

## **NEPAD and Right to Development in Africa: A Critical Review**

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### **Abstract**

**R**ight to Development is universally enshrined by the United Nations as every individual is entitled to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from the process of development. Thus, NEPAD was created to help achieve this purpose under the framework of the African Union. However, amidst the creation of economic plans and unit by the African Union which is meant to help in the attainment of Right to Development in Africa, Rights to Development is yet to be achieved and attained as the set goals and objectives of these economic plans and units are yet to be achieved. The research paper thereby investigates NEPAD's impact and prospect on Right to Development. While the research paper adopts a qualitative approach that involves the use of secondary data sources such as academic journals, government reports, media reports, and library sources, the paper finds NEPAD has contributed to enhancement of Right to Development in Africa by strengthening good governance in the continent as well as improved education and skills in the continent. The paper concludes that NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development) is an important initiative that has been implemented in Africa amidst the challenges it faces. The study recommends dialogue and collaboration among member states to share experiences, challenges, and lessons learned in promoting the right to development within their respective contexts and strengthening collaboration between NEPAD and civil society organizations to enhance transparency, accountability, and public participation in development initiatives.

**Keywords:** NEPAD, Right to Development, Africa, Development, African Union

### **Introduction**

To attain world peace in resolving global issues of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian nature as well as to promote and encourage respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights for all people without regard to race, sex, language, or religion, is one of the goals of the United Nations (UN) Charter (Sparviero, & Ragnedda, 2021). In a similar spirit, everyone has a right to a social and international system in which all human rights can be completely realized (Puras, 2022). The Right to Development (RTD), which addresses human welfare, emerged from these underlying assumptions. However, there is intense debate about these rights. Academics are not the only ones who disagree about the issue's standing and importance. The Right to Development (RTD) is still a contentious issue, even at the United Nations (UN), which serves as the primary forum for discussions among nations. In actuality, it has been over three decades since the UN General Assembly formally recognized the Right to Development (Holmberg, & R. Sandbrook, 2019). Even Nevertheless, the international community still lacks a binding agreement addressing the Right to Development (RTD) despite the significant engagement on this issue. The only human rights framework in Africa under which the Right to Development is enforceable or has legal effect is the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR),

along with its protocol on women's rights. In other words, the ACHPR establishes requirements that governments cannot waive or modify. In actuality, the ACHPR's signatories aimed to establish formal obligations and rights.

States have a responsibility to guarantee that the Right to Development is exercised, either collectively or individually. Given that poverty is a quite peculiar to many African nations, this is not surprising. Hospitals without physicians or medications, schools are empty sheds devoid of any supplies like textbooks, desks, or teachers. Malnutrition and even thirst claim the lives of millions of youngsters<sup>6</sup>. Rarely do adults reach the age of fifty; towns generally lack employment as well as roads, bridges, power, and telephone service. In fact, there are so many essential resources that are inadequate in Africa that there is an unrecognized economic emergency. The 2018 World Bank Africa Development Indicators Report reported that 41% of the population of Africans lived on less than one dollar a day per person in order to quantify the poverty crisis discussed above (Vorisek & Yu, 2020).

Thus, NEPAD the AU's economic and development strategy, attempts to ensure self-monitoring, whereas the APRM's Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic, and Corporate Governance aims to ensure self-monitoring (Ile & Fagbadebo, 2022). While NEPAD is the action plan for achieving the socioeconomic goals of the (AU) Constitutive Act, its APRM is a tool for ensuring that the principles, priorities, and goals of the Constitutive Act are not only included in the socioeconomic programs of various countries and regions, but are also upheld and enforced. In this sense, NEPAD is the African States tool for development, with a clear focus on human rights. In accordance with its mandate, the AU is required to promote and defend human and peoples' rights, consolidate democratic institutions and culture, and to ensure good governance and the rule of law, promote democratic principles and institutions, popular involvement, and good governance, to promote and safeguard human and peoples' rights in accordance with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (including the RTD), and other applicable instruments, and ensure good governance and the rule of law (Ile & Fagbadebo, 2022).

### **Methodology**

This research paper adopts a qualitative approach that involves the use of secondary data sources such as academic journals, government reports, media reports, and library sources. The choice of secondary data is because it allows for an in-depth analysis of NEPAD's impact and prospects on Right to Development. Data collected is analysed via content analysis.

### **Literature Review**

#### **NEPAD: Origin, Structure and Objectives**

The African Union's programme for economic growth is called the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). July 2001 in Lusaka, Zambia, at the 37th meeting of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, NEPAD was approved. In order to hasten economic integration and cooperation between African states, NEPAD intends to create a policy framework and a comprehensive vision for Africa and policy framework (Dickson, 2021). The Millennium Alliance for the African Sustainable Construction (MAP), championed by the then South African president Thabo Mbeki in collaboration with former presidents Olusegun Matthew Obasanjo of Nigeria and Bouteflika Abdelaziz of Algeria, and the OMEGA Plan for Africa created

by Senegals' president Abdoulaye Wade, have been combined to form NEPAD. The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) decided that OMEGA Initiatives as well as MAP Plans should be combined at a conference in Sirte, Libya, in March 2001 (Dickson, 2021).

Based on both of these initiatives as well as the Africa's resolutions endorsed by the UN Millennium Summit held in September 2000, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) created a "Compact for Africa's Recovery," which it then combined and submitted to the Conference of African Ministers of Planning and Development in Algiers, Algeria in May 2001 (Kayode-Iyasere, 2020). This agreement was approved by the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in July 2001 in Lusaka, Zambia, under the code-name of the New African Initiative. On July 20, 2001, the G8 leaders backed the program, and other foreign development partners like the China, European Union, as well as Japan all issued statements publicly endorsing it. On October 23, 2001, the project's Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC) completed the policy framework and gave it the moniker New Partnership for Africa's Development (Kayode-Iyasere, 2020). Although it maintains its own secretariat situated in South Africa to coordinate and carry out its programs, NEPAD is currently a project of the African Union (AU), which took over from the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 2002.

The four main goals of NEPAD are to end poverty, advance sustainable growth and development, include Africa in the global economy, and hasten women's suffrage. It is founded on fundamental values such as a dedication to good governance, democracy, human rights, and conflict resolution; and the understanding that upholding these standards is essential to establishing a climate that is favorable to investment and long-term economic success. NEPAD aims to expand funding, capital flows, and investment by offering an African-owned development framework as the cornerstone for regional and global partnerships (Dickson, 2021). The Durban AU conference added a Resolution on Economic, Political, Democracy, as well as Corporate Governance to NEPAD in July 2002. As emphasized in the declaration, States taking part in NEPAD 'sincere belief in honest, just, transparency, responsible and inclusive government and rectitude in public life,' according to the Declaration. In light of this, they "initiate to work with revitalized tenacity to regulate," among other things, the rule of law, the inclusivity of all people, collective and individual freedoms, the right to engage in free, reputable, and democratic processes, and conformance to the balance of powers, which would include safeguarding for the autonomy of the judiciary and the efficacy of parliaments.

In order to encourage adherence to the fulfillment of its promises, the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) similarly mandated by the Declaration on Political, Democracy and Corporate Governance (Ikeanyibe, 2020). A document outlining the main steps of peer review as well as the guidelines for the APRM was incorporated at the summit Durban. Additional core paperwork, including a (MoU) Memorandum of Understanding that governments interested in participating in the peer assessment must sign, were approved at a session in (Abuja) Nigeria, March 2003. In respect to the structures of NEPAD, three states from each area of the African Union make up the HSGIC, in which NEPAD's secretariat reports to. Former Nigerian President, Obasanjo was elected chair, with Presidents Bouteflika of Algeria as well as Senegal's Wade serving as deputy chairmen. The AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government receives reports from the HSGIC, which meets severally within the many times annually

(Ikeanyibe, 2020). The creation of projects, programs and policies is also overseen by a Steering Committee made up of 20 AU member nations; this committee answers directly to HSGIC as well.

Headquartered in (Midrand), South Africa, the NEPAD Secretariat is now known as the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency. The African Regional Economic Communities, the cornerstones of the African Union, rather than the NEPAD Secretariat, are in charge of implementing development initiatives. Thus, the NEPAD Secretariat's mission is one of organization and funding mobilization.

### **The Concept of (RTD) Right to Development**

The first paragraph of the UNDRTD stressed that: *“Every human being as well as all peoples have the right to take part in, contribute to, and benefit from social, economic, political and cultural, development”*.

In other words, a person or a group contributes, relishes, as well realizes their RTD through their participation. This is congruent with the idea that human rights are universal, interconnected, unalienable, and interdependent. The RTD also calls for involvement at the international or regional level through South-South alliance, alliances between the rest of the world and Africa, and bringing together interdependent human rights under one roof with the specific goal of winning the war against poverty (Corkery, Isaacs, & C. Osborne, 2022).. The concept of the "Right to Development" (RTD) emerged in international discourse as a response to global inequalities and the recognition that all individuals and communities should have the opportunity to improve their socio-economic conditions. The RTD denote an inalienable human right by which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural, and political development (Corkery, Isaacs, & C. Osborne, 2022).

It is important to know that the concept of 'Right to Development' intertwines human rights, economic development, and social justice, reflecting the idea that development is a comprehensive economic, social, cultural, and political process aimed at the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population and of all individuals. It was formalized in the Declaration on the Right to Development, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1986, which asserts that the right to development is an inalienable human right. The theoretical foundation of the right to development can be traced to various strands of thought, including human rights law, development economics, and social justice theory. This right is based on the principles of equity, equality, and the indivisibility of human rights. The renowned scholar Amartya Sen's capability approach is particularly relevant; emphasizing that development should expand the real freedoms that people enjoy, focusing on enhancing individuals' capabilities to lead the lives they value.

### **Right to Development's Key Component**

**Human-Centered Development:** The right to development prioritizes human dignity and well-being over purely economic growth. It recognizes that development should be a means to enhance the quality of life for all individuals, addressing both material and non-material aspects of human existence.

**Participatory Approach:** Central to this right is the principle that individuals and communities should actively participate in the development process. This participatory approach ensures that development policies and programs are responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people, fostering ownership and accountability.

**Sustainable Development:** The right to development is intrinsically linked to sustainable development, which seeks to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It underscores the importance of integrating economic, social, and environmental dimensions in development strategies.

**Equity and Non-Discrimination:** Equity and non-discrimination are fundamental to the right to development. This means addressing inequalities within and between countries, ensuring that development benefits are distributed fairly and that marginalized groups are not left behind.

**International Cooperation:** Recognizing the global nature of many development challenges, the right to development emphasizes the importance of international cooperation. This includes fair trade practices, financial assistance, technology transfer, and the creation of an international economic environment conducive to the realization of this right.

## **Discussion of Findings**

### **Strengthening of Good Governance as an Enhancement of Right to Development**

NEPAD recognises that good governance is essential for development. It has supported African governments in enhancing transparency, accountability, and the rule of law. By promoting democratic practices and combating corruption, NEPAD has created an enabling environment for development, ensuring that resources are utilised effectively and equitably (Okoloise, 2018). Strengthening Good Governance is a major contribution of the Right to Development by NEPAD. One key aspect of strengthening good governance is promoting transparency and accountability. NEPAD encourages governments to adopt policies and practices that promote transparency in decision-making processes, public administration, and financial management<sup>6</sup>. This helps to ensure that resources are utilized effectively and efficiently, and that corruption is minimized. By promoting accountability, NEPAD seeks to hold governments responsible for their actions, ensuring that they are answerable to the people they serve. Another important element of strengthening good governance is fostering the rule of law. NEPAD recognizes that the rule of law is essential for creating an enabling environment for development. It encourages African countries to establish and strengthen independent judicial systems that uphold the principles of justice, fairness, and equality. This helps to protect the rights of individuals and businesses, promote stability and predictability, and attract investment.

NEPAD also emphasizes the importance of promoting citizen participation and inclusiveness in decision-making processes. It encourages governments to engage with civil society organizations, the private sector, and other stakeholders to ensure that policies are informed by diverse perspectives and address the needs and aspirations of all citizens. By involving citizens in decision-making, NEPAD aims to enhance the legitimacy of governance processes and promote social cohesion (Mutunga, 2019). Furthermore, NEPAD places great emphasis on promoting effective public administration and service delivery. It encourages governments to

develop efficient and accountable public institutions that are capable of delivering essential services to their citizens (Mutunga, 2019).

This includes improving public financial management systems, enhancing the capacity of public officials, and promoting merit-based recruitment and promotion processes. By doing so, NEPAD aims to improve the quality and accessibility of public services, which is crucial for inclusive development. In addition to these efforts, NEPAD recognizes the importance of combating corruption and promoting ethical practices. It encourages governments to implement anti-corruption measures, strengthen institutions responsible for combating corruption, and promote transparency in public procurement processes. By addressing corruption, NEPAD aims to ensure that resources are allocated fairly and used for the benefit of all citizens. Thus, strengthening good governance is a major contribution of the Right to Development by NEPAD. Through its initiatives, NEPAD promotes transparency, accountability, the rule of law, citizen participation, effective public administration, and the fight against corruption. By focusing on these aspects, NEPAD aims to create an enabling environment for sustainable development, poverty eradication, and the realization of human rights in Africa.

### **Improved Education and Skill Development as an Enhancement of Right to Development**

Improved Education and Skills Development play a significant role in enhancing the right to development, as recognised by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). NEPAD prioritizes education and skills development as key drivers of Right to Development (Koob, 2017). Through initiatives like the African Education Initiative and the African Universities Harmonization and Quality Assurance Program, NEPAD has worked towards improving the quality and accessibility of education across the continent. By investing in human capital, NEPAD has empowered individuals and communities to actively participate in the development process (Koob, 2017). NEPAD acknowledges that education is not only an essential human right but also a critical tool for empowering individuals and societies (Raji, 2023). Access to quality education equips individuals with knowledge, skills, and capabilities necessary for their personal development and active participation in society. Similarly, education is closely linked to economic growth and poverty reduction. By investing in education and skills development, countries can create a skilled workforce that contributes to economic productivity and innovation (Raji, 2023). This, in turn, leads to higher incomes, improved living conditions, and reduced poverty rates. NEPAD recognises the importance of providing quality education to all individuals, regardless of their socio-economic background. It emphasizes the need for inclusive and equitable education systems that address the specific needs of marginalized groups, such as girls, children with disabilities, and those living in rural areas.

Also, NEPAD emphasizes the importance of skills development in preparing individuals for the job market. By equipping people with relevant and marketable skills, countries can enhance their human capital, attract investment, and foster economic competitiveness (Koob, 2017). Skills development initiatives can include vocational training, apprenticeships, and entrepreneurship programs. The institution also recognizes that gender equality is essential for sustainable development (Nyagowa, 2024). It promotes initiatives that prioritize girls' education, eliminate gender disparities in education, and empower women through skills development. By investing in women's education and skills, societies can unlock their potential as agents of change and

contributors to economic growth. NEPAD acknowledges that education is a lifelong process that goes beyond formal schooling (Nyangowa, 2024). It promotes the concept of lifelong learning, which encompasses both formal and non-formal learning opportunities throughout an individual's life. Lifelong learning enables individuals to adapt to changing labor markets, acquire new skills, and remain competitive in a rapidly evolving world. NEPAD similarly recognises the importance of partnerships among governments, civil society organizations, private sector entities, and international institutions in advancing education and skills development. It encourages collaboration to mobilize resources, share best practices, and promote innovation in education delivery models.

The followings are some of the collaborating institutions of NEPAD on enhancement of improved Education and Skills Development. Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD), African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), African Development Bank (AfDB), African Union Commission (AUC), Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA), Commonwealth of Learning (COL), International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the World Bank Group (Hall, 2015).

## **Investigating the Key Challenges Confronting NEPAD towards the Actualization of Right to Development in Africa**

### **Insufficient Funding as a Challenge Confronting NEPAD**

NEPAD faces the challenge of inadequate financial resources to fully implement its programs and initiatives aimed at realising the Right to Development<sup>10</sup>. Without adequate funding, it becomes difficult for NEPAD to effectively address the various challenges facing African countries and promote sustainable development. One of the primary impacts of insufficient funding is the limited implementation of NEPAD's programs and projects (Broberg, 2018). Without adequate financial resources, NEPAD struggles to execute its initiatives effectively, resulting in delays or even abandonment of critical projects. This hampers NEPAD's ability to achieve its goals and deliver tangible results.

NEPAD aims to build the capacity of African countries in various sectors such as agriculture, infrastructure, and education (Broberg, 2018). However, insufficient funding limits the scope and effectiveness of these capacity-building efforts. NEPAD may not be able to provide necessary training programs, technical assistance, or resources to support African countries in their development endeavours. NEPAD promotes research and development activities to foster innovation and address key challenges faced by African countries. However, inadequate funding restricts NEPAD's ability to invest in research projects, collaborate with academic institutions, and support technological advancements. This hinders the development of sustainable solutions for Africa's socio-economic problems.

Insufficient funding affects NEPAD's ability to raise awareness about its initiatives and engage with stakeholders effectively. NEPAD similarly struggles to conduct awareness campaigns, organize conferences, or participate in international forums due to financial constraints (Broberg,

2018). This limits the visibility and impact of NEPAD's work, hindering its ability to garner support and mobilize resources. Adequate funding is crucial for NEPAD's governance and coordination activities. Insufficient funds may result in a shortage of skilled personnel, inadequate infrastructure, or limited administrative support. This hampers NEPAD's ability to effectively coordinate with African governments, regional bodies, and international partners, impacting the overall governance and management of the organisation. Insufficient funding also limits NEPAD's capacity to monitor and evaluate the progress of its programs and projects<sup>11</sup>. Without adequate resources, NEPAD may struggle to collect data, conduct assessments, or analyze the impact of its interventions. This hinders the organization's ability to make informed decisions, identify gaps, and improve its performance.

Insufficient funding similarly undermines NEPAD's efforts to attract partnerships and mobilise resources. Potential partners, including governments, donor agencies, and private sector entities, may be hesitant to collaborate with NEPAD if they perceive it as underfunded or unable to deliver on its commitments. This reduces NEPAD's ability to leverage external resources and support for its initiatives. NEPAD aims to drive Africa's economic transformation by promoting sustainable development and regional integration. However, insufficient funding can delay or impede these transformational efforts. Without adequate financial resources, NEPAD may struggle to implement projects that promote industrialization, enhance trade facilitation, or improve infrastructure, hindering Africa's overall economic growth and development.

### **Political Instability as a Challenge Confronting NEPAD**

Many African countries experience political instability, which poses a significant challenge to NEPAD's efforts towards the actualization of the Right to Development. Political instability can hinder policy implementation, disrupt development projects, and create an unfavorable environment for economic growth. Political instability often leads to frequent changes in government leadership and policies<sup>13</sup>. This can disrupt NEPAD's efforts to implement its programs and initiatives, as new governments may have different priorities and approaches. The lack of continuity in policy implementation hinders NEPAD's ability to achieve its goals effectively. Political instability in Africa creates an environment of uncertainty, which discourages both domestic and foreign investments. NEPAD relies on investments to fund its projects and programs<sup>13</sup>. However, when political instability prevails, investors become hesitant to commit their resources due to the perceived risks. This lack of investment makes it challenging for NEPAD to secure the necessary funding to carry out its operations effectively. In Africa, political instability is often accompanied by weak governance structures and high levels of corruption<sup>13</sup>. These factors undermine NEPAD's efforts to promote Right to Development, good governance, transparency, and accountability in Africa. NEPAD's initiatives aimed at combating corruption and improving governance are hindered by the prevalence of these issues, making it difficult to achieve sustainable development goals.

Political instability leads to strained relationships between African countries, resulting in limited regional cooperation. NEPAD relies on collaboration among African states to implement its programs effectively. However, when political instability prevails, countries may prioritize their internal political struggles over regional cooperation, hampering NEPAD's ability to achieve its objectives<sup>13</sup>. Political instability often goes hand in hand with security challenges such as armed conflict, terrorism, and civil unrest. These security issues divert resources and attention away



from NEPAD's development agenda (Broberg, 2018). In such situations, the organization may need to redirect its efforts towards addressing immediate security concerns rather than focusing on long-term development projects.

Political instability triggers a brain drain, where skilled professionals leave their home countries in search of stability and better opportunities elsewhere. This brain drain deprives NEPAD of valuable human resources needed for implementing its programs effectively. The loss of skilled individuals further hampers the organization's capacity to address development challenges in Africa. Political instability in Africa erodes public trust and confidence in government institutions, including bodies like NEPAD. When citizens lose faith in their governments, they may become less supportive of development initiatives and less willing to actively participate in NEPAD's programs. This lack of public support makes it difficult for NEPAD to mobilise resources and implement its projects successfully.

### **Lack of Coordination as a Challenge Confronting NEPAD**

Coordinating various stakeholders, including African governments, regional organisations, international partners, and civil society, poses a significant challenge for NEPAD<sup>15</sup>. Effective coordination is essential for the successful implementation of development programs and initiatives. One of the key ways in which this lack of coordination affects NEPAD is in the realm of resource allocation (O'Conneide, 2017). Without proper coordination, it becomes difficult for NEPAD to ensure that resources are allocated efficiently and effectively across different projects and initiatives. This can lead to duplication of efforts, wastage of resources, and ultimately a failure to achieve the desired outcomes. In addition, lack of coordination also hampers NEPAD's ability to collaborate with other regional and international organisations. NEPAD's success relies heavily on its ability to work in partnership with various stakeholders, including governments, civil society organizations, and international development agencies. However, without coordination, it becomes challenging to establish and maintain these partnerships, reducing NEPAD's influence and effectiveness (O'Conneide, 2017).

Furthermore, the lack of coordination in Africa also impacts NEPAD's ability to harmonize policies and regulations across different countries (Ajayi & Oshewolo, 2020). One of NEPAD's objectives is to promote regional integration and economic development through the adoption of common policies and regulations. However, achieving this objective becomes challenging when there is a lack of coordination among African countries. Divergent policies and regulations create barriers to trade and investment, hindering economic growth and development. Another area where lack of coordination affects NEPAD is in the implementation of infrastructure projects. NEPAD places great emphasis on infrastructure development as a catalyst for economic growth and poverty reduction (Ajayi & Oshewolo, 2020). However, without coordination among African countries, it becomes difficult to plan, finance, and implement large-scale infrastructure projects that require cross-border cooperation. This can lead to delays, cost overruns, and suboptimal outcomes. Additionally, lack of coordination also undermines NEPAD's efforts in addressing common challenges such as climate change, health crises, and security threats (Okoko, 2023). These issues require collective action and coordinated responses from African countries. Without coordination, NEPAD's ability to mobilize resources, share knowledge, and

develop joint strategies is limited, making it harder to tackle these challenges effectively. Also, lack of coordination in Africa also affects NEPAD's credibility and reputation.

When African countries fail to coordinate their efforts under the NEPAD framework, it sends a message that they are not fully committed to regional integration and development. This undermines the confidence of international partners and donors in NEPAD's ability to deliver on its promises, making it harder to secure the necessary support and resources (Okoko, 2023). Thus, lack of coordination in Africa has a detrimental impact on NEPAD's operations. It hampers resource allocation, limits collaboration with other organizations, impedes policy harmonization, hinders infrastructure development, undermines collective action on common challenges, and damages NEPAD's credibility. Addressing this lack of coordination is crucial for NEPAD to effectively implement its goals and contribute to the development and integration of Africa.

## **Conclusion**

The research paper concludes that, NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development) is an important initiative that has been implemented in Africa with the goal of promoting development and addressing the various challenges faced by the continent. The research also made the conclusion that NEPAD has had a significant impact on the Right to Development in Africa. It has played a crucial role in promoting economic growth, poverty reduction, and social development. Through its various programs and initiatives, NEPAD has facilitated increased investment, improved infrastructure, and enhanced access to education and healthcare in several African countries. One of the key impacts of NEPAD on the right to development is the promotion of good governance and accountability. NEPAD has emphasized the importance of democratic governance, transparency, and the rule of law in achieving sustainable development. This has led to increased efforts by African governments to improve governance structures, combat corruption, and protect human rights. Similarly, NEPAD has also been successful in fostering regional integration and cooperation in Africa. Through its regional infrastructure projects and trade initiatives, NEPAD has facilitated increased trade flows and economic integration among African countries. This has not only stimulated economic growth but also contributed to the overall development of the continent.

## **Recommendations**

### **NEPAD and Right to Development in Africa: A Critical Review**

The research study thereby makes the following recommendations on the enhancement of Right to Development in Africa under the NEPAD's framework:

- i. Encourage dialogue and collaboration among member states to share experiences, challenges, and lessons learned in promoting the right to development within their respective contexts.
- ii. Foster inclusive and participatory decision-making processes within NEPAD to ensure that the perspectives and needs of marginalized groups are taken into account.

- iii. Strengthen collaboration between NEPAD and civil society organizations to enhance transparency, accountability, and public participation in development initiatives.
- iv. Conduct comprehensive research on the impact of NEPAD's programs and policies on the right to development, with a focus on identifying areas for improvement and best practices.
- v. Develop and implement indicators and monitoring mechanisms to track progress in promoting the right to development within NEPAD's initiatives.
- vi. Promote knowledge-sharing and capacity-building activities to enhance the understanding of the Right to Development among NEPAD staff, member states, and other stakeholders.
- vii. Advocate for the integration of human rights principles, including the Right to Development, into national and regional development plans and strategies supported by NEPAD.

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