

# THE AFRICAN DECADE OF DISABLED PERSONS

*Achieving the Millennium  
Development Goals*

Secretariat of the African Decade for  
Persons with Disabilities

# Inception

- At their 22<sup>nd</sup> Session the OAU Labour & Social Affairs Commission endorsed the recommendation of the African Decade
- Adopted by OAU Heads of State & Government
- At their 35<sup>th</sup> Session the OAU Heads of State & Government declared 1999-2009 - The African Decade for Persons with Disabilities
- May 2003 - African Regional Consultative Conference resolved to establish a Secretariat for the African Decade of Disabled Persons



# Secretariat of the African Decade

- Designed development & Implementation Programme
- To be implemented by:
  - Government line Ministries & Departments
  - Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs)
  - Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)
  - International Organisations including UN agencies,
  - AU specialised agencies
  - Individuals committed to full participation, equality & empowerment of persons with disabilities



# Goals of the Decade

- Full participation, equality & empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
- To ignite & galvanize increased interest in the disability discourse
- To give greater impetus, focus, action & reflection on the cause of total inclusion
- To put disability & the concerns of the disabled within the development and human rights paradigm



# Opportunities of the Decade

- For African States:
  - to contribute to efforts to improve the lives of persons with disabilities on the continent
  - to highlight the success made in terms of integrating disability at country level



# Development Objective

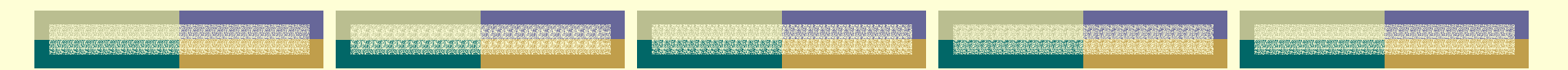
*To enhance the quality of life, full participation and empowerment of all categories of disability in all spheres of life through the implementation, at local, district, provincial, national and international levels, of objectives, principles and strategies outlined in the Continental Plan of Action (CPOA) for the Africa Decade of Disabled Persons (Africa Disability Decade Programme).*



# Key Activities

## Capacity Building

The capacity of the Africa Disability Decade Programme Secretariat, Disabled People's Organisations, and Decade Steering Committee in selected countries enhanced

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- Policy Formulation & Implementation  
Capacity and ability of government to formulate and implement national policies, legislation and programmes that promote the full and equal participation of persons with disabilities in selected countries enhanced and strengthened





## Lobbying & Advocacy Work

The Secretariat enabled to lobby and advocate for inclusive planning and implementation of disability programmes at regional and continental levels

# What is the Decade?

- Its not about efforts we should put into having a safe public transport policy, but also about our thinking, perception & attitudes towards those with disabilities
- Its about a local mayor or councilor embracing it and making it part of their public education & sensitization agenda

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- Its about public health specialists reflecting on & including the concerns of disabled in the HIV/AIDS, malaria, sexual reproductive health initiatives & design & construction of public utilities
  - Its about making sure our schools have room for children with special needs



# In Closing

The African Decade just as the United Nations Day of disabled persons is a reminder that people with disabilities exist among us

For more information about the African Decade & keep up to date with the activities of the Secretariat of the African Decade visit: [www.africandecade.org.za](http://www.africandecade.org.za)