable energy, and combating climate change[72].

The Role of African Diplomacy in Enhancing Regional and International Cooperation:

African diplomacy plays a central role in enhancing regional and international cooperation, serving as a crucial tool in achieving security and sustainable development on the continent. In recent decades, African countries have adopted a more organized approach to direct their foreign policies toward enhancing cooperation, both regionally and internationally.

At the regional level , the African Union (AU) is the most influential organization in African foreign policy. Through its various bodies such as the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) , the AU works to address regional

[72] *BOLAJI AKINYEMI , Africa: Challenges and Responses: A Foreign Policy Perspective , op. cit*

conflicts, implement development policies, and strengthen economic cooperation among member states. Additionally, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) , such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) , serve as mechanisms to coordinate foreign policies and promote economic integration among member states.

Economic diplomacy is an essential component of African foreign policy, as countries seek to attract foreign investments, enhance intra-African trade, and expand partnerships with international actors. For instance, Africa's growing cooperation with China under the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) has led to investments in infrastructure and funding for development projects.

At the international level , Africa seeks to amplify its voice in international organizations such as the United Nations and the World Trade Organization (WTO) , emphasizing issues related to security and sustainable development. The continent also seeks to develop strategic partnerships with major global powers such as the United States, the European Union, and India to enhance its security and achieve development[73].

Challenges in Implementing Foreign Policies Amid Internal Conflicts and Disputes:

Despite the efforts made to enhance security cooperation and sustainable development, African countries face significant challenges

[73] *Peace Akudo JIBOKU, Dr. Khondlo MTSHALI, African Peer Review Mechanism and Regional Integration Process: An Impact Evaluation, AFRICAN INTEGRATION & DEVELOPMENT REVIEW, Volume 10 November / Novembre 2017 African Union Commission/ Commission de l'Union africaine,Department of Economic Affairs/ Département des Affaires Economiques, https://au.int*

in implementing their foreign policies. These challenges are rooted in several key factors[74]:

1. Internal Conflicts and Civil Wars:

Armed conflicts and internal disputes remain one of the biggest obstacles to the effective implementation of foreign policies in Africa. In many African countries, security remains unstable due to civil wars, armed militias, and secessionist movements. For instance, the South Sudanese civil war has continued since the country's independence in 2011, and Somalia has faced ongoing instability due to internal conflict for decades. These internal conflicts directly impact the ability of these countries to engage with their neighbors or honor regional and international agreements.

2. Weak Government Institutions:

Weak government institutions play a significant role in the inability of some African countries to effectively implement their foreign policies. Corruption, lack of technical expertise, and inadequate capacity within certain African governments hinder their ability to execute security and development projects. Additionally, weak judicial and executive institutions prevent the effective fight against organized crime or the implementation of peace agreements.

3. External Interventions and Their Impacts:

African foreign policies are often influenced by external interventions, whether from global powers or international organizations, which may conflict with the continent's own interests. For example, NATO's interventions in Libya had a negative impact on regional security, exacerbating chaos and conflicts in the region.

4. Economic Challenges:

African countries face severe economic difficulties, including widespread poverty, high unemployment rates, resource shortages, and

[74] *Jose Pascal da Rocha, Mediating international conflicts: Challenges and opportunities, ,BPRICS POLICY CENTER, V.4. N.01 - January - April/2016. Rio de Janeiro. PUC. BRICS Policy Center,P P.65-73.*

financial instability in some states. These challenges make it difficult to allocate sufficient resources for implementing foreign policies, whether in the fields of security or development. Furthermore, the growing debt burden in some African countries complicates efforts to finance developmental initiatives.

5. Climate Change:

Climate change represents one of the critical challenges affecting foreign policies in Africa. The impact of climate change, such as altered agricultural patterns, rising water levels, and natural disasters, increases the pressure on African governments, influencing their ability to implement stable economic and security policies.

African foreign policies serve as a vital tool in promoting security and sustainable development, but their implementation faces numerous significant challenges. Internal conflicts, weak institutions, external interventions, economic difficulties, and climate change all hinder African countries' ability to strengthen regional and international cooperation and achieve their development goals. Despite these challenges, the opportunities offered by African diplomacy, particularly through regional and international initiatives such as the African Union, NEPAD, and partnerships with global powers, represent a real chance for African countries to secure stability and growth in the future[75].

Chapter three: NEPAD Initiative: Objectives and Implementation Mechanisms:

The NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development) initiative was launched in 2001 by a group of African countries, including South Africa, Algeria, Nigeria, and Egypt , with the aim of promoting sustainable economic development across the continent. NEPAD represents a crucial framework developed by African nations to create

[75] *For more about African Foreign Policies see: Stephen Wright,African Foreign Policies, Published October 16, 1998 by Routledge.*

long-term development strategies and support efforts for stability and security in Africa.

Implementation Mechanisms of NEPAD:

NEPAD's implementation mechanisms include various tools and projects across several sectors:

1. Institutional Framework:

- The African Peer Review Mechanism (APR), established in 2003, is a core tool for monitoring African countries' adherence to political and economic reforms.
- The Working Group on Economic Growth and Regional Integration aims to accelerate the integration of African markets and enhance economic development.

2. Regional and International Partnerships:

- NEPAD seeks to attract foreign investment through partnerships with international organizations such as the World Bank, the European Union, China, and the G7 countries .
- In 2002, NEPAD signed cooperation agreements with the World Bank to support infrastructure projects in African countries.

3. Local-Level Implementation:

- NEPAD focuses on joint projects between African countries, such as the Sahel-Saharan region connectivity project, which aims to foster cooperation in energy and transport across borders.
- Local development projects in areas such as sustainable agriculture, renewable energy , and expanding rural infrastructure primarily benefit the least developed African nations[76].

NEPAD's Role in Enhancing Stability:

Through its implementation mechanisms, NEPAD has played a significant role in enhancing political and economic stability across the

[76] *Integrating the priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) into the national development process , op. cit*

continent. In December 2003, the Institutional Reform Program was launched in 8 African countries, contributing to improved governance and transparency. NEPAD also played a key role in the end of the Liberian civil war (2003) , coordinating regional peace efforts.

. Analysis of the Impact of NEPAD on Sustainable Development in Various Sectors

NEPAD aims to achieve sustainable development by improving economic, social, and political performance across African countries. Several projects and initiatives have been implemented across various sectors, directly impacting sustainable development[77]:

*Economy:

- Economic Growth: Since the launch of NEPAD, some African countries have experienced improvement in economic growth rates. For instance, between 2000 and 2015, African countries benefiting from NEPAD recorded an annual growth rate of 5%, reflecting better economic performance compared to the period before the initiative.
- Infrastructure Investment: Investment in infrastructure projects has increased significantly. In 2012, the United Nations estimated the volume of NEPAD's investments in infrastructure projects at approximately $48 billion.
- Regional Integration: The African Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), part of NEPAD's initiative, was established to promote economic integration among African states. In 2018, this initiative began to implement steps toward reducing trade barriers between African countries.

*Education:

- Improvement in Basic Education: Despite challenges in the sector, NEPAD has contributed to sustainable educational programs, especially in poorer countries requiring educational funding.

[77] *Ibid*

- Higher Education Program: NEPAD supported higher education development in several countries by offering scholarships, training programs, and building universities. In 2014, more than 1,000 scholarships were provided to African students in vital fields like engineering and medicine.
- Funding and Reforms: NEPAD has contributed to reforms in educational systems and increased funding for educational institutions. In 2016, $300 million was allocated by NEPAD to support higher education in Africa.

*Health:

- Improvement of Health Services: NEPAD has played a crucial role in improving health infrastructure across the continent. In 2004, the "Health for Africa" program was launched, providing assistance to over 20 countries in the area of primary healthcare.
- Disease Control: NEPAD has funded programs to combat diseases such as malaria and HIV/AIDS through partnerships with the World Health Organization (WHO). For instance, in 2012, $300 million was allocated to support HIV/AIDS programs in West Africa.
- Improvements in Mortality Rates: Since the launch of NEPAD, child mortality rates for children under the age of five have decreased by approximately 30% in the last two decades.

*Environment:

- Climate Change: NEPAD initiated the Regional Project to Combat Desertification in the Sahel region (launched in 2006 , which has helped improve the condition of degraded lands.
- Renewable Energy: Several renewable energy projects have been launched, particularly in North and Southern Africa. In 2015 , the "Future Energy" Project was launched in Ethiopia , aiming to expand the use of solar and wind energy.

. Evaluation of the Role of Regional and International Cooperation in Supporting the Initiative

Regional and international cooperation has been a fundamental aspect of NEPAD's success.

- Regional Role: The African Union (AU) has played a central role in supporting NEPAD by incorporating it into the AU's overall policies. Additionally, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) such as ECOWAS and SADC have cooperated with NEPAD on integrated projects aimed at enhancing infrastructure and economies.

- International Cooperation:

- World Bank: The World Bank has provided strong support for NEPAD's projects through loans and technical assistance. For example, in 2005, the World Bank contributed $1.5 billionto support NEPAD's development projects in the agricultural sector.

- G7 Countries: The G7 countries have supported the initiative by funding development projects aligned with NEPAD's agenda. In 2009, the United States contributed approximately $300 million to support NEPAD's projects in Africa.

The NEPAD initiative has played a crucial role in achieving significant economic and social milestones across the African continent. By enhancing infrastructure, improving education and health sectors, and addressing climate change, the initiative has contributed to several sustainable development goals. Furthermore, regional and international partnerships have been instrumental in ensuring the success of its implementation. However, challenges remain, such as ensuring the equitable distribution of benefits among African countries and guaranteeing sustainable financing for ongoing projects.

Chapter four : Challenges Facing African Foreign Policies in Implementing the NEPAD Initiative

African countries face numerous economic, political, and social challenges that hinder the effective implementation of the NEPAD

initiative and the achievement of its development goals. These challenges vary across countries depending on local contexts, but some of the most significant ones include[78]:

A. Economic Challenges:

- Limited Funding: Funding remains one of the most significant economic challenges facing African countries in implementing NEPAD projects. In 2012, the United Nations estimated Africa's financial needs for sustainable development projects at about $48 billion annually, while international financial aid often fell short, reaching only about $10 billion in some cases.

- Public Debt: Many African countries face high levels of public debt, limiting their ability to finance NEPAD projects independently. By 2020, the total external debt of African countries reached around $700 billion, directly affecting the sustainability of development projects.

- Dependence on Raw Material Exports : Many African countries rely heavily on the export of raw materials such as oil and minerals, making their economies vulnerable to global fluctuations in commodity prices. In 2014, the price of oil dropped by about 50%, negatively impacting economies in major oil-producing African countries such as Nigeria, Angola, and Algeria.

B. Political Challenges:

- Civil Wars and Internal Conflicts: Armed conflicts and political instability are significant factors hindering NEPAD implementation. Countries like South Sudan , Somalia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo have seen civil wars that have destroyed infrastructure and disrupted development projects.

- Political Instability: Many African countries suffer from political instability due to military coups, party tensions, and corruption. In

[78] *See : - "NEPAD and the Politics of African Development: Prospects and Challenges," Journal of African Political Economy, Vol. 18, Issue 1, 2014;and- Akinwumi, A. O. (Ed.). (Year). African Development: Challenges and Opportunities for the 21st Century. Publisher.*

2017, 5 military coups took place in African countries, complicating the implementation of development projects.

- Fragile Political Systems: In countries like Syria, Libya, and Yemen, although these countries are not part of NEPAD, political deterioration in neighboring countries affects regional cooperation and delays the implementation of the initiative.

C. Social Challenges:

- Poverty and High Unemployment Rates: Africa faces widespread poverty and high unemployment rates. According to a 2020 World Bank report , nearly 40% of the population in Sub-Saharan Africa lives below the international poverty line, presenting a significant obstacle to implementing NEPAD. Additionally, youth unemployment rates in some countries are as high as 60%.

- Imbalance in Resource Distribution: Rural regions in some African countries lack basic resources such as education and healthcare, making it more difficult to implement development projects in these areas.

- Limited Response to Climate Change: Environmental challenges, such as desertification and drought, exacerbate the hardships faced by African communities. For example, drought affected more than 50 million people in the Horn of Africa , threatening the sustainability of development projects.

Impact of Regional Conflicts and Global Policies on Achieving NEPAD Goals[79]:

A. Regional Conflicts-

Armed Conflicts and Regional Disputes have a significant role in hindering NEPAD implementation. Since 2000, numerous conflicts have erupted in regions like Darfur in Sudan , the Democratic

[79] *For more see : The Role of NEPAD in Promoting Sustainable Development in Africa," International Journal of African Development Studies, 2015;and Rebeka Gluhbegovic, TYPES OF CONFLICT IN AFRICA, HOW DO THE APRM REPORTS ADDRESS CONFLICT?, the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA), SEPTEMBER 2016 in: https://www.eisa.org*

Republic of Congo , and South Sudan , destabilizing countries and destroying infrastructure that was intended to support sustainable development.

- Regional Wars : The ongoing dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea from 1998 to 2000 had a negative impact on regional security and halted some NEPAD projects in the Horn of Africa.

- Terrorist Threats: Terrorist groups like Boko Haram in Nigeria and Al-Qaeda in North African countries have increased security complexities in several African nations, negatively affecting progress in implementing NEPAD goals.

B. Global Policies and Their Impact:

- Impact of Global Policies: The policies adopted by major global powers such as the United States, China, and European countries play a significant role in determining the direction of development in Africa. For instance, in 2008, some international organizations like the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) criticized European countries for not fulfilling their financial commitments to NEPAD adequately.

- International Trade: Global trade policies, including tariffs and restrictions on African exports, affect African countries' ability to achieve the economic integration outlined in NEPAD. According to the World Trade Organization (WTO), trade barriers remain a major obstacle preventing the expansion of trade between African countries.

- International Sanctions: International sanctions imposed on countries like Iran and North Korea have indirectly affected some African nations that relied on these countries for trade and economic partnerships, which in turn has impacted the implementation of NEPAD projects.

3. Role of International Actors such as the United Nations, European Union, and World Bank in Supporting the Initiative

The international role plays a crucial part in supporting the NEPAD initiative , with several international institutions providing financing and technical assistance for the initiative’s implementation.

A. The United Nations:

- The United Nations has provided substantial support in the areas of peace and security in Africa by deploying peacekeeping missions to conflict-ridden regions such as Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Mali . These efforts help create a stable environment that facilitates the implementation of NEPAD projects.
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) directly supports NEPAD's implementation by providing funding for sectors such as health, education, and poverty alleviation . In 2019 , UNDP allocated approximately $200 million to support development projects in Africa.

B. The European Union:

- The European Union has played a central role in supporting NEPAD through both financial contributions and technical assistance. In 2017, the EU provided €1.6 billion to support African infrastructure projects under the **European Development and Cooperation Program.
- The EU has also contributed to the development of free trade projects through the Economic Partnership Agreements with the ACP countries (African, Caribbean, and Pacific states), promoting economic integration within Africa.

C. The World Bank:

- The World Bank has provided funding for major projects financed by NEPAD. In 2014 , the World Bank approved $3 billion in support of infrastructure development projects in Africa.
- The World Bank also offers technical assistance through its experts in various development fields and has helped build the capacity of governmental institutions to ensure effective management of development projects in African countries.

The challenges facing African countries in implementing NEPAD are complex and interconnected, involving economic, political, and social factors. While the initiative has achieved some successes, regional conflicts and global policies continue to present significant barriers to

achieving NEPAD's objectives. However, international support from the United Nations , the European Union , and the World Bank plays a crucial role in supporting Africa's efforts toward sustainable development and economic integration, and remains essential in overcoming these challenges.

Chapter five: Evaluation and Recommendations

The NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development) initiative is one of the strategic frameworks launched to promote security and sustainable development in Africa. While the initiative has achieved some successes in various areas, it faces significant challenges in implementing its development policies and achieving sustainable security in the region .

A. Evaluation in the Security Field[80]:

- Regional Security Cooperation: The initiative has activated the role of the African Union (AU) in enhancing security, especially through mechanisms such as the African Standby Force and African peacekeeping missions . However, armed conflicts in countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan continue to pose a persistent threat to regional stability.
- Response to Regional Conflicts : Through the NEPAD initiative, the African Unionhas supported some operations as part of regional solutions to conflicts. However, effective policies have not been fully implemented in some cases due to a lack of financial and technical resources.
- Internal Security Challenges : In many African countries, governments face challenges related to internal armed groups and terrorist organizations such as Boko Haram in Nigeria and Al-Qaeda

[80] *In order to evaluate the NEPAD initiative, we recommend reviewing: Halfdan Lynge Ottosen , NEPAD's Contribution to Democracy and Good Governance in Africa International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance 2010, SE -103 34 Stockholm Sweden in: https://www.idea.int*

in North Africa . This deficiency in the ability to eliminate security threats affects the success of NEPAD in promoting security.

B. Evaluation in the Field of Sustainable Development:

- Economic Progress: Despite efforts through development projects such as cross-border infrastructure projects and ustainable energy initiatives , economic growth in Africa remains uneven. Data shows that growth rates in some African countries ranged between 3% to 5% annually (according to African Development Bank statistics).
- Social Development: Although the initiative aims to improve education and health, significant gaps remain in achieving human development goals. In 2020, literacy rates in many African countries did not exceed 60% , while high poverty rates continue to hinder progress toward sustainable development goals.
- Environment: Environmental projects such as combating desertification and biodiversity conservation have achieved some successes, but climate challenges like drought and desertification in the Sahel region continue to obstruct the effective implementation of these projects. In 2019 , climate crises affected 40 million people in sub-Saharan Africa.

Recommendations for Developing African Foreign Policies and Activating the NEPAD Initiative in the Futur[81]:

A. Strengthening Coordination Among African Countries:

- Supporting Regional Coordination: It is important to enhance coordination among regional bodies such as the African Union and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to accelerate the implementation of development projects. A common regional strategy will increase the effectiveness of foreign policies and reduce the challenges faced by African countries individually.

[81] *Ibid*

- Encouraging Government Cooperation: Governments should be encouraged to build close partnerships with one another to stimulate the development of joint projects, such as renewable energy initiatives and regional infrastructure projects.

B. Improving Financing Strategies and Sustainable Development:

- Diversifying Funding Sources: It is essential to expand the financing base for NEPAD projects so that it does not solely rely on international funding. African countries should begin tapping into local investments and enhance partnerships with the private sector.

- Encouraging Sustainable Financing: African countries should activate sustainable financial sources such as local taxes and incentivize the private sector to invest in sustainable development projects, particularly in clean energy and the green economy.

C. Enhancing Institutional and Technical Capacities:

- Improving National Institutional Efficiency: Developing institutional capacities at the local and regional levels is crucial for effective policy implementation. Technical and managerial training should be provided to government officials to ensure better implementation of development projects.

- Supporting Innovation and Technology: African countries need to increase investments in technology and innovation, as technology can play a pivotal role in addressing issues such as food security, education, and health.

Suggestions for Enhancing Regional and International Cooperation to Support Security and Sustainable Development in the Continent

A. Strengthening Regional Partnerships:

- Focusing on Regional Economic Integration: African countries should intensify cooperation to enhance regional economic integration through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). This integration can contribute to enhancing trade between African countries and

increase their ability to implement comprehensive development projects.

- **Activating Security Cooperation:** African countries must continue to strengthen security coordination through the African Security Cooperation Mechanism, which includes regional security institutions such as the African Defense Force and African Police, to address transnational threats like terrorism and organized crime.

B. Strengthening International Cooperation with Global Actors:

- Deepening Cooperation with the United Nations: The United Nations must continue supporting the African Union's efforts in security and development through regional coordination programsand humanitarian assistance. The UN should also provide technical and financial support to ensure the successful implementation of development projects.

- Partnership with the World Bank and the European Union: Cooperation with the World Bankand the European Union should be expanded in financing development projects, focusing on core sectors such as infrastructure, education, and energy. The World Bank can also provide technical support to ensure the optimal implementation of these projects.

- Cooperation with China: Given the increasing cooperation between China and Africa, Chinese initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative can contribute to improving African infrastructure and providing significant investment opportunities for African countries.

C. Developing Public-Private Partnerships:

- Enhancing the Role of the Private Sector : Clearer policies are needed to attract private investment in NEPAD projects, especially in infrastructure and energy sectors. Tax incentives and legal facilitation for the private sector can help drive investment in sustainable development projects.

- Involving Local Communities : Local communities must be at the heart of development projects to ensure sustainable outcomes. This

requires the involvement of civil society and the private sector in project implementation to ensure their success and sustainability.

The NEPAD initiative is one of the most important African initiatives for achieving security and sustainable development. Despite success in some areas, economic, political, and social challenges require concerted efforts to improve African foreign policies. By enhancing regional and international cooperation, developing innovative financing strategies, and strengthening institutional capacities, the effectiveness of this initiative can be improved to ensure the achievement of sustainable development goals in Africa.

Key Findings:

- The study demonstrated that the NEPAD initiative has contributed partially to achieving certain development goals, such as improving infrastructure and enhancing regional cooperation in some areas, but it has not fully achieved sustainable security across the continent.
- Economic challenges such as limited funding and high debt levels remain significant barriers to the initiative's success, highlighting the need for diversified funding sources.
- Regional conflicts and terrorist threats are among the primary factors preventing African countries from successfully implementing sustainable development projects at both national and regional levels.
- Despite international support from organizations like the United Nations and the World Bank, regional and international cooperation strategies need to be more effective in ensuring coordinated efforts for security and development.

Conclusion:

The role of African foreign policies in promoting security and sustainable development through the NEPAD initiative is a central topic in the study of international relations and development in Africa. This study has shown that while the initiative has achieved partial

success in various areas, it faces significant economic, political, and social challenges that hinder its effective implementation. In terms of security, although some African countries have enhanced regional cooperation to address conflicts internal security threats such as terrorist groups and civil wars continue to pose a major obstacle to achieving sustainable stability. Economic challenges, including limited funding and high public debt, restrict African countries' ability to finance development projects.

Regarding development, despite efforts to improve infrastructure, the economy, education, and health, there remain substantial development gaps between African countries, necessitating more effective coordination and regional and international cooperation. Climate change and other environmental challenges also represent additional barriers to the effective implementation of sustainable development projects.

The study indicates that the NEPAD initiative needs enhanced coordination among African states and regional bodies like the African Union (AU), as well as the activation of diverse funding strategies so that Africa does not solely rely on external aid but also taps into local investments. Additionally, national strategies that consider local contexts must be developed, and long-term financing for development projects must be ensured.

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