

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO: 381 (NO3793E)**

**PUBLISHED IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 12-2012 OF 7 NOVEMBER 2012**

**MS L JACOBUS (ANC) TO ASK THE MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION:**

QUOTE:

How has the African Union dealt with fundamental issues such as:

- a) gender;
- b) the divide between humanitarian and development agendas, and
- c) economic growth in allowing Africa to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

UNQUOTE:

**REPLY:**

QUOTE:

a) Gender and Women's Empowerment as priority is attended to through the **African Union declared Women's Decade – 2010 to 2020**. To balance gender, four of the eight African Union Commission Commissioners are women. These are:

- Infrastructure and Energy: Mrs E. Mahmoud from Egypt representing North Africa;
- Rural Economy and Agriculture: Ms RP Tumusiime from Uganda – representing East Africa;
- Political Affairs: Ms A.L. Abdullahi, from Nigeria representing West Africa, and
- Trade and Industry: Ms. F.H. Acyl, from the Republic of Chad representing Central Africa.

In addition, the election of Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma as the first woman from the Continent to assume the Chairpersonship of the African Union Commission, is testimony of the African Union's commitment to gender parity.

b) During the March 2012 meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council, held in Bamako, Mali, Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane committed South Africa's assistance to four countries suffering from severe climatic conditions in the Sahel Region. The Republic of South Africa as a Member State of the African Union, through the African Renaissance Fund seeks to address both humanitarian and development issues amongst others.

c) Through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the African Union seeks to promote economic growth on the African Continent and in turn, through economic growth, works towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). NEPAD is the strategic framework for pan-African socio-economic development of the African Union, and is a blueprint for Africa's development in the 21st century providing unique opportunities for Africa to address the critical challenges facing the Continent, including the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In line with the objectives of NEPAD, a number of programmes have been launched with the objective of assisting African countries to achieve the MDGs.

UNQUOTE