

# Summary Report

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The High-Level Meeting on Africa's development needs took place at a time of both promise and challenge for the continent. While on one the hand some African countries have shown strong Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth and progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) over the last few years, rising world prices for food and oil, climate change and intractable violent conflicts threaten to reverse these gains. The meeting provided an opportunity for world leaders to come together and renew their commitments to Africa's development and focus on how to address the remaining challenges. It adopted by consensus, a *Political Declaration on "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward"* *A/RES/63/1 (General Assembly Resolution 63/1)*, which conveyed a strong signal of Africa's commitments to its future, and the renewal of the international community's partnership for Africa's development.
2. The meeting reviewed the implementation of all commitments made to and by African countries in order to comprehensively address the special development needs of the continent. The main document for the review was the Secretary-General's report on Africa's development needs. The report highlighted Africa's underlying development needs and challenges, including the lack of human and institutional capacity to design and implement sound policies and recurrent armed conflicts. The report considered implementation of pledges made by international development partners in such key areas as international development assistance, debt relief and debt cancellation, trade liberalization and aid for trade, peace and security. It also analyzed the role of the United Nations in supporting the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development Needs (NEPAD) and assessed progress in attaining the MDGs on the continent. The report concluded that meeting Africa's development needs is within reach, provided that African states and the international community act with determination to turn existing commitments into concrete actions.
3. The meeting was greatly enriched by the assembly of expertise at the fifteen Side Events, which focused, *inter alia*, on women and development; the food crisis; energy; and the challenges of governance, organized by the United Nations organizations and departments in collaboration with other partners. The views and conclusions reached at the Side Events echoed the priorities highlighted in the roundtables.
4. The High-Level Meeting was attended by Member States, civil society organizations, intergovernmental organizations, UN system agencies, funds and programmes, as well as the Bretton Woods Institutions (BWIs), the World Trade Organization, the regional development banks, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and leading representatives of the private sector in Africa.

## **II. PLENARY**

5. Strong statements of support for Africa were made in the plenary session, *inter-alia*: by the President of the 63<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly Mr. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann; the Secretary-General of the United Nations; Chairman of the African Union, President Kikwete; President Sarkozy, in his capacity as the then President of the European Union; the former Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Mori; the

German Development Cooperation Minister; Chairman of the G-77 and China; the President of the European Commission; and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

6. **H.E. Mr. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann**, President of the UN General Assembly, opened the plenary. He noted that total Official Development Assistance (ODA) had decreased from 0.33% of GDP in 2005 to 0.28% in 2007, and called upon developed countries to increase ODA levels to meet the commitments undertaken in Monterrey. He urged the G8 to double ODA for Africa by 2010 as promised at the G8 Summit at Gleneagles, Scotland in 2005. **Mr. Ban Ki-Moon**, UN Secretary-General, pointed out that, on current trends, no African country will achieve all the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, but that the goals remain achievable in Africa if concerted action is taken by African countries and their development partners. He emphasized that the MDG Africa Steering Group assessed that US\$72 billion per year is necessary to achieve the goals by 2015. He urged that today should be “the day to strengthen commitments to change the course of history and bring development to Africa and the rest of the world.” **H.E. Mr. Jakaya Kikwete**, President of Tanzania and Chairman of the African Union, observed that resources provided by developed countries have not been sufficient to lift Africa out of the poverty trap and called for a renewed effort to meet commitments. He noted that G8 assistance had increased by only US\$2.3 billion since 2004 and if current trends continue, it would not be possible to achieve the MDGs. He underscored that Africa is not “a hopeless case,” but needs the support of the international development community.
7. **H.E. Nicolas Sarkozy**, President of France, speaking on behalf of the European Union, emphasized the European Union’s commitment to Africa’s development, and reaffirmed its commitment to provide 0.7% of GNI as ODA by 2015. He explained that education and health remain at the center of the EU aid strategy and noted the need to transform family agriculture, to increase yields and protect the environment in order to have an impact on poverty. **H.E. Ms. Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul**, Germany Minister for Development Cooperation, underscored Germany’s commitment to fulfill its G8 pledge made at Gleneagles to double aid by 2010. She expressed support for using revenues from the auctioning of carbon credits for development and adaptation to the impact of climate change. Attributing the current crisis in the global banking system to lack of transparency in the financial markets, she called for a reliable regulatory framework for global financial markets and the need to strengthen efforts to build efficient and fair tax systems in developing countries. She emphasized the potential of raising \$500 billion in developing and developed Countries through halting tax avoidance and evasion.
8. **H.E. Mr. Yoshiro Mori**, Former Prime Minister of Japan, outlined the outcomes of the Fourth Tokyo International Conference for Africa (TICAD IV), including the pledge by Japan to double ODA to Africa and to double private investment in the continent by 2012. The Yokohama Declaration undertakes to: strengthen Africa’s economic growth and enhance institutional capacity; human resource development; agriculture; and trade and investment. Mr. Mori emphasized Japan’s priorities for supporting the MDGs, including; health, water and sanitation, education and food. **Ambassador John Ashe**, Antigua and Barbuda spoke on behalf of G77 and China. He noted that Africa has enhanced its accountability and governance and stressed that the focus of the meeting should be on implementation, more effective aid delivery mechanisms, and increased flexibility, and predictability of assistance to facilitate long-term planning by African states. **Mr. José Manuel Barroso**, President of the European Commission noted that the EU provides 60% of all the aid that

Africa received. He emphasized that three of the most important challenges for Africa include the rising price of food, climate change, and energy insecurity. He noted that the partnership between African countries and the EU will help tackle these challenges. Mr. Barroso recalled that the European Commission has proposed a one 1 billion Euro Food Facility to promote agricultural production by improving poor farmers' access to inputs, such as fertilizers and seeds. **Mr. Jean Ping**, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, stressed that the time had come for implementation, including the need for a firm schedule, funding commitments and a tangible strategy. He noted that NEPAD gives Africa a strong ownership of development processes and emphasized the importance of mobilizing resources and improving coordinated actions by the UN agencies in Africa.

### III. ROUND TABLES

9. The plenary was followed by four round table discussions co-chaired by heads of state from Africa and leaders from around the world<sup>1</sup>. Two round tables took place in the morning and the other two in the afternoon (*see annex for details on round table distribution*)<sup>2</sup>, during which open and direct debate took place on "Africa's development needs, state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward." During the round tables, delegations raised a number of issues including challenges in the achievement of the MDGs, partnerships, resource mobilization, debt relief, trade, and challenges of peace and security within Africa.
10. **Achievement of the MDGS** - many delegations took the opportunity to outline the critical issues to be addressed in the Political Declaration, namely: advancing progress on the Aid for Trade Initiative, including technical assistance; implementing internationally agreed development goals, in order to achieve the MDGs and implementing NEPAD; enhancing the human resource base, and addressing the impact of climate change and high cost of food and energy. Many speakers noted the daunting challenges facing Africa including extreme poverty, wide spread hunger and malnutrition, deadly diseases and the search for lasting peace and security. Delegations noted that the current global financial crisis, climate change, soaring energy prices, and the volatility of international financial markets exacerbated the region's difficulty in overcoming extreme poverty and achieving the MDGs.
11. **Partnership** - on the global partnership with Africa, many speakers acknowledged the gap between the stated development agenda for Africa and the follow-through on the part of African countries and their international development partners. Delegates expressed their determination to meet existing commitments, renew political will and strengthen the partnership with Africa at the highest level to ensure that Africa's development needs are met and Africa is fully mainstreamed into the

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<sup>1</sup> **Round table 1- co-chaired by** H.E. Mr. John Agyekum Kufour, President of the Republic of Ghana and H.E. Mr. Haris Silajdzic, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina; **Round table 2- co-chaired by** H.E. Mr. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda and H.E. Ms. Tarja Halonen, President of the Republic of Finland; **Round table 3 – co-chaired by** H.E. Mr. Abdulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal and H.E. Mr. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; and **Round table 4 chaired by** H.E. Mr. Pedro Verona Rodrigues Pires, President of the Republic of Cape Verde.

<sup>2</sup> Links to all statements - <http://www.un.org/ga/president/62/ThematicDebates/adnhlm.shtml>



global economy. Delegates further stressed the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation, and the role of the private sector in Africa's economic renewal.

12. **Resource mobilization** - on financing, delegates called for: the mobilization of new and additional resources, particularly for the agricultural sector; comprehensive debt relief; improving market access; and fulfilling ODA commitments made at the G8 Gleneagles Summit. Several speakers expressed concern regarding the collapse of the Doha Development Round in July 2008, particularly in relation to the global partnership for Africa and Food Security, in the context of the implementation of the AU/NEPAD Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP). Many delegations highlighted country measures taken and the challenges faced in attaining the MDGs, particularly with regard to resources.
13. **Debt relief and trade** - many of the developing country delegations acknowledged progress in debt relief. However, they stressed that these measures were not a substitute for increasing ODA; that prohibitive conditionalities were often imposed; resources were not always fairly provided; and that infrastructure development should not be neglected while attending to social concerns. They noted that where private sector capacity was lacking, governments should take the lead in implementing the NEPAD programmes and that the successful conclusion of the Doha Round of the World Trade Organization (WTO) would be a critical part of this process. Several delegations noted that while African economies were growing, this was overshadowed by increasing levels of poverty and inequality as well as failure to create jobs.
14. **Peace and security** - delegates underscored the importance of working together to overcome the constraints, meet the challenges, and secure lasting development. They stressed that development is not possible without peace and highlighted the need to reduce threats to Africa's development by ending endemic violent conflicts, respecting human rights, eliminating social inequalities, consolidating the rule of law, ensuring political reforms, and improving governance.

#### IV. PRESS CONFERENCE

15. The press conference provided a good opportunity for the current chairman of the African Union, **President Jakaya Kikwete** together with the President of the African Development Bank, **Dr. Donald Kaberuka** to answer specific questions on Africa from UN-based correspondents. President Kikwete said that Africa had made great progress in establishing the institutional architecture for the promotion of peace and security on the continent, which included the African Union Peace and Security Council, an Early-Warning System, the Panel of the Wise and the African Standby Force. Dr. Kaberuka noted that, core Official Development Assistance (ODA) (net of debt cancellation, humanitarian operations, technical assistance and administrative costs), had declined. As for the Doha Development Round on trade negotiations, it had not addressed development issues by the time the talks collapsed. Furthermore, aid effectiveness remained a work in progress.
16. Responding to a question about emerging lenders such as the Gulf States, President Kikwete said those emerging States could play a very important role. Some developing countries had more capacity than others and therefore had a greater responsibility to help. Mr. Kaberuka added that Africa's infrastructure problem was so big that there was a place for everyone to assist – traditional donors, emerging donors and even the private sector. One of the challenges for Africa was to

reduce its role as an exporter of raw materials, and to add value to products from the continent and, this process required development of infrastructure. Dr. Kaberuka however cautioned African countries not to substitute new debt for old debt. Natural resources should be managed in a manner that would benefit Africa, he added.

## V. CLOSING PLENARY

17. Expressing his view that this was a great day for Africa, **President Kikwete** welcomed the strong commitment to Africa's future, and the renewal of the international community's partnership for Africa's development. He noted that the fifteen Side Events that took place that day dealing with, *inter alia*: women, development, the food crisis, energy, and the challenge of governance, witnessed a remarkable assembly of expertise on Africa. He noted that in the past, there had been a lot of talk but, today he was encouraged by the tremendous resolve to move the agenda forward. He said participants could now testify that they were present when history was made, when the world awoke to its moral responsibility for Africa's development. The General Assembly President **H.E. Mr. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann** presented the draft resolution entitled "Political Declaration on Africa's Development Needs" [A/63/RES/1](#), which was then adopted by the Assembly.
18. In his closing remarks, General Assembly President **D'Escoto Brockmann** said the hard part was keeping, and not breaking promises, and called on the Assembly to rise to the occasion and make history by ending poverty. He said the Political Declaration contained an urgent agenda for action, noting that the eradication of poverty in Africa is the greatest global challenge facing the world today. He further stressed that a strong Africa requires a stronger UN. Noting that the High-Level Meeting was the first in a series of three intergovernmental meetings in the year; it would be followed by the High-Level Event on the MDGs which would discuss poverty eradication, and the Doha Review Conference on Financing for Development in November 2008, which would discuss how to secure the financial resources and political resolve to fulfill the international community's commitments. He said it was essential for the General Assembly to ensure that commitments were turned into actions, noting that the Political Declaration sets the basis for such a mechanism.

## VI. SIDE EVENTS

### (i) **Crime as an Impediment to Security and Development in Africa**

*Lead: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Peace Institute (IPI)*

19. Local and transnational crime in Africa represented both the causes and the consequences of violence, corruption and poor governance. High levels of income inequality, a high share of youth in the population, high rates of urbanization, and low levels of criminal justice resources, firearms proliferation, wars and civil conflicts as well as weak controls over criminal activities, leave Africa particularly vulnerable to organized crime, drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings, money laundering and corruption. Organized crime, in a broad sense, inhibited development in Africa by destroying human and social capital, driving away business and investments, and undermining the ability of the State to promote development.

20. Speakers on the panel highlighted the fact that in a number of African countries, drugs, crime and corruption were undermining development efforts, and presented some solutions to these challenges. The need for a comprehensive approach to the problems of drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism as impediments to development in Africa was fully recognized in the African Union's 2007-2012 Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention. Panelists drew on their experiences at regional (African Union) and sub-regional levels (focusing on West Africa) to present examples of the negative impact of crime on development and initiatives to tackle the problem.

### **(ii) Youth Employment and Education**

*Lead: UNFPA, IOM, UN-OSAA, UN-DESA, ILO, UNV, UNESCO and UNOSDP*

21. Youth development and employment was becoming an increasingly urgent issue across Africa as Governments recognized that African youth have the potential to contribute to peace, political stability and sustainable development in the continent. However, despite being the fastest growing labour force in the world, African youth were disproportionately marginalized. Youth in Sub-Saharan Africa faced a lack of opportunities in health, employment and education compounded by the consequences of armed conflict and often turned to migration as a coping mechanism. The lack of opportunities was particularly severe for young girls. Inclusion, enhanced coordination and more meaningful participation of youth in Africa's development were essential. **In this connection, the African Youth Charter should be ratified and implemented as the basis for advancing the rights of African youth to education, decent work, HIV prevention and sexual/reproductive health services, and their empowerment.**

22. It was critical to invest in an inter-sectoral approach to include education, health, employment and gender within the cultural context of Africa. Government policies should highlight training and inclusion of youth on health issues, including information on HIV/AIDS and the need for a gender perspective on youth issues and programmes. Decent work should be made available to African youth, to stem the "brain drain" of talented African youth to other destinations, and also to aid in the attainment of the MDGs. Joint actions amongst agencies, youth associations, the programmes of the UN, AU, and Regional Economic Commissions, other partner agencies and the national authorities and civil society were critical to achieving true partnership and addressing the major challenges of African youth. Education should be non-discriminatory, offer training on relevant employment skills as well as the ability to adapt to the changing economic environment.

23. Beyond government policies and partnership with UN and non-UN organizations, the onus also lay with African youth to be well-informed, to consolidate regional and sub-regional networks of youth associations and to engage with governmental and partner agencies on development issues. **Volunteering could be one of the main channels for youth participation and could be very successful in enhancing employability. To address volunteerism strategically in national policies and programmes, lessons learned from past experience should be kept in mind.**

### **(iii) The Social Development Challenge in Africa**

*Lead: UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, UNAIDS, IOM, UNHCR, UN-HABITAT, INTRACEN, UNECA, UN-OSAA and the African Union*

24. **Better Health for Africa required multi-sectoral investments beyond health** to include other social determinants of health such as agriculture and food security, water and sanitation, education and decent employment. There was need for multi-sectoral partnerships for social development, especially health. **Africa Ministers of Health had developed the African Union Health Strategy and Plans (with emphasis on Maternal Health) and the Maputo Plan of Action to reduce maternal and child mortality and access to comprehensive reproductive health.** It was necessary to intensify implementation of comprehensive reproductive health programmes and institutionalize maternal morbidity and mortality audit. To accomplish this, there was currently a movement to improve Maternal Health beyond 2015.
25. There had been an improved response to HIV/AIDS (especially voluntary counseling and testing among young people in Malawi and South Africa, and prevention of mother-to-child transmission in antenatal clinics). **There was a need to ensure access to HIV treatment in the general population beyond the vulnerable or target groups,** because of the current high cost of treatment.
26. There was a need to **monitor and evaluate social development interventions in Africa to assess progress and successes,** for evidence-based advocacy and policy dialogue, and ensure knowledge-sharing and replication of successful programmes.

**(iv) Micro-credit, Microfinance, Inclusive Finance: Building Success for Innovative Solutions for Poverty Eradication in Africa**

*Lead: United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), UN Advisors Group on Inclusive Finance Sectors and the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the UN*

27. The panel discussion focused on the importance of a **strong financial sector in reducing poverty** and recommended innovative solutions to remove the obstacles preventing the poorest populations in Africa from access to financial services. There was a tremendous demand worldwide for financial services for the poor and it was hoped that by showcasing success stories—such as those in Africa—inclusive finance as a global development priority and an important tool for poverty alleviation, would be elevated to the next level. Only 4% of the sub-Saharan African population had bank accounts and only 1% of Africans had a loan or credit facility with a formal financing institution. Thus a significant number of people in Africa remain “un-banked” and did not have access to bank accounts and other financial services enjoyed by many people worldwide. The impact of such “financial exclusion” was very harmful; it implied that a significant segment of the population was being denied the allocation of resources and denied the ability to build capital assets and to generate income.
28. Given the current economic crisis impacting the commercial banking sector, the importance of creating **enabling environments** to address the challenges of building inclusive financial sectors was highlighted by the group. In this regard, the UN Advisors Group on Inclusive Financial Sectors has worked with governments, regulators, development partners, and private sector companies to identify the key issues limiting access to financial products and services and to outline concrete steps that can be taken to remove these constraints and embrace new opportunities that will ultimately result in increased access to financial products and services by all segments of the population.

29. The experiences of Equity Bank, a Kenyan microfinance institution that is leading the development of innovative products, were highlighted in detail. Within ten years, Equity Bank had become the home to more than 50% of all bank accounts in Kenya and had remarkable success in rolling out innovative savings and agricultural lending products.
30. For Africa, increasing access to financial products and services would be especially important to **revolutionize and create innovations in agricultural productivity**. Despite its huge potential, Africa suffered from low productivity in agricultural production. In an environment of rising food costs, increased access to financial services would help to allocate financial resources and could transform small-scale commercial farmers that lack the resources to increase agricultural production. Food security continued to be a major challenge in Africa, making it difficult for people to manage unexpected risks.
31. The significant role of **remittances** as one of the most important sources of development finance was also emphasized. International remittances, whereby migrants transfer funds to their home countries, constitute the second largest financial inflow to many developing countries, exceeding official development assistance. Many of these funds were going to poor people, who would otherwise be considered “unbankable”. The importance of remittances to a country’s economy could be demonstrated through the example of Ghana, where remittances exceeded the total value of exports and foreign aid. A better understanding was needed on how to leverage remittances so that people could utilize these funds for productive and useful purposes, such as payment of school fees.
32. Examples of **innovations in technology** that increase access to financial products and services were also presented. Many of these innovations were already facilitating the provision of financial services to difficult to reach clients by reducing costs, increasing efficiencies, and helping microfinance institutions achieve scale. Examples of innovations in technology that had lowered transaction costs and made it easier to reach the poor included the use of mobile phones to bank the poor (e.g. M-PESA partnerships with Vodafone, Faulu-Kenya and CBA in Kenya) and the use of ATMs and Point-of-Sale Networks that increase financial institution outreach without the costs of opening an expensive branch network (e.g. Uganda Microfinance Ltd).
33. The panel concluded with recommendations of the agenda forward by the development partners. It was argued that additional focus on the following issues would be needed:
- How the **private sector** could **support market infrastructure**, especially with respect to strengthening mobile banking networks, to solve the “last mile” problem.
  - Creative ways to carry forward **advocacy and policy dialogue**.
  - Innovative solutions to **build capacity** within institutions, such as through distance-learning courses.
  - Development of **new products**, such as remittances and micro-insurance, that serves the needs of poor and low-income people and micro and small entrepreneurs.
  - Usage of unique and creative **partnerships** as distribution channels to promote these new products.

**(v) Accelerating Poverty Reduction and Economic Growth: Transforming African Countries into Tiger Economies** *Lead: UNIDO, UNCTAD, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)*

34. The United Nation Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) hosted a side event focusing on how to accelerate economic growth and poverty reduction in Africa. The event was chaired by the Director-General of UNIDO, Mr. Kandeh Yumkella with the keynote address being delivered by the Deputy Secretary-General, Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro. In her statement, the DSG emphasized that poverty reduction in Africa should be at the top of the international community's agenda.
35. The side event included statements by Mr. Namanga Ngongi, the President of AGRA, Ms. Patricia Francis, the Executive Director of ITC, Mr. Stefano Manservigi, the Director-General for Development Cooperation in the European Commission, Mr. Charles Gore of UNCTAD and Cheick Sidi Diara, the Special Adviser on Africa and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. Examples from the experience of some of the Asian Tigers were highlighted, although several speakers emphasized that while Africa should learn from the experience of others, it must also follow its own path to development. The statements of the panelists were followed by a lively interactive session between the members of the panel and a high-level audience which included a number of Ministers and Ambassadors as well as members of the private sector, civil society and UN officials.

**(vi) Transforming the Climate for Business to Accelerate Private Sector-Led Growth and progress towards the MDGs**

*Lead: UN Office for Partnerships, the LTB Foundation, Business Action for Africa, the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the UN*

36. The event served as an opportunity for heads of African governments and business leaders to explore and discuss how the business and investment climate could be improved through effective public-private cooperation frameworks.
37. Against a backdrop of considerable instability in the global economy, Africa had been experiencing a period of sustained economic growth and robust investment flows. However, Amir Dossal, Executive Director, UN Office for Partnerships, noted that rising food and oil prices and instability in financial markets constituted a growing threat to this growth. Aid would not eradicate poverty from Africa and a vibrant private sector offered the most sustainable route out of poverty for many people. Africa needed a healthy and robust private sector to maintain productive economies and to generate greater levels of investment, trade and job creation.
38. There was a growing recognition of the need to create strong alliances through public private partnerships and increasing evidence of how these partnerships could deliver innovative solutions to Africa's development challenges, especially as Bert Koenders, Minister for Development Cooperation of the Netherlands, pointed out, when business treated the poor as valued customers and clients. Many innovative examples were cited through the meeting, ranging from improving access to capital and financial services to farmers to manufacturing mosquito nets.

39. Comments from speakers focused around five themes: **(i) Business has an important potential role to play in tackling poverty and accelerating progress towards the MDGs;** - **(ii) Getting the investment climate right** -significant increases in investment in Africa will only be achieved by improving the investment climate; **(iii) Important progress is being made as a result of concerted reforms and innovative problem solving approaches.** **(iv) Small-scale business and agriculture key priorities;** and **(v) Partnerships offer the best way to make progress** - Given the scale of the challenges, the need for public private partnership approaches was critical. The growing number and variety of these partnerships – in areas as diverse as governance reform, water sustainability, agricultural productivity and human development and healthcare - demonstrate that it is possible to deliver successful economic and development outcomes. The Link project with Google was cited as an initiative to connect and identify best efforts.

**(vii) Launch of the African Atlas of our Changing Environment**

*Lead: UNEP*

40. The UNEP Deputy Executive Director introduced the Atlas, noting that the publication underlined how development choices, population growth, climate change and, in some cases, violent conflicts were shaping and impacting the natural and nature-based assets of the region. The event served to increase awareness of the urgent environmental issues facing the continent, as highlighted in the Atlas. It showcased visual information to support deliberations during High-Level Meeting, particularly countries' progress on MDG7. It provided an opportunity to receive feedback on how useful the Atlas and satellite based data could be in supporting national level planning processes and recommendations on how best UNEP could strategically engage with national and UN system partners. **The United States Geological Survey Director took the opportunity to announce that his organization was releasing all Landsat data on Africa for free and indicated that UNEP is expected to be the major beneficiary.**

41. *Africa: Atlas of Our Changing Environment* was produced by UNEP in cooperation with a number of organizations in Africa and the US and was released at the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) meeting in Johannesburg in June 2008. The Atlas leverages scientific and technological assets of government agencies, academic institutions and private sector to promote evidence based policies and priority setting in countries. It highlights important environmental issues for all African countries and provides evidence of local changes like deforestation, shrinking of lakes, urban growth using current and historical satellite data. There are more than 316 satellite images, 319 ground photographs and 151 maps, along with informative graphs and charts for every country in Africa.

**(viii) The MDG Africa Steering Group and the Gleneagles Scenario Approach to Scaling Up ODA**

*Lead: UNDP/MDG with the Republic of Bénin, the Republic of Rwanda, European Commission, International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Africa Progress Panel, the Earth Institute and OXFAM*

42. The side event focused on: (i) observation that incomplete fulfillment of donor commitments to scale up ODA has become a limiting constraint on the achievement of the MDGs in Africa; and (ii)



the usefulness of the MDG Africa Steering Group's Gleneagles Scenario as a tool for unlocking scaled-up ODA.

43. In 2005, the G8 committed at its Gleneagles Summit to more than double Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Africa with an additional US\$25 billion per annum (in 2004 real terms) by 2010. At end-2007, OECD/DAC figures indicated that only about one-third of this increase in ODA had been programmed despite the reaffirmation of this commitment at the 2008 G8 Hokkaido Summit. ODA remained unpredictable from year to year seriously impeding the multi-year planning needed to build the health, education and social systems necessary to achieve the MDGs. In the context of Africa's strong macroeconomic fundamentals, including substantial mobilization of domestic resources; improved governance; well-designed and consultative Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs); and an international consensus behind key priorities for poverty reduction, the lack of adequate external financing appeared to be the key remaining constraint on the achievement of the MDGs in Africa—a constraint that must be removed.
44. **Panelists in the side event were unanimous in their call for donors to meet their ODA commitments to Africa and to implement the recommendations of the MDG Africa Steering Group.** Panelists noted that these commitments were affordable compared with the US\$1.2 trillion the world spent on its militaries in 2006; the estimated US\$267 billion spent by OECD countries on agricultural subsidies in 2007; and the more than US\$33 billion paid in bonuses (i.e., exclusive of salaries) on Wall Street in the year 2007. Panelists also emphasized that ODA commitments should be treated as binding contracts since the unpredictable delivery of aid created major problems for African Governments. Panelists called for the Gleneagles Scenarios to be extended to any country that requested this work. They also underscored that the MDG Africa Steering Group's recommendations provided a practical, evidence-based plan for the use of this scaled up ODA.

**(ix) Governance Challenge in Africa**

*Lead: UN-OSAA, UNU, UN-HABITAT, IPU, UNODC, UNIFEM*

45. The Co-Chair, Mrs Julia Joiner, Commissioner for Political Affairs, African Union Commission, opened the meeting by observing that governance challenges were not unique to Africa and this compelled us to recognise that conceptions and practices of governance were evolving in many different ways across the globe. Cheick Diarra the Special Advisor on Africa delivered the opening statement reiterating the fact that good governance and development reinforced each other and good governance was therefore essential for durable peace and sustainable development, which were among the critical challenges facing many countries in the African continent. Dr. Coicaud mentioned that Africa remained the focus for United Nations University's research and capacity building efforts
46. A keynote address on “**Governance and Leadership**” in Africa by Dr. Jonah presented a comparison between 19<sup>th</sup> century European theories on the evolution of governance; he highlighted the plight of Africa which was going through similar processes of evolution from traditional society to a rational modern society.
47. Presentation and discussion on “**Equality, Opportunity and the Rule of Law-Access to Justice, Human Rights and the Right to Development**” observed that at independence almost all the

African countries had written constitutions which embodied a Bill of Rights and a multi-party democracy. The first victim of past independence constitutions was democracy itself and the rights of the people.

48. The panelists also highlighted the fact that human rights were a bastion of any constitutional order and the heart of any democratic society. Their protection and promotion in a society was what propelled a society to have a harmonious development. These sentiments were also expressed in the Constitutive Act of the African Union. All African countries did have in their constitutions provisions on fundamental freedom and rights.
49. The “**Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)**” presentation emphasised that implementation had been mixed and recognised that the challenges were more complex and required considerable levels of patience and perseverance. It was observed by the panellists that even though they were skeptical on the outcome of the process initially, they recognized the overall success of the initiative and concluded that after all, a political dialogue between governments and their people was possible in Africa. Setbacks related to the process were identified which included, the slow pace of the whole process mainly due to inadequate capacities. The governance and democracy journey in Africa required innovation in approach, in this context it is imperative to forge more dialogue in order for the process to move forward. While some solutions have been initiated in Africa, like the Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and the APRM process, it was evident that neither Africa nor its global partners necessarily have all of the answers.

**(x) A Response to the World Food Crisis: Smallholder Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development in Africa**

*Lead: FAO, IFAD, WFP, the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Malawi to the UN, UNDP, Earth Institute at Columbia University, UN-NGLS, UNAIDS, the World Bank, AGRA*

Conclusions, Recommendations and Follow-up Actions

50. The side event resulted in the following key recommendations and conclusions:
- Addressing the world food crisis required a global and coordinated response that combined immediate- and short-term measures as well as longer-term solutions;
  - High agricultural commodity prices gravely affected poor people who were often net buyers of food while also offering an opportunity to re-launch efforts to increase agricultural production and productivity;
  - Smallholder farmers, who make up the majority of agricultural producers in Africa, needed to be at the center of any initiatives to enhance agricultural production;
  - The competitiveness of the agricultural sector needed to be improved by investing in smallholder farms; strengthening the capacity of producers and their organizations to participate in agricultural development programmes, especially by increasing the participation of women; and accelerating the process of regional integration;
  - Action plans for increased food production required the introduction of Green Revolution technologies to enhance seed and fertilizer inputs, construct watering systems, improve infrastructure and market access, and provide smallholder farmers with access to credit. Because smallholder farmers could not afford these technologies in many cases, domestic and external support would be required for their provision;

- Localized successes needed to be replicated broadly to strengthen the agricultural sector as a whole across all regions in Africa;
- Significantly more public resources were needed to support the agriculture, food and nutrition sectors in light of the fact that agriculture's current share of total ODA stood at only 4 percent compared to 1980 when it stood at 20 percent;
- Collaborations with international institutions and donor countries for funding were necessary, but African countries may also search for new ways to build on the already substantial efforts they had made to mobilize internal resources;
- The private sector had also an important role to play in finding solutions to Africa's food needs;
- Governments, donors and international institutions also needed to work with new actors such as AGRA, foundations and the private sector to mobilize financial and technical support;
- Strategic partnerships with farmers' organizations needed to be developed to work with national authorities in the reprioritization of resource allocation and monitoring and evaluation of government programs; and
- Agreement on the need in 2010 for a UN summit to review the Secretary-General's next comprehensive report on progress toward the MDGs.

**(xi) Africa's Vulnerability: the Energy Crisis, Climate Change and Environment**

*Lead: ECA, UNIDO, UNEP, FAO and UNHCR*

51. Although Africa contributed very little to global emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG), climate change had the negative effects of constraining agricultural production and worsening food insecurity, increasing water stress and, through progressive reduction of water flows and depletion of biomass resources, increasing energy constraints. Fossil fuel emissions being a major cause of climate change, addressing Africa's long-term energy and development should not proceed from the same unsustainable fossil-based energy regimes that powered the economic growth of today's industrialized nations. Against this background, the meeting shed light on the current acute energy crisis in Africa while offering a discussion on its implications for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In this context, the meeting drew attention to the complex nexus of interdependent process that links the energy challenges arising from climate change to those of water and food security.
52. The discussion highlighted the need for improved assessment of future energy needs and increased access to funding and investments in order to address the scale of current challenges. Good policy framework and sound power sector reform were revealed as requirements for promoting energy activities and their linkage to the productive sectors. Good policy frameworks, governance mechanisms to ensure compliance and sharing solutions with local communities would also be required. To support regional efforts at addressing energy and its climate change challenges in Africa, ECA announced a comprehensive 10 year comprehensive Climate Information for Development Africa (ClimDev-Africa) Programme, being developed in partnership with the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank, the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS).
53. Within the framework of ClimDev-Africa, ECA also announced the establishment of an African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) to assist its Member States to mainstream climate change concerns into their policy framework.

## **(xii) Migration and Sustainable Development in Africa**

*Lead: IOM, ECA, UNDP, UNHCR*

54. More than a third of the world's refugees and half of the world's Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), constituting eleven million people, are to be found in Africa. With seventeen African states having over 50,000 refugees, eight out of twenty countries with the highest ratio of refugees to local people were in Africa. Most of the recorded migration in Africa occurred within the region, out of a total of 14.5 million migrants originating in sub-Saharan Africa, 10 million migrants (or 69%) moved within the region. Refugees and IDPs had routinely been the domain of the humanitarian community, leaving them outside of any development plans. The relationship between displacement and the right to development had to be fully recognized, realizing that the MDGs could not be achieved without taking into consideration refugees and IDPs, and promote their safety and dignity.

### Conclusions, Recommendations and Follow-up Actions

55. International migration or displacement may have negative consequences for the countries concerned, but as an important resource, the positive outcomes of such movements could be exploited to bring long term benefits for Africa. In searching for innovative ways to overcome the many challenges faced in sustainable development in Africa, it was important to explore the potential contribution of those who migrate or who are displaced, to the development of their countries of origin and their countries of destination. It was also a challenge to harness the positive contribution of refugees and internally displaced persons so that their integration or reintegration could help contribute to sustainable development in Africa. Inequitable distribution of arable land and property needed to be addressed in order to promote sustainable development and to avoid violent conflict. This would be particularly necessary in post-conflict situations to ease existing tensions and focus efforts on poverty eradication

## **(xiii) Strengthening African Private Sector Competitiveness in a Global Context**

*Lead: International Trade Centre (ITC), the World Bank and the Global Compact*

### Summary Discussions

56. The three co-sponsors of the event (ITC, WB and GC) discussed the challenges in both public and private spheres. For Governments, points raised touched upon: (a) introducing reforms on the regulatory front, (b) engaging the private sector through consultative mechanisms, and (c) negotiating with developed government counterparts to achieve an enabling international trade regime. For the private sector, the agencies discussed how to develop linkages with multinational and large domestic firms, so as to nurture smaller enterprises, the importance of setting standards to achieve sustainability, with a sharp focus on corporate governance and how to engage in skill-building activities, especially to assist smaller and micro enterprises, improve vocational knowledge and skill levels. The agenda for developing the private sector in Africa was viewed from the perspective of two key dimensions: building entrepreneurship and achieving competitiveness. Developing the private sector involved, on the one hand, building the necessary pillars of entrepreneurship which include, principally, a level playing field, access to financing and access to

skills and knowledge, these, in turn, rest on a foundation of additional prerequisites, such as the rule of law, physical and social infrastructure and a sound macro environment.

#### 57. Conclusions, Recommendations and Follow-up Actions

- Recommendations on how the donor community and international organisations (including trade related technical assistance agencies) could collaborate better with each other and with governments to more effectively assist African private sector enterprises to enhance competitiveness and growth;
- Recommendations on how to encourage the promotion of partnerships between the public and the private sector (i.e., PPPs);
- Signing of partnership between ITC and Regional Economic Communities; and
- The event's conclusions and recommendations would be integrated in the ongoing ITC programmes, including the newly established Programme for Building African Capacity for Trade (PACT II). PACT II is a five-year, \$20 million joint programme of Canada, ITC and the three RECs to boost intra-regional trade in Africa, designed to enhance the capacity of the concerned RECs to champion trade development. It supports regional networks for policy dialogue, builds sector-specific export competitiveness including market linkages, and promotes the role of women entrepreneurs.

#### **(xiv) Africa Women's Forum**

*Lead: UNIFEM, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNV, ECA, ITC, UNCTAD/WTO, OSAA*

58. All the distinguished panelists unanimously stressed the importance for Governments to open up the ***space for political engagement of women*** that would allow for the expression of their voices and leadership in the formulation of policy and programmes at national and regional levels.

#### Conclusions, Recommendations and Follow-up Actions

59. To accelerate the achievement of MDGs in Africa, panelists proposed nine actionable recommendations for African Governments, including one for the international community as whole:
- Strengthen commitments to implement gender equality and women's empowerment through strengthening mandates, incentives and resources for delivering on the commitments to women's rights;
  - Increase resources for gender equality outcomes, especially in the framework of the modalities of financing development in Africa; allocate significant resources to strengthen African Women's organizations;
  - Take concrete measures to enhance women's political participation and increase their transformative leadership in achieving sustainable development and the MDGs. This would ensure Government accountability to women's needs;
  - Ensure that Direct Budget Support adequately addresses gender equality outcomes by using gender responsive budgeting to allocate and monitor resources;

- Leverage girls' education as a transformative force for addressing the complex barriers to women's empowerment, and widen the scope of MDG 2 to ensure quality, equity, inclusion, and transition to higher levels of education. It is critical to guarantee gender parity in enrollment, retention and successful completion at all levels, and women and girls' access to technical, vocational and literacy training;
- Guarantee women's equal right to life and good health through ensuring universal access to reproductive health, accelerating implementation of existing policies and legislation that reduce women and girls' greater vulnerability to HIV and AIDS, and repealing discriminatory HIV/Aids laws;
- Guarantee women's access to and control over productive assets such as land, adopt specific legislation for protecting women's inheritance rights to land and land-based resources, and promote women's entrepreneurship;
- Enable women in armed conflict and post-conflict societies to be engaged in peace-processes and reconstruction efforts as effective change agents in the development process in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1325; and
- Governments, the United Nations, civil society organizations and the private sector should make concerted efforts to build on and accelerate progress in advancing gender in all the MDGs, and document lessons learnt through better reporting on implementation of gender related conventions. In this regard, civil society organizations and women's networks should be strengthened to hold Governments accountable and make meaningful contribution to key policy arenas.

**(xv) Confronting the Disease of Poverty to meet the MDGs: “Digital Health and African Development” Interactive Roundtable**

*Lead: UN Office for Partnerships, UN “Health 8” partners, the Earth Institute at Columbia University, Commonwealth Business Council, African Business Roundtable, International Business Leaders Forum, Business Action for Africa, Oxford Health Alliance, the Rockefeller Foundation*

60. This interactive roundtable dialogue was a unique high-level gathering of global health leaders to forge a consensus and strategic framework on the use of digital technology in scaling up the achievement of the health-related MDGs to meet Africa's development needs. The dialogue offered one of the first opportunities to gather leaders from the international computing technology and pharmaceutical communities to advance the global partnership for development within MDG 8 to forge a common language and framework for concrete action on the ground.
61. The principal commitments from the meeting were for the launch of a “Digital Health Initiative” (DHI) comprising a multi-stakeholder partnership of private sector partners in media, telecom, health technology and pharmaceutical companies for joint collaboration with civil society, governments and international organizations. A “Global Convention” on digital health would take place within two years involving all relevant stakeholders to meet the discovery, development and delivery requirements of the MDGs for digital health for development, to achieve the health related MDGs by 2015.

**Annex:**

**New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support: High-level meeting on the theme "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward" [57 (a)] 22 September 2008**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Plenary Meeting – List of Speakers for the Opening Plenary (9-10 am)**

- 1) President of the General Assembly
- 2) Secretary-General
- 3) H.E. Mr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania
- 4) H.E. Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy, President of France
- 5) H.E. Ms. Heidemarie Wiecek-Zeul, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany and Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Financing for Development Conference
- 6) H.E. Mr. Yoshiro Mori, Special Envoy of the Government of Japan
- 7) Representative of (Antigua and Barbuda) (on behalf of G77 and China)
- 8) H.E. Mr. José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission
- 9) H.E. Mr. Jean Ping, Chairman of the African Union Commission and former President of the General Assembly

**List of Speakers for the Round Tables (2 in the morning 10 am-1 pm and 2 in the afternoon (3-6 pm))**

**Heads of State: 28**

**Heads of Government: 7**

**Vice-Presidents: 2**

**Deputy Prime Ministers: 3**

**Ministers: 65**

**Deputy Foreign Ministers: 8**

**Chairmen of the Delegations: 29**

**Observer: 1**

**Heads of State: 28**

1. Argentina
2. Austria
3. Benin
4. Bosnia and Herzegovina
5. Brazil
6. Burkina Faso
7. Cape Verde
8. Central African Republic
9. Cyprus
10. Finland
11. Ghana
12. Iran (Islamic Rep of)
13. Latvia

14. Madagascar
15. Malawi
16. Mozambique
17. Namibia
18. Rwanda
19. Sao Tome and Principe
20. Senegal
21. Sierra Leone
22. Slovenia
23. Sudan
24. Swaziland
25. Switzerland
26. Turkey
27. Uganda
28. Zimbabwe

**Heads of Government: 7**



1. Bangladesh
2. Croatia
3. Dominica
4. Guinea

5. Morocco
6. Netherlands
7. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

**Vice-President: 2**

1. Cuba
2. Gabon

**Deputy Prime Ministers: 3**

1. Bulgaria
2. Jamaica
3. Luxembourg

**Ministers: 65**

- |                           |                                 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Algeria                | 33. Ireland                     |
| 2. Angola                 | 34. Jamaica                     |
| 3. Australia              | 35. Japan                       |
| 4. Bahrain                | 36. Jordan                      |
| 5. Barbados               | 37. Kenya                       |
| 6. Belgium                | 38. Lebanon                     |
| 7. Bosnia and Herzegovina | 39. Lesotho                     |
| 8. Burundi                | 40. Mali                        |
| 9. Cameroon               | 41. Mauritania                  |
| 10. Cape Verde            | 42. Monaco                      |
| 11. Chile                 | 43. Myanmar                     |
| 12. China                 | 44. Nigeria                     |
| 13. Comoros               | 45. Norway                      |
| 14. Congo                 | 46. Oman                        |
| 15. Czech Republic        | 47. Philippines                 |
| 16. Denmark               | 48. Portugal                    |
| 17. Egypt                 | 49. Qatar                       |
| 18. Estonia               | 50. Republic of Korea           |
| 19. Ethiopia              | 51. Rwanda                      |
| 20. Finland               | 52. San Marino                  |
| 21. France                | 53. Singapore                   |
| 22. Gambia                | 54. Slovakia                    |
| 23. Germany               | 55. Somalia                     |
| 24. Ghana                 | 56. South Africa                |
| 25. Greece                | 57. Sudan                       |
| 26. Guatemala             | 58. Sweden                      |
| 27. Guinea-Bissau         | 59. Togo                        |
| 28. Guyana                | 60. Tunisia                     |
| 29. Hungary               | 61. United Kingdom              |
| 30. Iceland               | 62. United Republic of Tanzania |
| 31. India                 | 63. United States               |
| 32. Indonesia             | 64. Zambia                      |
|                           | 65. Zimbabwe                    |

**Deputy Foreign Ministers: 8**

- |              |                       |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Columbia  | 2. Pakistan           |
| 2. Egypt     | 3. Poland             |
| 1. Israel    | 6. Russian Federation |
| 3. Italy     | 7. Spain              |
| 4. Lithuania | 8. Ukraine            |
| 5. Pakistan  |                       |

**Chairmen of the Delegations: 30**

1. Andorra
2. Antigua and Barbuda
3. Belarus
4. Botswana
5. Cambodia
6. Canada
7. Côte d'Ivoire
8. Democratic Republic of the Congo
9. Dominican Republic
10. El Salvador
11. Israel
12. Kazakhstan
13. Kuwait
14. Liberia
15. Libya
16. Liechtenstein
17. Maldives
18. Malta
19. Moldova
20. New Zealand
21. Nicaragua
22. Niger
23. Saudi Arabia
24. Seychelles
25. Switzerland
26. Syrian Arab Republic
27. Thailand
28. United Arab Emirates
29. Venezuela
30. Viet Nam

**Observers:**

1. Holy See

***Round table 1 (10am-1pm – TRI), co-chaired by*** H.E. Mr. John Agyekum Kufour, President of the Republic of Ghana and H.E. Mr. Haris Silajdžić, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina

H.E. Mr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia  
H.E. Mr. Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey  
H.E. Mr. Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal  
H.E. Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda  
H.E. Mr. Fradique Bandeira Melo de Menezes, President of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe  
H.E. Mr. Danilo Türk, President of the Republic of Slovenia  
H.E. Mr. Ernest Bai Koroma, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone  
H.E. Mr. Yoshiro Mori, Special Envoy of the Government of Japan  
H.E. Mr. Didjob Divungi di Ndinge, Vice President of the Gabonese Republic  
H.E. Mr. José Ramón Machado Ventura, First Vice-President of the Council of State and Ministers of the Republic of Cuba  
H.E. Mr. Ivo Sanader, Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia  
H.E. Mr. Abbas El Fassi, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Morocco  
Mr. Tim Costello, President and Chief Executive Officer of World Vision International  
H.E. Mr. Ján Kubiš, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovakia  
H.E. Ms. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Minister for Foreign Affairs of South Africa  
H.E. Lord Mark Malloch-Brown, Minister of State for Africa, Asia and United Nations Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
H.E. Mr. Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar  
H.E. Mr. Jean Asselborn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration of Luxembourg  
H.E. Mr. Asim Hussain, Federal Minister of Pakistan  
H.E. Ms. Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, Federal Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany  
H.E. Mr. Hassan Wirajuda, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia  
H.E. Mr. Fidil Al-Tigani, Minister of International Cooperation of the Sudan  
H.E. Ms. Ulla Toornaes, Minister for Development Cooperation of Denmark  
H.E. Mr. Alexander Yakovenko, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation  
H.E. Ms. Adriana Mejía, Deputy Minister of Multilateral Affairs of Colombia  
H.E. Mr. Ángel Lossada, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Spain  
H.E. Mr. Mohamed Elorabi, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt  
Mr. Hinomasa Yonekura, President of the Sumitomo Chemical.

Concluding remarks by Co-Chairs, H.E. Mr. Haris Silajdžić, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina and H.E. Mr. John Agyekum Kufour, President of the Republic of Ghana.

***Round table 2 (10am-1pm – ECOSOC), co-chaired by*** H.E. Mr. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda and H.E. Ms. Tarja Halonen, President of the Republic of Finland

H.E. Mr. Armando Emílio Guebuza, President of the Republic of Mozambique  
 His Majesty King Mswati III, Head of State of the Kingdom of Swaziland  
 H.E. Mr. Marc Ravalomanana, President of the Republic of Madagascar  
 H.E. Mr. Ahmed Tidiane Souaré, Prime Minister of the Republic of Guinea  
 H.E. Mr. Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
 H.E. Mr. Fakhruddin Ahmed, Chief Adviser of the Caretaker Government of the People's  
 Republic of Bangladesh  
 H.E. Ms. Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State of the United States of America  
 H.E. Mr. Charles Michel, Minister of Development Cooperation of Belgium  
 H.E. Mr. Ojo Maduekwe, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria  
 Representatives of the Economic Commission for Africa and the observer of the  
 European Community  
 H.E. Mr. Valdis Zatlers, President of the Republic of Latvia  
 H.E. Mr. Kenneth Baugh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs  
 of Jamaica  
 H.E. Mr. Yang Jiechi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of China  
 H.E. Ms. Kinga Göncz, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Hungary  
 H.E. Mr. Ato Newaye Gebreab, Minister, Chief Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister  
 of Ethiopia  
 H.E. Mr. Fawzi Salloukh, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigrants of Lebanon  
 H.E. Mr. Peter Power, Minister of State, Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland  
 H.E. Mr. Koffi Essaw, Minister of State, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional  
 Integration of Togo  
 H.E. Mrs. Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir, Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade  
 of Iceland  
 H.E. Mr. João Bernardo de Miranda, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Angola  
 H.E. Mr. Henri Eyebe Ayissi, Minister of External Relations of Cameroon  
 H.E. Mr. Ivailo Kalfin, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs  
 of Bulgaria  
 H.E. Mr. Simbarashe Simbaneduku Mumbengegwi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of  
 Zimbabwe.  
 Representatives of the Pan-African Parliament, Map International and  
 the Food and Agriculture Organization  
 Concluding remarks by Co-chair, H.E. Ms. Tarja Halonen, President of the Republic of Finland.

**Round table 3 1 (3-6pm – TRI), co-chaired by** H.E. Mr. Abdulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal and H.E. Mr. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

H.E. Mr. François Bozizé, President of the Central African Republic  
 H.E. Mr. Boni Yayi, President of the Republic of Benin  
 H.E. Mr. Jan Peter Balkenende, Prime Minister and Minister for General Affairs  
 of the Kingdom of the Netherlands  
 H.E. Mr. Anand Sharma, Minister of State for External Affairs of India  
 H.E. Mr. Alain Joyandet, Minister of Cooperation and La Francophonie of France  
 H.E. Hon. Bradford Machila, Minister of Lands of Zambia  
 H.E. Mr. Erik Solheim, Minister of the Environment and International Development  
 of Norway  
 H.E. Mr. Alejandro Foxley Rioseco, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chile  
 H.E. Ms. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guyana  
 H.E. Mr. Alberto Romulo, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines  
 H.E. Mr. Vincenzo Scotti, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Italy

H.E. Mr. Alexandre Fasel, Director of the UN Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland

H.E. Mr. Franck Biancheri, Government Counsellor for External Relations and for International Economic and Financial Affairs of Monaco

Mr. Abdulrahman Almofadhi, Saudi Fund for Development

Representatives of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Antigua and Barbuda, Viet Nam and Nicaragua.

Statement also by the Co-Chair, H.E. Mr. Abdulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal.

Statements by the observer of the Observer State of the Holy See, the observers of the Commonwealth Secretariat and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies the representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs as well as, by representatives of World Vision and the African Monitor, Business Action for Africa and Regenesys.

Concluding remarks by Co-Chair, H.E. Mr. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

**Round table 4 (3-6pm – ECOSOC)**, co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Pedro Verona Rodrigues Pires, President of the Republic of Cape Verde

H.E. Mr. Luiz Inácio Lula Da Silva, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil

H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran

H.E. Mr. Heinz Fischer, President of the Republic of Austria

H.E. Mr. Yu Myung-hwan, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea

H.E. Mr. Stephen Smith, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia

H.E. Mr. Wycliffe Oparanya, Minister for Planning, National Development Vision 2030 of Kenya

H.E. Mr. Basile Ikouebe, Minister for Foreign Affairs and La Francophonie of the Congo

Representative of Thailand

H.E. Mr. Omar A. Touray, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the Gambia

H.E. Mr. Carl Bildt, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden

H.E. Mr. Urmas Paet, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Estonia

Representatives of Belarus, Botswana and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

H.E. Mr. Alexander Horin, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

Representative of Liberia

H.E. Mr. Khaled Muhammad Al-Attiya, Minister of State for International Cooperation of Qatar

H.E. Ms. Antoinette Batumubwira, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Burundi

Representatives of Kuwait and Israel.

Representatives of the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, Pan African Women's Organization and the Development Bank for Southern Africa.

Concluding remarks by Co-chair, H.E. Mr. Pedro Vernon Rodrigues Pires, President of the Republic of Cape Verde.

#### **4th plenary meeting (6.15 – 6.40 pm – GA Hall)**

The General Assembly adopted draft resolution [A/63/L.1](#) (resolution 63/1).

H.E. Mr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania and Chairman  
of the African Union  
PGA

The General Assembly has thus concluded the High-level Meeting on the theme “Africa’s development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward”.

The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 57.

Programme for the high-level meeting on  
Africa's development needs

22 September 2008

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Venue</b>
<b>9-9.45am</b>	Opening plenary meeting	General Assembly Hall
<b>10am-1pm</b>	Roundtable 1	Trusteeship Council Chamber
	Roundtable 2	ECOSOC Chamber
<b>3-6pm</b>	Roundtable 3	Trusteeship Council Chamber
	Roundtable 4	ECOSOC Chamber
<b>6.15-6.30pm</b>	Closing plenary meeting and adoption of Political Declaration	General Assembly Hall





# General Assembly

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## Sixty-third session

Agenda item 57 (a)

### **New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support**

#### **Draft resolution submitted by the President of the General Assembly**

#### **Political declaration on Africa's development needs**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 62/242 of 4 March 2007, in particular paragraph 5,

*Adopts* the following political declaration:

#### **Political declaration on Africa's development needs**

1. We, heads of State and Government, ministers and representatives of Member States gathered at a high-level meeting at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 22 September 2008 to address "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward", stress that the high-level meeting represents a unique opportunity to strengthen the global partnership for development in Africa, which is pivotal to bringing Africa into the mainstream of the global economy.

2. We reaffirm the special needs of Africa as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,<sup>1</sup> the Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development,<sup>2</sup> the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>3</sup> the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on

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<sup>1</sup> See resolution 55/2.

<sup>2</sup> See resolution 57/2.

<sup>3</sup> *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.



Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)<sup>4</sup> and the 2005 World Summit Outcome.<sup>5</sup>

3. We recommit ourselves to reinvigorate and strengthen a global partnership of equals based on our common values, mutual accountability, shared responsibility and the determination to collectively act for our common future and to mobilize the resources, including human, financial and technological, required to end poverty, hunger and underdevelopment in Africa, with the explicit objective of turning existing commitments into concrete actions.

4. We commit to strengthening support for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, which is Africa's overarching framework for socio-economic sustainable development in Africa, as well as for the implementation of national and subregional development plans and strategies.

5. We stress that eradicating poverty, particularly in Africa, is the greatest global challenge facing the world today. We underline the importance of accelerating sustainable broad-based economic growth, including employment generation and decent work, towards a vibrant Africa.

6. We reaffirm our commitment to address the special needs of Africa, a continent where, despite recent considerable improvements, the full and timely achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, remains elusive.

7. We commit to supporting the consolidation of democracy in Africa and assisting African countries in their struggle for lasting peace, economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development.

8. We underline that good governance at all levels is essential for sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development. We welcome the progress many African countries have made with respect to implementing pro-poor economic policies, deepening democracy and protecting human rights. We stress the importance of African-led initiatives to strengthen political, economic and corporate governance, such as the African Peer Review Mechanism. We recommit ourselves to actively protecting and promoting all human rights, the rule of law and democracy.

9. We welcome the efforts of African Governments to mobilize domestic resources and attract private capital to finance the investments and expenditures needed to achieve their development goals. We underscore the importance of an enabling environment at all levels, which is vital for mobilizing domestic resources, increasing productivity, generating employment, especially for youth, reducing capital flight, fighting corruption, encouraging the private sector and attracting foreign direct investment, and in this regard we underline the importance of human, professional and institutional capacity-building for development.

10. We stress the importance of strengthening domestic financial sectors as a source of capital by making them inclusive, thus expanding access to financial services.

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<sup>4</sup> *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

<sup>5</sup> See resolution 60/1.

11. We underline the importance of increasing foreign direct investment into the extractive industries value chain as well as diversification in other sectors, in order to achieve higher levels of employment and facilitate the transfer of technology and knowledge.

12. We are concerned that, at the current rate, the commitment of doubling aid to Africa by 2010 as articulated at the Summit of the Group of Eight (G-8) held at Gleneagles will not be reached. We call for the fulfilment of all official development assistance-related commitments, including the commitments made by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance by 2015, as well as the target of 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for least developed countries, and urge those developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts in this regard in accordance with their commitments.

13. We welcome the increased aid flows from new development actors, including some developing countries, global funds, the private sector and civil society organizations, as well as from innovative sources of finance.

14. We emphasize that debt sustainability is essential for underpinning growth, and underline the importance of debt sustainability and effective debt management to the efforts to achieve national development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Debtors and creditors must share the responsibility for preventing and resolving unsustainable debt situations. We note with appreciation the progress under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, but remain concerned that a number of African countries are still facing difficulties in finding a durable solution to their debt problems, which could adversely affect their sustainable development. We therefore call for continued efforts to achieve long-term debt sustainability.

15. We recommit to improving the effectiveness of development assistance, including the fundamental principles of ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results and mutual accountability. We call for a continuing dialogue to improve the effectiveness of aid, including the full implementation of the Accra Agenda for Action by countries and organizations that commit to it.

16. We commit to promoting South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, which have great potential to facilitate the exchange of successful strategies, practices and experiences. The impact of South-South cooperation may be further harnessed through synergies with other bilateral or multilateral development partners. We recognize South-South cooperation initiatives that are rooted in the principle of national ownership which are aimed at strengthening productive capacity as well as accelerating economic growth and sustainable development.

17. We welcome the commitments made by Africa and its development partners in the context of various important initiatives and partnerships in recent years, inter alia, the Africa Partnership Forum, the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership, the China-Africa Partnership, the European Union-Africa Strategic Partnership, the G8 Africa partnership, the Millennium Challenge Account, the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief of the President of the United States of America, the Africa-Turkey Cooperation Summit, the Africa-South America Summit, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, the comprehensive health-care initiative sponsored by the Government of Cuba, the Initiative for Africa's Development of

the Republic of Korea, the special technical assistance programme for Africa of Pakistan, the Viet Nam-Africa cooperation partnership and the India-Africa Forum.

18. We urge the United Nations system, international and regional financial institutions and other multilateral development partners to continue and strengthen support for African Governments in their efforts to implement national development strategies and programmes. We stress the need to strengthen the capacities and capabilities of the United Nations system in supporting Africa's development.

19. We stress the need for well-functioning national and international financial systems, which should have the capacity to help reduce uncertainty and support economic growth. We recognize the need to enhance the voice and participation of developing countries in policymaking in the areas of trade, money and finance.

20. We are concerned that Africa's share of international trade is only 2 per cent, and underline the important role that trade plays in promoting economic growth. We stress the need to promote Africa's international trade, including through regional integration and greater integration into the global economy and fulfilment of our commitment to a well-functioning, universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system which promotes sustainable development. We commit to redouble our efforts towards the reinvigoration of the multilateral trade negotiations and to achieve a successful development-oriented outcome of the Doha Round of the World Trade Organization. We call for stronger national action and international support to build domestic productive competitive export supply capacities, as well as trade support, infrastructure and institutions for African countries.

21. We underline that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. We stress that conflict prevention, resolution and management and post-conflict consolidation are essential for the achievement of the objectives of the special needs of Africa. We welcome the progress that the African Union and the subregional organizations have made in this regard, inter alia, through the strengthening of Africa's peace and security architecture.

22. We call for intensified efforts and a coordinated approach between national Governments, the African Union, subregional organizations, the United Nations system and partners with a view to achieving further progress towards the goal of a conflict-free Africa. We stress the importance of and pledge to support peace consolidation mechanisms and processes, including the Panel of the Wise, the African Union Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Framework, the early warning system and the operationalization of the African standby force. We also stress the importance of and pledge to support relevant United Nations bodies, inter alia, the Peacebuilding Commission. We welcome the intensification of the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union on peace and security and underline the importance of the implementation of the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union. We call upon the international community to assist post-conflict countries in achieving a smooth transition from relief to development.

23. We recognize that Africa faces a number of serious challenges, including poverty, hunger, climate change, land degradation and desertification, rapid urbanization, lack of adequate water supplies and energy supply and HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other endemic diseases. We commend African countries

for their leadership in addressing those challenges and charting the way forward for the region in the context of the African Union as well as through national and subregional development plans and strategies.

24. We stress that climate change has serious implications for sustainable development. We express concern that Africa faces high risks from the negative effects of climate change, despite emitting the least greenhouse gases. We acknowledge that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and their social and economic conditions. We reaffirm our support for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and welcome the decisions adopted during the thirteenth Conference of the Parties, held in Bali, including the Bali Action Plan. We remain deeply concerned that all countries, in particular developing countries, including least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, face increased risks from the negative effects of climate change, and stress the need to urgently address adaptation needs relating to such effects. In this context, we underline in particular the need for new and additional financial resources.

25. We are concerned about the consequences of the global food crisis on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and in this regard we acknowledge the African Union's declaration on responding to the challenges of high fuel prices and agricultural development. We call for an integrated response by African countries and the international community, working in partnership to support integrated and sustainable agriculture and rural development approaches, and stress the importance of food security and strengthening the agricultural sector, as set out in, inter alia, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development. We call upon all donors and the United Nations system to increase their assistance to Africa, in particular least developed countries and those that are most negatively affected by high food prices.

26. We welcome Africa's commitment to the African Water Vision 2025, the Sirte Declaration on agriculture and water in Africa and the Sharm el-Sheikh commitments for accelerating the achievement of water and sanitation goals in Africa.

27. We recognize the challenges of inadequate infrastructure and industrialization in Africa and the need to substantively increase investment in all forms of infrastructure in accordance with the New Partnership for Africa's Development. We recognize the contribution that private capital can make towards the development of infrastructure.

28. We recognize the urgent need for large-scale investments in energy infrastructure, as outlined in the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and are committed to promoting renewable sources of energy, clean energy, energy efficiency and conservation.

29. We reaffirm the universal commitment to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, recognizing that they are key actors in development.

30. We resolve to increase our efforts to reduce maternal and child mortality and reaffirm the commitment to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015.

31. We note with concern that violence against women and children everywhere continues and often increases and resolve to ensure the strict universal adherence to international norms regarding violence against women and girls.

32. We express our grave concern at the negative effects on development, peace, security and human rights posed by transnational crime, including the smuggling of and trafficking in human beings.

33. We commit ourselves to safeguarding the principle of refugee protection and to upholding our responsibility in resolving the plight of refugees, including through support of efforts aimed at addressing the causes of refugee movement, bringing about the safe and sustainable return of those populations.

34. We recognize the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as an important international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons, and welcome the fact that an increasing number of States, United Nations agencies and regional and non-governmental organizations are applying them as a standard, and encourage all relevant actors to make use of the Guiding Principles when dealing with situations of internal displacement.

35. We recognize that HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases pose severe risks for the entire world and serious challenges to the achievement of development goals. In this regard, we welcome the commitment by African Governments and regional institutions to scale up their own responses in order to curb the devastating effects of those pandemics. We reaffirm our commitment to pursuing all necessary efforts to scale up support for nationally driven, sustainable and comprehensive responses in Africa to achieve broad multisectoral coverage for prevention, treatment, care and support, with the full and active participation of people living with HIV, vulnerable groups, most affected communities, civil society and the private sector, towards achieving the goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010, in line with the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS.

36. We renew our resolve to fulfil our commitments towards providing quality basic education and promoting literacy, using the full range of bilateral and multilateral instruments, including continued efforts to mobilize resources to meet the education needs of African countries. We emphasize the importance of expanded primary, secondary and higher education as well as vocational education and technical training, especially for girls and women.

37. We recognize that the way forward for meeting Africa's development needs requires coordinated, balanced and integrated actions at all levels for the full and timely achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and to comprehensively address all challenges to Africa's development. In this regard, we welcome the Secretary-General's initiative to hold a high-level event on the Millennium Development Goals on 25 September 2008.

38. This political declaration is adopted on 22 September 2008 on the occasion of the high-level meeting on "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward". It seeks to reaffirm the commitment of all States to addressing the development needs on the African continent. In adopting this political declaration, Member States reaffirm their belief in a prosperous future for Africa in which core human values of dignity and peace are fully enshrined. In this context, Member States further confirm their adherence

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to the spirit of cooperation that defines the United Nations system and that is based on a partnership among equals.

39. The high-level meeting has reviewed the implementation of all commitments made to and by Africa in order to comprehensively address the special development needs of the continent. All commitments to and by Africa should be effectively implemented and given appropriate follow-up by the international community and by Africa itself. We underscore the urgency of finding solutions to Africa's major challenges. In this regard, we request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a comprehensive report, with recommendations, on "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward" with a view to the formulation, by the time of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, of a mechanism to review the full and timely implementation of all commitments related to Africa's development, building on existing mechanisms, to ensure that Member States remain seized of the issue of addressing Africa's special development needs.

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Organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting on the theme  
“Africa’s development needs: state of implementation of various  
commitments, challenges and the way forward”

New York, 22 September 2008

Information Note

Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 62/242 of 4 March 2008, inter alia, requested its President to finalize the organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting, to be held on 22 September 2008. This note outlines proposed arrangements for the meeting. A further note will be issued at a later date, finalizing any other outstanding arrangements and details.

Participation

2. Participation in the high-level meeting will be in accordance with paragraphs 2, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 14 of resolution 62/242.
3. In accordance with paragraph 2 of the resolution, participation at the meeting is expected at the highest possible political level, including Heads of State or Government, ministers, special representatives and other representatives.
4. In accordance with paragraph 10 of the resolution, the President of the General Assembly will consult with non-governmental organizations that have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations, the private sector, and with Member States, as appropriate, on the list of representatives from these organizations that may participate in the round tables of the meeting. The list of participants will be circulated in due course.

Programme of the high-level meeting

5. The high-level meeting will comprise an opening plenary meeting, followed by two high-level round tables in the morning and two high-level round tables in the afternoon, and a closing plenary meeting.
6. The opening plenary meeting shall be addressed by the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General of the United Nations. In addition, following consultation with the African Union, the President of the General Assembly will invite leaders from Africa as well a major bilateral and institutional development partner to address the opening session.
7. The political declaration on Africa’s development needs will be adopted at the closing plenary meeting.

## Round tables

8. There will be two round tables in the morning and two in the afternoon.
9. The four round tables will have the same overall theme of the meeting: *“Africa’s development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward.”*
10. Each round table will be co-chaired by Heads of State or Government. One of the co-chairs for each round table will be from Africa. The other co-chair will be from one of the other four regional groups. The President of the General Assembly shall request regional groups to nominate the co-chair(s) to represent their respective regions.
11. The round tables shall open with a brief statement from one of the co-chairs, after which the floor will be open for an interactive, free-flowing discussion. Participants will be encouraged not to read prepared statements and to **limit interventions to not more than three minutes**. There will be no formal list of speakers. Delegations and other participants who wish to take the floor will be invited to signify their intentions by raising their flags.
12. One of the co-chairs shall make brief concluding remarks at the close of each round table.
13. In order to ensure equitable geographical balance in the four round tables, the maximum number of participants from each regional group shall be distributed as follows:
  - African States: 14 Member States
  - Asian States: 14 member States
  - Eastern European States: 6 Member States
  - Latin American and Caribbean States: 9 Member States
  - Western Europe and other States: 7 Member States
14. A Member State which is not a member of any of the regional groups, the Holy See, in its capacity as Observer State and Palestine in its capacity as observer, may participate in any one of the round tables.
15. Other categories of participants listed in paragraphs 10, 12, 13 and 14 of resolution 62/242 shall be distributed in the four round tables.
16. Inscriptions in the round tables shall be on a first-come, first-served basis, taking into account the maximum number for each regional group and on the understanding that the total number of Member States participating in each round table shall not exceed 50. Inscriptions for each round table can be made with the General Assembly Affairs Branch beginning 1 July 2008 (room S-2940B; tel. 1 (212) 963-5063; fax 1 (212) 963-3783).
17. Due to limited availability of space, access to the round tables will be on the basis of colour-coded passes.



Organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting on the theme  
“Africa’s development needs: state of implementation of various  
commitments, challenges and the way forward”  
New York, 22 September 2008

Second Information Note

**Introduction**

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 62/242 of 4 March 2008, inter alia, requested its President to finalize the organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting, to be held on 22 September 2008. This note elaborates on and supersedes the information note issued on 25 June 2008.

**Participation**

2. Participation in the high-level meeting will be in accordance with paragraphs 2, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 14 of resolution 62/242.
3. In accordance with paragraph 2 of the resolution, participation at the meeting is expected at the highest possible political level, including Heads of State or Government, ministers, special representatives and other representatives.
4. In accordance with paragraphs 10 and 14 of the resolution, the President of the General Assembly has invited non-governmental organizations that have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations, the private sector, regional financial institutions as well as the Bretton Woods institutions, UNCTAD, and the World Trade Organization participate in the roundtables of the meeting. The complete list of these participants, as well as participants from the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations, will be circulated to all Member States prior to the meeting.

**Programme of the high-level meeting**

5. The high-level meeting will comprise an opening plenary meeting, followed by two high-level round tables in the morning and two high-level round tables in the afternoon, and a closing plenary meeting.
6. The opening plenary meeting will take place between from 9am-10am in the General Assembly Hall, and shall be addressed by the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General of the United Nations. In addition, following consultation with the African Union, the President of the General Assembly has invited the following dignitaries to address the opening plenary meeting: the President of the United Republic of Tanzania; the President of France; the Prime Minister of Japan (TBC); the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda; the Secretary of State of the United States of America;

the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union; and the President of the European Commission.

7. A closing plenary meeting will take place at 6.15-6.45 pm in the General Assembly Hall to adopt the political declaration on Africa's development needs.

### Round tables

8. There will be two round tables in the morning (10am-1pm) and two in the afternoon (3-6pm). These round tables will take place in the Trusteeship Council and ECOSOC Chambers.
9. The four round tables will have the same overall theme of the meeting: *"Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward."*
10. The co-chairs for the round tables shall be as follows:  
Round table 1: H.E. Thabo Mbeki (South Africa) and H.E. Haris Silajdžić (Bosnia and Herzegovina)  
Round table 2: H.E. Paul Kagame (Rwanda) and H.E. Tarja Halonen (Finland)  
Round table 3: TBC (African Group) and H.E. Ralph Gonsalves (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)  
Round table 4: H.E. Pedro Verona Pires (Cape Verde) and TBC (Asian Group)
11. The round tables shall open with a brief statement from one of the co-chairs, after which the floor will be open for an interactive, free-flowing discussion. Participants will be encouraged to **limit interventions to not more than three minutes** and not to read prepared statements. There will be no formal list of speakers. Delegations and other participants who wish to take the floor will be invited to signify their intentions by raising their flags.
12. One of the co-chairs shall make brief concluding remarks at the close of each round table.
13. Each head of delegation may be accompanied to the roundtable by three advisors.
14. In order to ensure equitable geographical balance in the four round tables, the maximum number of participants from each regional group shall be distributed as follows:
  - African States: 14 Member States
  - Asian States: 14 Member States
  - Eastern European States: 6 Member States
  - Latin American and Caribbean States: 9 Member States
  - Western Europe and other States: 7 Member States
15. A Member State which is not a member of any of the regional groups, the Holy See, in its capacity as Observer State and Palestine in its capacity as observer, may participate in any one of the round tables.



16. Inscriptions in the round tables shall be on a first-come, first-served basis, taking into account the maximum number for each regional group and on the understanding that the total number of Member States participating in each round table shall not exceed 50. Delegations that have not yet inscribed are encouraged to do so as soon as possible. Inscriptions for each round table can be made with the General Assembly Affairs Branch (room S-2940B; tel. 1 (212) 963-5063; fax 1 (212) 963-3783; email: heddachem@un.org).
17. Due to limited availability of space, access to the round tables will be on the basis of colour-coded passes. Each delegation shall be provided with four passes to the round table for which they have inscribed. Delegations that wish to observe roundtables for which they are not inscribed may do so in the public galleries of the Trusteeship Council and ECOSOC chambers (3<sup>rd</sup> floor) on a first-come, first-served basis.

#### Passes for Delegations

18. The United Nations Pass and ID Office on 45<sup>th</sup> Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue will be open for registration of delegates on the following days at the following times: **Thursday, 18 September 8am – 6pm; Friday, 19 September 8am - 6pm; Saturday, 20 September 10am - 6pm; Sunday, 21 September 10am - 8pm; Monday, 22 September 7am - 8pm.**
19. The United Nations Protocol and Liaison Service will authorize delegation passes, as well as VIP passes for Heads of State and Government and Cabinet Ministers. To facilitate the issuance of these passes, lists of delegations for the High-Level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs should be submitted to the Chief of Protocol (room S-201 or by fax: 1 (212) 963-1921) as soon as possible.

#### Overflow Room and Webcast

20. Conference Room 2 will serve as the “overflow room” to enable participants to follow proceedings of the opening plenary meeting.
21. Plenary meetings and the round tables will be transmitted by live Webcast.

#### Side-Events

22. A calendar of various events related to the high-level meeting is posted on the website of the President of the General Assembly <http://www.un.org/ga/president/62/ThematicDebates/adn/events.shtml>. Contact information for the organizers, as well as concept notes for each side event, are also available on the website.



# General Assembly

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## Sixty-third session

Item 60 (a) of the preliminary list\*

### **New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support**

## **Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward**

### **Report of the Secretary-General**

#### *Summary*

In its resolution 62/242, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the high-level meeting on Africa's development needs a comprehensive report on "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward". The present report is submitted in response to that request and constitutes the background document for the meeting.

The report seeks to highlight Africa's underlying development needs and challenges, including the lack of human and institutional capacity to design and implement sound policies and recurrent armed conflict. It reviews all main commitments made by the international community, including the United Nations, and by African countries, to address the continent's needs. In addition to analysing the state of implementation of commitments made by African States and institutions, the report considers the implementation of pledges made by international development partners in such key areas as international development assistance, debt relief and debt cancellation, trade liberalization and aid for trade, and peace and security. It also analyses the role of the United Nations in supporting the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development and assesses progress in reaching the Millennium Development Goals in Africa. The report concludes that meeting Africa's development needs is within reach, provided that African States and the international community act with determination to turn existing commitments into concrete actions. To that end, the report makes some practical recommendations to improve the international community's efforts to address Africa's development needs.

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\* A/63/50.



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## I. Introduction

1. In resolution 62/242, the General Assembly, recalling its resolutions 61/229 and 62/179, decided that the high-level meeting on the theme “Africa’s development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward” would be held on 22 September 2008. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the high-level meeting a comprehensive report on the theme of the meeting. The present report is submitted in response to that request.

2. Africa has recently been the focus of considerable international attention. It has been the subject of the majority of Security Council resolutions in recent times, and ranks high on the current priority lists of the United Nations development and humanitarian agencies, as well as those of the other multilateral organizations and specialized agencies such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and of the Group of Eight. More recently, there has been a new trend towards the organization of multilateral summits in support of Africa, such as the Forum for China-Africa Cooperation, the South America-Africa Summit, the fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, the European Union-Africa Summit, the India-Africa Forum, and the Turkey-Africa Summit.

3. Attention has become particularly focused on Africa as it becomes clear that progress on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals is off track on the continent. This year marks the midpoint in the global effort to achieve the Goals by 2015, but on the basis of current trends, no African country is likely to achieve all of them. Fragile and post-conflict countries face particular challenges in generating momentum to reduce poverty and advance on improving living standards. Success stories on individual Goals across a range of countries show, however, that rapid progress can be made when sound domestic policies are matched with substantial technical and financial support from the international community. It is particularly timely, then, for the General Assembly to devote a day to taking stock of Africa’s development needs in order to ensure that Africa’s efforts to address them are met with commitments to action by the international community.

4. Building on the momentum that is being generated by the world’s renewed attention to Africa and the bold initiatives of the continent’s leaders, the twenty-first century should be the African century. The high-level meeting on Africa’s development needs, and the high-level event on the Millennium Development Goals to be held on 25 September 2008, provide key opportunities to renew the political will to implement existing commitments to address Africa’s development needs. They also provide timely occasions for all stakeholders to announce commitments to tangible action in support of the achievement of the Goals in Africa.

5. The present report takes stock of Africa’s development needs and identifies actions that, if implemented, would ensure that these needs are addressed in the course of reaching the Millennium Development Goals and the internationally agreed development goals. The report is divided into three parts: first, it examines Africa’s development needs and challenges within the present global, regional and national contexts; second, it takes stock of the main commitments made by African countries and the international community to address these challenges; and third, it provides recommendations that could positively impact the continent’s



development. This report benefited from field consultations with the African Union (AU) Commission, the secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the secretariat of the African Peer Review Mechanism, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and OECD. The report also draws on the work of the MDG Africa Steering Group, which was first convened by the Secretary-General in September 2007 to catalyse, at the midpoint, more effective and efficient action by the international community in support of the Goals in Africa. Additionally, an inter-agency task force was convened to review and consult on the various stages of the preparation of the report.

## **II. Africa's development needs and challenges**

6. Africa is endowed with human and natural resources, environmental diversity, and cultural and archaeological richness. The region is a youthful continent with over 920 million people, of whom 60 per cent are under 25 years of age. The last decade witnessed the end of several long-running civil wars and the consolidation of democratic rule in a majority of States in the region. The resumption of growth in many African economies since the mid-1990s has been similarly noteworthy. In 2007, Africa's real growth averaged 5.8 per cent, a rate comparable to and even higher than those of many other developing regions. This growth rate is attributable not only to improvements in the continent's terms of trade resulting from higher commodity prices, including for oil, but also to improved macroeconomic management and political governance. Across the continent, rates of inflation are low, fiscal balances are strong and reserves are being accumulated. Recent external debt relief has contributed to a reduction in debt overhang and liquidity constraints, which has opened space for enhanced social spending.

7. Africa's vast potential is, however, far from being fully harnessed. The continent remains one of the poorest regions in the world with about two fifths of its population living on less than US\$ 1 a day. Despite strong overall economic performance in many countries, none are growing fast enough to make a substantial dent in their poverty numbers. In fact, at the midpoint for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, no country in Africa is on track to achieve all of them. In many economic dimensions, the continent is not realizing its potential. For instance, although the region represents 12 per cent of the world's population, it accounts for about 1 per cent of global gross domestic product (GDP) and 2 per cent of world trade. The region is also overrepresented in some undesirable areas: Africa is home to 75 per cent of the people infected with HIV/AIDS worldwide and 90 per cent of the annual deaths caused by malaria occur on the continent.

8. Africa is confronted by four key challenges: a global food crisis, profound climate change, soaring energy prices and persistent extreme poverty. High food prices are having a dramatic impact on African economies since most Africans, both rural and urban, are net purchasers of food. Some of the causes of the spike in prices, including high population growth rates, low agricultural productivity, limited access to technology and the impact of high oil prices on transport costs, are felt most acutely in Africa. As temperatures continue to rise, Africa's poor, who have contributed the least to global warming, are the most vulnerable to its adverse effects. The impact of climate change is already being felt in Africa. Rainfall patterns are changing, crops are wilting and pastoralists spend more time in search of water and grazing grounds. Climate change may alter patterns of agriculture and

trigger population displacement, which could have a significant negative impact on African economies.<sup>1</sup> Though Africa is the most severely affected by these challenges other regions, including the United States, Europe, India and Australia, are also being buffeted by droughts, floods, record commodity prices and stagnating growth. In this context, the well-being and interests of other regions are intimately tied to the satisfaction of Africa's development needs.

9. Violent conflict leads to loss of manpower, destruction of infrastructure, diversion of economic assets, misappropriation of natural resources and underperformance of foreign direct investment. In 1998, the Secretary-General's seminal report, "The causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa" (A/52/871-S/1998/318), highlighted the historical legacies, the combination of internal and external factors and the economic motives that lead to conflict and hamper development in Africa. The 2007 follow-up report of the Secretary-General (A/62/204) noted that the basic conditions required for sustained peace and development have yet to be adequately consolidated on the continent. Poverty, weak State institutions, poor management of natural resources, failure to protect human rights and threats related to climate change were persistent. In similar fashion, the Constitutive Act of the African Union acknowledges that the scourge of conflicts in Africa constitutes a major impediment to the socio-economic development of the continent.

10. The legacy of colonialism includes the loss of key human and natural resources and the demarcation of arbitrary borders, and an inhibited process of political and economic development. African leaders themselves have declared that these adverse consequences of colonialism should, however, not be used to absolve them from responsibility. Reflecting this view, the AU Constitutive Act and the NEPAD programme recognize that the impoverishment of the African continent was exacerbated by shortcomings in the policies pursued by many countries in the post-independence era.

11. Performance indicators suggest that actions taken by some African Governments have had a detrimental impact on the living conditions of their citizens. Some African countries have been characterized by overly personalized rule, excessive centralization of power and institutionalized corruption, which have in many cases severely undermined the prospects for economic growth and political stability. African Governments have, however, committed themselves to actively promote human rights, the rule of law and the consolidation of democracy by, for instance, subscribing to APRM and NEPAD.

12. Even as countries have educated and trained their people, many individuals who have benefited from such investment have contributed to the brain drain, thus depriving these countries of the requisite human capital for public and private management. The creation and retention of capacity for development should therefore be a high priority. Moreover, technical and vocational training in Africa is poorly funded and managed. Consequently, African countries face high youth

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<sup>1</sup> See World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF), *Global Monitoring Report 2008: MDGs and the Environment: Agenda for Inclusive and Sustainable Development*, 2008; *Africa's Development: Promises and Prospects*, report of the Africa Progress Panel, June 2008; or *Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa: recommendations of the MDG Africa Steering Group*, June 2008.

unemployment and a shortage of skills. Currently, in sub-Saharan Africa over 20 per cent of young people are unemployed.<sup>2</sup>

13. Although the international community has provided support for Africa's development, this assistance needs to be made more effective. In some cases, support programmes have not been adequately tailored to the needs and specificities of individual African countries. This has caused considerable strain on existing economic, social and political structures, as well as Africa's financial and human resources. These sectoral-level stresses were, in certain instances, intensified by macroeconomic structural adjustment programmes and their associated conditionalities which may have overly emphasized adjustment over development and social priorities, resulting in lower than expected rates of economic growth, industrialization and development.

### **III. Commitments and state of implementation**

14. Efforts by African States and institutions and by the international community towards meeting Africa's development needs have varied widely in terms of quality, quantity and effectiveness. At the midpoint of the campaign to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, critical reflection is appropriate and timely. In the following sections, progress on the implementation of the major commitments towards Africa's development needs is reviewed.

#### **A. Plans of action and progress by African States and institutions**

15. In July 2001, the thirty-seventh Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity formally adopted NEPAD as an integrated socio-economic development framework for Africa. NEPAD centres on African ownership and reflects African leaders' common vision and shared commitment to eradicating poverty and to placing their countries, both individually and collectively, on the path to sustainable growth and development. It also seeks to promote the role of women in all activities. More fundamentally, NEPAD was designed as the policy framework for achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa. The notion of partnership embedded in NEPAD is one of the strengths of the initiative. NEPAD places emphasis on collaboration between African Governments and their development partners, and between the Governments and their peoples, including the private sector and civil society. As a programme of AU, NEPAD establishes the conditions for sustainable development by ensuring peace and security, building democracy and good governance; engendering policy reforms and increased investments in priority sectors; and mobilizing resources for implementation.

16. As a programme of AU the underlying objectives of NEPAD are fourfold: first, to eradicate poverty in Africa and to place African countries on a path of sustainable growth so that the marginalization of the continent in the globalization process is halted; second, to promote the role of women in all activities; third, to achieve and sustain an average GDP growth rate of over 7 per cent per annum for the next 15 years; and finally, to ensure that the continent achieves the Millennium

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<sup>2</sup> See Economic Commission for Africa and African Union, *Economic Report on Africa 2005: Meeting the Challenges of Unemployment and Poverty in Africa*, 2005.

Development Goals. These commitments were reiterated at the NEPAD Review Summit held in Dakar, in April 2008.

17. The commitment to poverty eradication was strengthened with the adoption in 2004 of the Ouagadougou Declaration and Action Plan on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa. The 23 commitments set out in the Declaration include a pledge to develop integrated economic and social policies and effective reforms at national, regional and continental levels to address structural constraints to investment and entrepreneurship, promote private-public partnerships, encourage corporate social responsibility, and create an enabling environment for increased production and decent employment opportunities.

18. The commitments of African Governments to the promotion of the role of women have been expressed, inter alia, in the 1994 Dakar Platform for Action, the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the 2003 Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa of 2004 and the ongoing formulation of the African Union gender policy. However, only 23 countries have ratified the 2003 Protocol. Moreover, while the Solemn Declaration commits States to include the participation and representation of women in peacekeeping processes, implementation of the commitment has been rather limited. African States need to redouble their efforts to integrate the gender provisions into their national policies and expeditiously narrow the gender gap.

19. Africa has experienced record economic growth for the last four years. According to the *Economic Report on Africa 2008*,<sup>3</sup> in 2007 the continent registered 5.8 per cent GDP growth. Since 1994, Africa's growth has averaged nearly 5.0 per cent, considerably higher than the rate of less than 2 per cent that prevailed in the 1980s.<sup>4</sup> Nevertheless, African economies are still far from attaining the ambitious 7 per cent estimated growth threshold for meeting NEPAD objectives. Many African countries have made progress on poverty recently, with the proportion of the population in sub-Saharan Africa earning less than US\$ 1 per day falling from 45.5 per cent in 1993 to 41.1 per cent in 2004, for instance.<sup>5</sup>

20. The slow rate of overall progress in attaining the Millennium Development Goals is a serious cause for concern. The first joint meeting of the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in March/April 2008 acknowledged that the main constraints include delays in the implementation of national development plans and strategies and mobilization of adequate resources to scale up investments in key sectors for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In the Ministerial Statement adopted by the joint meeting, African countries reaffirmed their commitment to the full and timely realization of the Millennium Development Goals and called on their development partners, including the United Nations system, to support these efforts through enhanced financial and technical assistance. The joint meeting also identified key priorities and concrete actions to be taken in meeting the Goals, particularly in such areas as industry, climate change mitigation, infrastructure development and financing for development.

<sup>3</sup> Economic Commission for Africa and African Union, *Economic Report on Africa 2008: Africa and the Monterrey Consensus: Tracking Performance and Progress*, 2008.

<sup>4</sup> Derived from World Bank, *World Development Indicators Online*, 2008.

<sup>5</sup> World Bank, *World Development Indicators Online*, 2007.

21. NEPAD has identified strategic priority areas of action in agriculture, infrastructure, good governance, investment, health and education. In agriculture, commitments include: the 2003 Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme framework calling for 6 per cent agricultural growth rates; the 2003 Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa calling for 10 per cent of public expenditure to be devoted to agriculture and rural development by 2008; the 2004 Sirte Declaration on the Challenges of Implementing Integrated and Sustainable Development in Agriculture and Water in Africa, which contains 25 ambitious commitments including a reaffirmation of the ones made through the Programme and in the Maputo Declaration; and the 2006 resolution of the Abuja Food Security Summit. Progress is being made in implementing the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme framework with the conclusion of regional compacts through the regional economic communities (RECs). Also, in the context of the current food crisis, AU/NEPAD adopted in March 2008 an ambitious Framework for African Food Security which encompasses immediate, medium-term and long-term priorities to increase food supply. The latest AU figures show that only six countries have reached the Maputo target of 10 per cent of the national budget allocated to agriculture. Similarly, according to AU, only 11 countries have fulfilled the commitment on agriculture growth rates contained in the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme.

22. In the area of infrastructure, the major commitments were expressed in the NEPAD blueprint, which proposes a programme that includes increased investment both in maintenance and in new infrastructure, new regulatory frameworks and the promotion of public-private partnerships. The implementation of these commitments has been mixed. On the positive side, coordination has improved at the national level and for cross-border projects. Indeed, many countries have prepared strategic frameworks for road transport. In addition, in 2005, African countries and institutions supported the establishment of the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa, which will strengthen the NEPAD Short-Term Action Plan and the Medium- to Long-Term Strategic Framework. Furthermore, a Coordination Mechanism for the Development of Infrastructure in Africa was adopted in 2006 by AU, NEPAD, regional economic communities and the African Development Bank, in order to forge a common agenda for the promotion of Africa's infrastructure development. Nevertheless, constraints exist. According to the MDG Africa Steering Group, the continent has tangible limitations in transformational energy generation projects, including large-scale hydropower and transmission networks, and in infrastructure maintenance.

23. The AU commitments to good governance have been expressed on several occasions, commencing with the 2000 Lomé summit of the Organization of African Unity, which adopted the AU Constitutive Act, and the AU inaugural summit in Durban, South Africa, in 2002. African States have also adopted governance initiatives, including the 2001 NEPAD blueprint for conditions for sustainable development in Africa; the 2002 Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance; the 2003 African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption; the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, which came into force in 2004; and the 2007 African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance. In the NEPAD programme, African States specifically pledged to reform administrative and civil services, strengthen parliamentary

oversight, promote participatory decision-making, adopt effective measures to combat corruption and undertake judicial reforms.

24. African States have established the African Peer Review Mechanism, a self-monitoring instrument to promote good governance in the continent. The programme benefits from strong technical and financial support from its strategic partners, ECA, UNDP and the African Development Bank. To date 29 countries have acceded to the African Mechanism, 14 have established national self-assessment structures and 7 have been peer-reviewed (Algeria, Benin, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa and Uganda). Although the Mechanism should be commended for its credibility and rigour, some limitations still exist. First, it needs a stronger connection to two key constituencies: the citizens in whose name it is being undertaken, through outreach by Government, media and civil society, and to the wider African and international community. Second, the political will may be lacking in certain African countries to act upon the recommendations drawn up by the African Mechanism to ensure that the extraordinary opportunities created by the Mechanism are not missed. The peer-review exercise needs to be followed up with concrete political actions. Greater awareness of the Mechanism and its process among both civil society and the private sector would increase pressure on Governments to deliver on promises and plans. There is, therefore, a need for these actors to engage in an active dialogue and to take a proactive role in the implementation of the Mechanism and of NEPAD in general.

25. Creating a conducive environment for private-sector investment is crucial for sustainable growth and development. The NEPAD blueprint underlines the importance of increasing private capital flows to Africa and identifies priorities including efforts to address misperceptions of risk, building private-public partnerships and deepening capital markets. Another concrete action taken to develop the private sector is the decision by AU at the 2005 Abuja summit to institutionalize the African Private Sector Forum. This important platform for dialogue between the private sector and policymakers provides an opportunity for actors to exchange views on ways to enhance business activities. The report of the MDG Africa Steering Group of June 2008 also highlights the private sector as an essential contributor to the achievement of sustained growth and the Millennium Development Goals through its core function of creating economic value, delivering targeted investments and services through public-private partnerships, and providing critical co-financing in infrastructure and other public investments. According to the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation, many African countries have implemented important reforms such as simplifying business regulations, strengthening property rights, easing tax burdens, increasing access to credit and reducing the cost of exporting and importing. As a result, the “cost of business start-up procedures” as a percentage of gross national income (GNI) per capita has fallen from 260.1 in 2003 to 148.1 in 2007.<sup>4</sup> Remarkable increases in net private capital flows have been recorded, including foreign direct investment (FDI), commercial bank debt and portfolio flows, from \$13 billion in 2002 to over \$60 billion in 2006. Though still small in comparison to other regions, net inflows of FDI as a percentage of GDP have increased from 0.1 in 1980 to 2.0 and 2.4 in 2000 and 2006, respectively.<sup>4</sup>

26. African countries have also made important commitments in the health sector. First, they have pledged to increase health budgets to 15 per cent of public expenditure. This goal was set out in the 2001 Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS,

Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases, followed up by the 2003 Maputo Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria and Other Related Infectious Diseases, and reaffirmed by the AU health ministers at the Abuja summit in 2006. To date, however, only six countries have reached this goal. Second, in the Abuja Declaration African Governments expressed their commitment to making the fight against HIV/AIDS a top priority of national development. There is a positive record in this regard: most of the African countries have set up national authorities to coordinate the fight against HIV/AIDS and have introduced a strategic framework of action, a third have created national monitoring and evaluation systems and 43 per cent have set up coordinating authorities at a subnational level. Moreover, the Abuja Declaration commits States to introduce a national strategy for tuberculosis. To date, 18 countries have declared tuberculosis a national emergency and implemented special action plans to accelerate control. Finally, the 2000 Abuja Declaration and the Plan of Action on Roll Back Malaria include the commitment of African leaders to catalyse actions at the regional level to ensure implementation, monitoring and management of Roll Back Malaria, a programme launched in 1998 by the World Bank and various United Nations agencies. However, progress has been slow in establishing regional policies to fight malaria and according to the World Health Organization (WHO) between 700,000 and 1.3 million people die of malaria every year in sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>6</sup> These commitments have been incorporated into the recent AU Health Strategy 2007-2015, whose objective is to contribute to Africa's socio-economic development by improving the health of its people by 2015.

27. Education is another key priority within the continent, reflected in the adoption of the two action plans on the first (1997-2006) and Second (2006-2015) Decades of Education for Africa. The evaluation by AU of the first Decade, which focused on equity and access to basic education; quality, relevance and effectiveness of education; complementary learning modalities; and capacity-building, revealed that most of the goals set in the action plan were not achieved. For the Second Decade of Education, the action plan makes bolder commitments, including developing functional national educational management information systems, raising educational achievement (access, quality, efficiency, relevance) and attaining full gender equality in primary and secondary education. According to the plan, the regional economic communities shall evaluate each country plan for alignment with the continental plan and shall also monitor implementation of country plans.

## **B. Commitments and progress by the international community**

28. As African leaders have articulated, the primary responsibility for Africa's development rests with Africans themselves. Their efforts have, however, been strongly supported by international partners. NEPAD and the Millennium Development Goals provide the shared blueprints around which African countries, together with the United Nations, international development partners and South partners, have aligned their efforts to advance Africa's development. This section discusses the role these international partners are playing to address the continent's needs, in conjunction with Africa's Governments.

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<sup>6</sup> WHO, *The Africa Malaria Report 2006*.

**United Nations support to Africa's development**

29. The contribution of the United Nations to African development ranges from policy research and analysis to the provision of various forms of financing, support, technical assistance, capacity- and institution-building, advocacy and humanitarian relief. Over the years, the United Nations has focused its contribution to Africa's development needs on two priority areas of action: support to NEPAD and the Millennium Development Goals.

**United Nations support to the African Union and its NEPAD programme**

30. The terms of the commitment of the United Nations to NEPAD are laid out in General Assembly resolution 57/7 in which the United Nations pledges to support the implementation of NEPAD through a variety of actions including enhanced advocacy, technical cooperation for capacity-building, mobilization of resources, monitoring and reporting of development activities and strengthened coordination in the delivery of the programmes. Building on these commitments over the years, the United Nations has shown strong resolve to support NEPAD, as demonstrated by the alignment of its priorities with those of NEPAD, the provision of technical and financial support for the development of various New Partnership for Africa's Development projects and the initiation of the Regional Consultations Mechanism. The Mechanism was established in 2002 to coordinate United Nations system-wide support to NEPAD at the regional and subregional levels. ECA is the strategic coordinator of the Mechanism and the convener of the annual regional consultation meetings. The Mechanism is organized around nine thematic clusters covering the priority areas of NEPAD. Since the 2003 Maputo Declaration on the integration of NEPAD into the structures and processes of AU, United Nations support for African development has reflected AU priorities.

31. The Regional Consultations Mechanism process is a compelling architecture of cooperation. In the last several years, coordination of the clusters has improved and the focus of cluster activities has sharpened. In addition, there is increased participation by the AU Commission, the NEPAD secretariat, the African Development Bank and regional economic communities in the Regional Consultations Mechanism. The AU Commission and the NEPAD secretariat now co-chair meetings of RCM and clusters. However, the Mechanism's cluster system needs to be refined and further aligned with AU programmes and priorities. Furthermore, the cluster system needs to mainstream adequately the gender, health, culture and regional integration priorities of AU and its NEPAD programme. In terms of accountability, the Mechanism needs to enhance the implementation of recommendations and to systematically monitor and evaluate outcomes and their impacts. There is a need for increased commitment and institutional leadership at the highest level, as well as the provision of sufficient dedicated resources. The secretariat, located at ECA, also needs to be strengthened. Nevertheless, overall, the Regional Consultations Mechanism process is an effective architecture to support AU and its NEPAD programme. Its cluster nature is a tangible indication of the efforts of the United Nations to coordinate its support in a manner coherent with the AU priorities. Work is currently ongoing to enhance the function of RCM with a view to accelerating the implementation of NEPAD and the cooperation programme between the United Nations and the African Union.



32. The 10-year capacity-building programme, signed in 2006, between the African Union and the United Nations provides the appropriate framework for the United Nations to assist in building the capacity of the African Union. It reflects their joint commitment to further solidify the already productive partnership between the two organizations.

33. At the global level, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa strategically coordinates global advocacy and support for NEPAD. The Office marshals increased international support and improved coherence and coordination of United Nations system support to Africa. More generally, it raises international awareness of Africa's development needs.

### **Internationally agreed development goals**

34. The internationally agreed development goals and the Millennium Development Goals provide a globally endorsed framework to address the four crises facing Africa through the pursuit of sustainable development. Since their articulation at the 2000 Millennium Summit of the United Nations, the Millennium Development Goals have become the world's agreed time-bound and quantified sustainable development targets aimed at addressing extreme poverty in its many dimensions — income poverty, hunger, disease, lack of adequate shelter and exclusion — while promoting gender equality, education and environmental sustainability. They also embody basic human rights: the rights of each person on the planet to health, education and security. Together with the other internationally agreed development goals, the Millennium Development Goals represent an ambitious, but feasible, guide for domestic and international efforts to alleviate extreme poverty in Africa by 2015. The Millennium Development Goals are Africa's goals and they are the world's goals. In the 2005 World Summit Outcome, Member States and the United Nations demonstrated their commitment to ensure the full and timely realization of the Goals. On numerous subsequent occasions, the United Nations and Member States have underlined their aim to galvanize international support for the Goals. The Millennium Development Goals have also been incorporated in the NEPAD treaty and the African Peer Review Mechanism. Indeed, they form the basis of almost all poverty reduction strategy papers, although many of these set objectives that go even further than the Millennium Development Goals.

35. Implementation remains the key challenge in translating poverty reduction strategies into real progress on the Millennium Development Goals. The United Nations system has sought to support African countries' efforts to implement their poverty reduction strategies through a variety of means. Little debate remains over key concepts, but the aid still is deficient. The challenge is now follow-through and ensuring coherence among various initiatives.

### **MDG Africa Steering Group**

36. To galvanize support in achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa, the Secretary-General launched the MDG Africa Steering Group in September 2007. The main objectives and commitments of the Steering Group are first, to draw up practical proposals to complement and support the activities related to the Millennium Development Goals by quantifying assistance needs, strengthening international mechanisms, resolving bottlenecks in existing

mechanisms and filling gaps; second, to identify practical steps to improve aid predictability; third, to enhance support at the country level towards improving policies for scaling up interventions to achieve the Millennium Development Goals; and fourth, strengthening the statistical capacities of African countries to monitor progress. The Group, which features an unprecedented level of collaboration among the leaders of the international development community engaged in Africa, has recently agreed on a set of concrete recommendations which, if fully implemented, could effectively advance Africa's development.

37. The endorsement of the Steering Group's recommendations by the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Sharm El-Sheik, Egypt, on 30 June and 1 July 2008, represents an important milestone towards the implementation of an effective action plan for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Africa. The Secretary-General invites all development partners to contribute to their effective implementation.

38. *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2007* published by the United Nations indicates that progress in the majority of countries in Africa is off track for achievement of the Goals by 2015. While the proportion of people living on US\$ 1 dollar a day or less has declined from 45.9 per cent of Africa's populace in 1999 to 41.1 per cent in 2004,<sup>5</sup> achievement of Goal 1, which calls for extreme poverty to be cut in half by 2015, requires that the current pace of poverty reduction be nearly doubled. Although economic growth since 1995 has been considerable in Africa, this varies considerably across countries. For example, some 26 African countries, representing 78 per cent and 70 per cent of sub-Saharan Africa's GDP and population, respectively, experienced an average annual GDP growth of 6.9 per cent over the last decade.<sup>7</sup> Yet one third of African countries achieved average growth of only 2.1 per cent over the same period.<sup>8</sup>

39. African economies are expected to grow by an average of 6.2 per cent in 2008,<sup>3</sup> in spite of a slowing world economy. However, attaining the Millennium Development Goals would require that the high growth be sustained, while concurrently improving the rate at which the growth is transformed into human development. The primary responsibility for achieving the Goals, as reflected in the MDG Africa Steering Group report, remains with African Governments, which are putting in place comprehensive programmes. Their leadership is fundamental to overcoming the major impediments to attaining the Millennium Development Goals, such as climate change, infrastructure bottlenecks and rising inequality.<sup>3</sup> The special circumstances of post-conflict economies require particular attention.<sup>9</sup> These difficulties should not, however, overshadow the fact that a number of African countries are indeed on track to meet some of the Millennium Development Goals.

40. Notwithstanding dramatic increases in the number of school-age children, universal primary education enrolment rates have increased substantially, from 57 per cent in 1999 to 70 per cent in 2005, largely in response to policy measures, such as free primary education policies, school feeding programmes and capitation grants, aimed at reducing financial barriers to education. However, educational

<sup>7</sup> Derived from World Bank, World Development Indicators database.

<sup>8</sup> World Bank and International Monetary Fund, *Global Monitoring Report 2008: MDGs and the Environment*, 2008.

<sup>9</sup> See *Post-Conflict Economies in Africa*, A. K. Fosu and P. Collier (eds.) (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005).

quality has suffered as investments in education-related inputs, including infrastructure, human resources training and retention, have lagged behind the pace of enrolment. Thus, there is a need to intensify efforts to improve both education enrolment and quality.

41. In terms of gender equality, the share of parliamentary seats held by women in Africa has increased significantly, from 7 per cent in 1990 to 17 per cent in 2007. Yet, the share of women in non-agricultural wage employment has increased only from 28 to 32 per cent from 1990 to 2005.

42. Child mortality rates dropped from 185 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 166 per 1,000 in 2005, well short of the objective of a two-thirds reduction by 2015. However, the proportion of 1-year-old children immunized against measles in sub-Saharan Africa has risen significantly from 49 per cent in 1999 to 64 per cent by the end of 2005. In North Africa progress is even more noteworthy, the proportion increasing from 85 per cent in 1990 to 95 per cent in 2005.

43. Particularly worrying are the 1:16 odds that a sub-Saharan African woman will die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth during her life, compared to 1:3,800 in the developed world. The proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel in sub-Saharan Africa has increased minimally, from 42 per cent in 1990 to 45 per cent in 2005, though the rate of increase in North Africa has been remarkable — from 40 per cent to 75 per cent — during the same period.

44. The continent is lagging behind on the objective of combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. The number of people living with AIDS in Africa in 2007 was estimated to be between 21 and 24 million. Every year, there are an estimated 1.7 million new infections. Southern Africa is a particularly hard-hit area. It has 65 per cent of all HIV/AIDS cases in the world and in some countries over 20 per cent of the population is infected. However, three African countries have achieved universal access to antiretroviral treatment.

45. Regarding environmental sustainability, only 42 per cent of the people in rural areas had access to clean water in 2004 and 63 per cent of the entire population lacked access to basic sanitation facilities. The continent is still far from the target of cutting this proportion in half by 2015. Also, with the rapid extension of cities, 62 per cent of the African urban population lives in slum conditions, the world's largest proportion.

46. Finally, Goal 8 calls for the development of an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system. The full assessment of Goal 8 is presented in section III.B below on commitments and progress by the international community.

### **System-wide coherence**

47. The complex nature of the development problems facing Africa requires a harmonized and coordinated effort by the various funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system in the region. This need for a comprehensive response to global poverty was the primary message conveyed by the United Nations Millennium Declaration. The report of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment (see A/61/583) also called for a coherent development system which would unify and integrate the work

of the Organization. The pre-evaluation in 2008 of the “Delivering as one” pilot programmes, a strategy that calls for simplification and harmonization of all United Nations activities devoted to each country in one country programme and one budgetary framework, shows that national ownership and leadership are being strengthened and alignment with national policies and strategies is more explicit. Of the eight pilot programmes under “Delivering as one”, one half are in Africa (Cape Verde, Mozambique, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania). Meanwhile, the Regional Consultations Mechanism, involving United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa, provides a framework for “delivering as one” at the regional and subregional levels in support of the African Union and its NEPAD programme.

48. Although the United Nations is on the right track to deliver on the promises made by the United Nations Millennium Declaration, there is still a long road ahead. There is a tendency in the United Nations to support a proliferation of Africa-related activities which creates incoherence and sub-optimal use of scarce resources. For example, more than 30 United Nations organizations deal with the crucial issue of sustainable development and at least three major organizations focus on agriculture and food security. There is certainly a need for rationalization and coordination of these activities for maximum efficiency, effectiveness and sustained impact.

#### **International development partners**

49. The 2000 United Nations Millennium Declaration included a section on Africa’s development needs, wherein Member States pledged to assist African Governments in their struggle for lasting peace, poverty eradication and sustainable development. Two years later, in Johannesburg, South Africa, participants in the World Summit on Sustainable Development agreed on a wide range of bold commitments and implementation plans in areas such as water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture, and biodiversity and ecosystem management. Also in 2002, the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, became the major reference point for international development cooperation. The 2005 World Summit Outcome similarly reaffirmed the international community’s commitment to address the special needs of Africa and called for timetables to implement scaled-up development assistance. Since the Group of 8 summit in Kananaskis, Canada, in 2002, where development partners adopted the Africa Action Plan, the special needs of the continent have featured in all annual Group of 8 summits. In 2003, the Group of 8 also agreed to establish the Africa Partnership Forum, tasked with monitoring implementation of their commitments, as well as those made by other donors and African Governments themselves.

50. The following section reviews and assesses the progress of the major commitments made by the international community in the following four areas: (a) international development assistance; (b) debt relief and debt cancellation; (c) trade liberalization and aid for trade; and (d) peace and security. The development of the continent presupposes a multifaceted and integrated approach. These four avenues are critical to accomplishing that objective.

### International development assistance

51. The aid system today is characterized by stronger national ownership, expanded use of national capacity, increased use of budget support and some limited predictability in aid flows. Official development assistance (ODA) is increasingly performance based and results oriented. In addition, non-State actors such as private foundations, international NGOs and new bilateral donors have gained considerable influence. This new context was promoted in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which pledged to create an environment conducive to development and to the elimination of poverty. It was materialized later by the deliberations of three landmark conferences. First, in 2002, States adopted the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development, which identifies the means for ensuring the availability of sufficient financial resources to reach the goals set by the major United Nations conferences and summits. Second, in 2003, heads of development institutions adopted the Rome Declaration on Harmonization, which commits participating institutions to simplifying and harmonizing their requirements as well as reducing associated costs, while improving fiduciary oversight and public accountability and enhancing the focus on concrete development results. Finally, the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness committed the signatories to continuing their efforts towards improving harmonization and alignment. Given this background, a review of the main commitments and an assessment of their implementation is fundamental. The current report focuses on three pivotal areas: financing for development, quantity of aid and quality of aid.

52. On financing for development, according to the *Economic Report on Africa 2008*,<sup>3</sup> the evidence on implementation of the Monterrey Consensus commitments suggests that substantial progress has been made in the area of external debt relief (see below). However, there has been very limited progress in such areas as mobilizing both domestic and international financial resources for development, promoting international trade as an engine of development, increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development and addressing systemic issues. As the Secretary-General observed in his report on the follow-up to and implementation of the Monterrey Consensus (A/62/190), remittances have become an increasingly important source of finance for heavily indebted poor countries. In 2006, recorded remittances in Africa reached \$22 billion, equivalent to about one half of ODA to the region. While important, they do not support the public investments needed to reach the Millennium Development Goals.

53. Aid to Africa increased from 1960 to reach a first peak in 1990 of \$33.4 billion (at 2005 prices and exchange rates). However, the share of aid to Africa in the 1990s declined, before picking up again after 1999, as Africa became the focus of the international donor community. According to OECD, aid to Africa rose to about 41 per cent of total aid in 2006, reaching a record \$43.4 billion and representing an increase of \$6.9 billion in real terms over 2005 levels and a nominal \$12.4 billion increase over 2004 amounts. Most of the increase was, however, due to debt relief. ODA, net of debt relief, rose by 8 per cent between 2005 and 2006 compared with the 41 per cent increase in non-adjusted aid inclusive of debt relief. Despite this upward trend in ODA, donors are falling behind their commitments. According to OECD, donors “will need to achieve unprecedented increases”<sup>10</sup> in order to deliver

<sup>10</sup> Statement from the OECD-DAC issued in April 2008, cited in *Africa's Development: Promises and Perspectives*, p. 15.

on the commitment made at the G-8 summit at Gleneagles, United Kingdom, in 2005 to more than double aid to Africa in real terms. This emblematic initiative was recognized by the High-level Panel on Financing for Development, the Monterrey Consensus, the reports of the United Nations Millennium Project, the report of the Commission for Africa,<sup>11</sup> and the 2005 World Summit. The 2005 Group of 8 summit agreed most emphatically to double ODA to Africa by 2010 which, according to OECD and the MDG Africa Steering Group, presupposes raising aid flows from \$29 billion in 2004 to \$54 billion in 2010 (at constant 2004 prices). At 2007 prices and exchange rates, this comes to about \$62 billion. With the further decline in the United States dollar in 2008 the Gleneagles commitment would now be worth even more in nominal terms, which makes the extra effort that will be required to achieve the Gleneagles commitment in 2010 that much more substantial.

54. The Monterrey Consensus also reaffirmed the target, first articulated in 1970, to raise aid volumes to the equivalent of 0.7 per cent of donors' GNI. The 2005 World Summit Outcome called upon countries to identify timetables for reaching this goal. In the European Consensus on Development, adopted in 2005, the European Union (EU) agreed to a collective interim target of ODA equivalent to 0.56 per cent of GNI by 2010 and a long-term target of ODA equivalent to 0.7 per cent of GNI by 2015. In the same document, EU promised to increase its financial assistance to sub-Saharan Africa and to provide at least 50 per cent of the increase of ODA resources to the continent. It also emphasized that the least developed countries and low-income countries would be given priority in terms of overall resource allocations under the Programme of Action for the Least Developed countries for the Decade 2001-2010. Despite its commitments, EU aid decreased slightly, from 47.7 billion euros (€) in 2006 (corresponding to 0.41 per cent of EU GNI) to €46 billion in 2007 (equivalent to 0.38 per cent). Currently, five countries meet the 0.7 per cent target. EU is, however, broadly on track to achieve its ODA commitments, especially those directly focused on Africa. In 2006, EU gave 62 per cent of its bilateral, regionally allocated aid to Africa, up from 51 per cent in 2005, and it provided more than one half of the global aid flows to the region.

55. There are, however, lags in the implementation of the landmark commitments on aid quality, effectiveness and coordination made in the Rome and Paris Declarations. The pledges were reaffirmed by the Group of 8 at the Gleneagles summit, including enhancing efforts to untie aid. A major factor often cited as contributing to aid ineffectiveness is indeed the lack of coherence among the various objectives of the numerous donors, and a failure to reconcile these with the needs, priorities and preferences of the countries receiving assistance.<sup>12</sup> The sectoral distribution of aid is also greatly influenced by donors' preferences and the different criteria applied to them. According to the latest OECD figures, only 42 per cent of country aid flows were aligned to the national priorities of developing countries in 2006, 41 per cent of aid was released according to agreed schedules, 18 per cent of aid was still tied and only 35 per cent of aid was programme based.<sup>13</sup> EU is,

<sup>11</sup> *Our Common Interest: Report of the Commission for Africa*, March 2005.

<sup>12</sup> United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), *Economic Development in Africa: Doubling Aid, Making the "Big Push" Work* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.II.D.10).

<sup>13</sup> Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, *2006 Survey on Monitoring the Paris Declaration: Overview of the Results*, also published as *OECD Journal on Development*, vol. 8, No. 2 (2007).

however, well placed to meet all Paris commitments by 2010. In 2007, EU adopted a Code of Conduct on Division of Labour in Development Policy with 11 guiding principles, which is meant to reduce overlap by donors across and within countries.

56. Owing to the shift in the allocation of aid over the years, away from productive activities in favour of social sectors, there is a need to ensure that the recent emphasis on the social sectors does not lead to a neglect of infrastructure and productive sectors, which are important to stimulate growth, generate employment and reduce poverty. Concerning mutual accountability, there is concern in the African region that while Governments have strengthened their accountability to donors, they need to be more accountable to their domestic constituents; this undermines genuine national ownership of the development process. Finally, recent flows to Africa are concentrated in a few countries and the recent increase of ODA is not evenly distributed.

### **Debt relief and debt cancellation**

57. The Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative was launched in 1996 by the World Bank and IMF and later enhanced to provide debt relief to low-income countries in order to reduce external debt repayments to sustainable levels. The international community has since adopted key commitments on debt relief and debt cancellation for African countries that extend this support further. The United Nations Millennium Declaration included a commitment to cancel all official bilateral debts of heavily indebted poor countries in return for their demonstrable commitments to poverty reduction. At Gleneagles, the Group of 8 agreed to cancel all debts owed by eligible heavily indebted poor countries to the International Development Association (IDA), IMF and the African Development Fund. To realize this objective, Governments agreed to supplement the enhanced HIPC Initiative with the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) under which eligible IDA, IMF and the African Development Fund debt are cancelled when countries reach their enhanced HIPC completion point. As highlighted by the World Summit Outcome and the report of the Secretary-General on recent developments in external debt (A/62/151), debt sustainability is essential for growth and to free resources for the achievement of national development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

58. Notable progress has been achieved in recent years on debt relief. As of July 2008, 19 African countries had reached their enhanced HIPC completion points, 8 remained in the interim period between the decision and completion points, and 6 countries had not yet reached their decision points. In addition, the Group of 8 proposal to cancel multilateral debts is on track and, at present, 19 African countries have received MDRI debt reductions. Consequently, Africa's official debt to Governments and multilateral institutions declined to \$144.5 billion in 2007 from \$205.7 billion in 1999. However, private debt owed to banks and other private creditors by African nations rose from \$92.4 billion in 1999 to \$110.2 billion last year. Despite the noteworthy record on debt relief so far, African countries are still justifiably concerned that the slow progress of some countries towards their enhanced HIPC completion points underscores the need for increased international support for the implementation of poverty reduction strategies and streamlined conditionality in the application of completion-point triggers. Extended enhanced HIPC interim periods also highlight the need for creditors to provide additional interim flow relief to debtor countries as expeditiously as possible, and the urgent

need to ensure that all creditors, especially private creditors, deliver on their burden-sharing obligations. Otherwise, enhanced HIPC countries will be limited in their ability to free resources for vital development projects.

### **Trade liberalization and Aid for Trade**

59. The Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations, dubbed the “Development Round”, stands at a critical juncture. With the target date initially set for the end of 2007 and later postponed, the Round has been punctuated by clear divergences of interests among the 151 members of the World Trade Organization (WTO). At the 2005 World Summit, Member States pledged to promote a universal, rule-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under goal 8. They also committed themselves to implement the development dimensions of the Doha work programme. At Gleneagles in 2005, G-8 also pledged to work with greater urgency to bring the WTO negotiations to a close by 2006, with substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support and improvements in market access. At the 2006 summit in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, G-8 countries also agreed to reduce domestic support for agriculture and eliminate all forms of agricultural export subsidies by 2013, subject to successful conclusion of the Doha Round. In practice, however, this has been difficult to accomplish. The Sixth Ministerial Conference of WTO held in December 2005 in Hong Kong, China, failed to reach agreement on liberalization modalities on agriculture and non-agricultural market access, despite modest progress attained in some areas. Although 2007 saw some progress in negotiations, the completion of the Round requires an agreement in early autumn 2008 on modalities for reducing agricultural tariffs and subsidies as well as industrial tariffs, and a commensurate level of progress in all other areas as part of a single undertaking. From the perspective of African countries, the negotiations still have to deal conclusively with the twin issues of sensitive and special products in the agriculture chapter. Altogether, since 2001, EU, the United States, Japan and Canada have spent more than \$750 billion on agricultural subsidies. There is thus still a long way to go before reaching the 2013 target.

60. In December 2005, the Sixth Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong, China, also created a new WTO work programme on Aid for Trade. A task force produced a set of recommendations, endorsed in 2006, that gave a monitoring role to WTO. These initiatives were a follow-up to the commitment made by the Group of 8 at Gleneagles in 2005 to increase assistance to developing countries to build the physical, human and institutional capacity to trade, including through trade facilitation measures. In particular, the Group of 8 anticipated expenditure on “Aid for Trade” in developing countries to increase to \$4 billion by 2010. In the follow-up to these commitments, in 2008, WTO adopted an Aid for Trade road map, which sets objectives on increasing developing country ownership of aid for trade; shifting emphasis to monitoring implementation, with a focus on country, regional and sectoral priorities; and launching a work programme to develop performance indicators and strengthen self-evaluations. The Aid for Trade progress review that was jointly organized by ECA, the African Development Bank, and WTO in the United Republic of Tanzania in November 2007 concluded that Africa’s economic systems are often not competitive, making it harder to export reliably, efficiently and competitively into global markets. Adverse geography is often compounded by fragmented infrastructure, inefficient institutions, over-regulation, unreliable supply chains and a weak services sector.



61. According to OECD, the Group of 8 spent a combined \$1,130,000,000 on Aid for Trade in sub-Saharan Africa in 2005, of which \$845 million were allocated to infrastructure and \$285 million to trade policy, regulations and trade development. This represents an increase of Aid for Trade spending in Africa by 39 per cent from its 2004 level of \$814 million. Although the Group of 8 seems to be on track to meet its 2010 target, its initial commitment is far from sufficient to meet the current trade-related technical assistance needs of Africa. For example, the 2008 report of the MDG Africa Steering Group estimates that \$52.2 billion per year will be required in public and private investment finance to resolve the critical infrastructure bottlenecks in Africa.

62. Regional cooperation and integration among developing countries has the potential to support national development strategies and fill some of the gaps in the global economic governance system. African leaders have thus committed themselves to establishing a continent-wide economic and monetary union by 2028. Progress has been slow, however. According to the 2007 audit of AU, regional economic communities, which are expected to serve as building blocks in the integration process, have been constrained by a number of factors, particularly overlapping memberships, insufficient cooperation between regional economic communities and lack of coordination and harmonization at the continental level. Currently, intraregional trade accounts for less than 10 per cent of the continent's total external trade. This situation is now complicated by the economic partnership agreements being negotiated between groupings of African countries with EU. The fact that interim Agreements have been signed with individual African countries and also with groups of African countries without paying particular attention to existing regional economic communities will slow down or unravel the regional integration agenda in the continent. As a result, increased attention is needed to ensure that bilateral trade agreements do not undermine regional and multilateral trade liberalization and enhanced market access for African countries.

### **Peace and security**

63. The Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, signed in Nigeria in 1991, argues that the promotion of a peaceful environment is a prerequisite for economic development. The international donor community has pledged technical and financial resources to assist African Governments in their commitments to eradicate violent conflicts. In 2002, the G-8 Kananaskis summit adopted an Africa Action Plan containing the commitment to provide technical and financial assistance to the African peace and security architecture. The Plan was reiterated and extended at the Group of 8 summits in Evian, France (2003), Sea Island, United States (2004) and Gleneagles (2005). At Sea Island, leaders reiterated the commitment to train and equip 75,000 troops to take part in peace support operations worldwide, with a sustained focus on Africa, by 2010. At Gleneagles, participants pledged to train 25,000 African peacekeepers and also committed to provide coordinated technical assistance to the African Standby Force. The 2005 World Summit Outcome similarly committed States Members of the United Nations to develop a 10-year plan for capacity-building with AU. In late 2007, African and European leaders adopted the Joint Africa-EU Strategy and Action Plan whereby EU expressed its commitment to provide continued support for AU in its efforts to operationalize, in cooperation with relevant African regional organizations, the African Peace and Security

Architecture, including through long-term capacity-building for the various structures provided therein.

64. Overall, these commitments have led to tangible results. In November 2006, the United Nations and AU signed a declaration entitled “Enhancing United Nations-African Union Cooperation: Framework for the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union” (A/61/630, annex), which, in harmony with the views of AU, puts its emphasis on security issues. The commitments of the United Nations under the Framework are currently being delivered through, inter alia, the Regional Consultations Mechanism (cluster on peace and security) and progress is marked in the area of training and mediation. The Group of 8 is equally on track to fulfil its commitments. Although the overall assistance to the African security architecture is often pursued by States members of the Group of 8 on an unharmonized and ad hoc basis, they are well on the way to meeting the peacekeeping training commitments, with the United States alone expected to train at least 75,000 troops in Africa by 2010 through the African Contingency Operations Training and Assistance Programme. According to AU, in 2007, the organization received \$250.6 million from international partners in support of its peace and security activities. Despite this progress, most aid remains devoted to peacekeeping or peace-enforcement missions, rather than conflict prevention or post-war reconstruction. As noted by the 2007 audit of AU, the road map for the operationalization of the AU Early Warning System has not yet been implemented, and the early warning mechanisms of the regional economic communities are at different stages of development and in most cases not yet operational. Finally, EU is equally making strong political and financial commitments to support the African Peace and Security Architecture. EU assistance is based on the African Peace Facility, which is used to support African-led peace support operations and to promote capacity-building of the African security architecture. From 2005 to 2007, the African Peace Facility transferred €250 million in support of the Architecture, with the promise of a further €300 million over the next three years (2008-2010).

#### **IV. South-South cooperation**

65. An increase in South-South cooperation involving economic and technical cooperation among developing and middle-income countries has come about in recent years. In 2005, the World Summit Outcome recognized the achievements and great potential of South-South cooperation and encouraged the promotion of this collaboration. In the same year, leaders of the South adopted the Doha Plan of Action at the Second South Summit, following up on the Havana Programme of Action of 2000. The Plan of Action contains over 100 commitments in the areas of globalization, knowledge and technology, South-South cooperation and North-South relations.

66. Some progress has been achieved in realizing these commitments. In the past two decades, the growth in trade between developing countries has been much higher than global trade, so that by 2006, South-South trade represented 46 per cent of total exports of developing countries.<sup>14</sup> Across Africa, more countries are forging new relations with their counterparts in developing Asia and South America. Africa-

<sup>14</sup> UNCTAD, “New and dynamic sectors of trade: the South-South dimension” (TD/B/COM.1/EM.34/2).

South trade is now a fast-growing part of the continent's international commerce. For example, African exports to China more than quadrupled between 2000 and 2005 to \$19.5 billion. In addition, foreign direct investment from the South increased by 17 per cent in 2005. FDI to Africa is increasingly coming from Asia, especially China, but also from India and the Gulf States. Although trade within Africa remains relatively small, current evidence suggests that it is increasing, especially within the regional trade blocs. In the context of Africa's integration efforts, there are examples of South-South cooperation in trade and investment flows from middle-income countries such as South Africa to less-developed African countries.

67. In 2003, the Marrakesh Declaration on South-South Cooperation, adopted by the High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation, also expressed the commitment of Governments to South-South cooperation and to further strengthen it in different areas, including information and communication technology, trade, investment, finance, debt management, food, agriculture, water, energy, health and education. Over the years, South-South cooperation has become an important pillar in the edifice of development assistance and the number of non-OECD countries that now are engaged in aid provision and development cooperation has risen steeply, to nearly 30. There is some reluctance by these countries, however, to engage in standard donor practices regarding the allocation, administration and reporting of the assistance, which is estimated by OECD to reach \$8 billion annually.

68. Three countries are particularly active in this cooperation: China, India and Brazil. In 2006, at the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, China pledged to provide \$3 billion in preferential loans and \$2 billion in preferential export buyer's credit to African countries in the next three years. The two sides also adopted the Beijing Action Plan (2007-2009). Over the past few years, China has become one of Africa's major partners for trade and economic cooperation. According to UNCTAD, trade (exports and imports) between Africa and China increased from \$11 billion in 2000 to \$56 billion in 2006. China's FDI stock in Africa had reached \$1.6 billion by 2005.<sup>15</sup> In May 2008, China assessed the implementation of the Beijing Action Plan and announced that China-Africa trade had reached \$73.31 billion in 2007 and was expected to reach \$100 billion by 2010.

69. India has also broadened its economic relationship with Africa. In April 2008, it organized the first India-Africa Forum summit where modalities to strengthen the cooperative ties between the two partners were considered. At the Forum, India pledged a \$5.4 billion credit line for African countries over the next five years and \$500 million in ODA. It has additionally announced a duty-free tariff preference scheme for 50 least developed countries, of which 33 are in Africa, to provide preferential market access for their exports. Brazil has also enhanced its cooperation with African countries, notably by providing technical support in the areas of electoral assistance, peacebuilding, energy, and information and communication technologies. Brazil-Africa trade increased from \$5 billion in 2002 to \$19.9 billion in 2007. Brazil operates not only bilaterally but also multilaterally, through the South America-Africa summits, where it serves as the general coordinator on the South American side.

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<sup>15</sup> UNCTAD, *Asian Foreign Direct Investment in Africa: Towards a New Era of Cooperation among Developing Countries* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.II.D.1).

70. The contribution of these countries has been supplemented by emerging donors such as Malaysia, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Korea and Middle Eastern countries, which have sought to promote the development of the continent through private investments, for example, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the OPEC Fund for International Development, the Saudi Fund for Development, the Islamic Development Bank and the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

## V. Conclusions and the way forward

71. Progress in Africa towards the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals remains off track and more must be done to fulfil existing African and international commitments to action. Most African and international commitments remain only partially realized. Significant progress has been made by the international community in providing debt relief, aid for trade and support for peace and security, but more needs to be done to follow through on pledges of sectoral-level support for Africa's development. At this juncture, meeting Africa's development needs and challenges will require resolution and leadership to turn existing African and international commitments into results, and vision into policy actions. This is undeniably one of the most important challenges facing African countries and institutions, as well as the international community, including the United Nations. The following recommendations are designed to assist in this effort.

72. The African States should strengthen mechanisms for participation, inclusion and empowerment of all segments of society, including civil society, communities and households, in the political and development processes. The NEPAD programme affirms that ownership, inclusion and involving communities in setting goals can help focus public action on social priorities. The NEPAD founding document emphasizes the determination of Africa's leaders to translate the deep popular will into action.

73. The AU Commission and the NEPAD secretariat should intensify efforts towards the ongoing integration of NEPAD into the structures of the Commission. The Chairperson of the Commission has recently set up a NEPAD coordinating unit, aimed at accelerating this process, as was called for by the March 2007 Conclusions and Recommendations of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee Meeting and Brainstorming on NEPAD held in Algiers. The AU member States should support the work of the unit.

74. Given the importance of agriculture in the development of the continent and to cope with the current food crisis, African countries should meet the Maputo Declaration target of devoting 10 per cent of public expenditure to agricultural and rural development.

75. Given the number of commitments regarding Africa's development made by the international community and by African Governments, there is a need to strengthen the existing monitoring mechanism for mutual accountability in the NEPAD secretariat supported by ECA and which works with the African Partnership Forum Support Unit.

76. The Regional Consultations Mechanism should be strengthened to ensure effective support to AU and its NEPAD programme. This calls for stronger commitment and institutional leadership on the part of all concerned: United Nations agencies, on the one hand, and African regional and subregional organizations, on the other. The Mechanism's clusters should be provided with sufficient dedicated resources to ensure effective coordination and maximum impact. Furthermore, the secretariat of the Regional Consultations Mechanism located at ECA should be strengthened to ensure that it can effectively execute its strategic coordinating role.

77. Given the mixed record of African States in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, African States should embark upon a peer-review exercise on the Goals. In the follow-up to the Economic and Social Council's annual ministerial review, a recently promoted initiative, ECA should convene a regional annual ministerial review, in order to encourage peer learning and experience-sharing among African countries. As African Heads of State and Government have recently requested the AU Commission, in collaboration with ECA, to prepare status reports and related statistics on the progress in Africa towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, the regional review should be the appropriate environment where information is shared and progress is assessed. Greater coherence between national development strategies and the Programme of Action of the African Peer Review Mechanism is needed.

78. African countries need to take further steps to improve both economic and political governance. This call entails, for instance, that countries which have been peer reviewed should implement recommendations contained in the reports of the African Peer Review Mechanism.

79. In order to deal with the human and income poverty in Africa, special action should be taken to support the building of human and institutional capacity to achieve an adequate measure of sustainability in the areas of economic and social development, macroeconomic policies, households and communities. Effective support to building human and institutional capacity contributes to adequate formulation, planning and implementation of reforms. African countries and the international community should coordinate their efforts to strengthen the effectiveness of their contribution to capacity-building.

80. While African countries should integrate climate issues into economic planning and management at both national and regional levels, international partners should support their mitigation and adaptation efforts, climate-proof all projects and policies intended to achieve agreed development goals and provide compensatory financing for this process. Substantial financing is necessary to climate-proof development spending, adapt poverty reduction to climate change, strengthen responses to disasters, and build capacity to support adaptation planning and implementation of strategies and plans on climate change. A dedicated fund should be created for these purposes.

81. Tremendous gains are possible if the international community translates its commitments into results. There are currently concrete opportunities to implement and scale up interventions in support of the Millennium Development Goals. They include: (a) meeting short-term emergency food needs resulting from the global rise in food prices to prevent malnutrition and contain political unrest; (b) launching an African green revolution within the framework of the Comprehensive Africa

Agricultural Development Programme; (c) investing in critical infrastructure; (d) investing in education to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and Education for All goals by 2015, including gender parity at all levels, and implementing national school-feeding programmes; (e) strengthening health systems and phasing in child survival interventions; (f) ensuring access to emergency obstetric care for all women; (g) providing family planning services for all; (h) fighting infectious diseases; (i) implementing national water supply and sanitation strategies; and (j) strengthening national statistical systems.

82. In the follow-up to the assessment of the MDG Africa Steering Group, the international community needs to increase external financing for African agriculture from the current \$1-2 billion per year to roughly \$8 billion by 2010. In education, approximately \$8.3 billion are required annually to ensure achievement of the education Millennium Development Goal. In health, it is estimated that external financing needs will reach \$25-30 billion per year by 2010. Finally, \$52.2 billion per year are required in public and private investment finance to resolve the critical bottlenecks in infrastructure.

83. African countries should also prioritize quick-impact initiatives such as enhanced coverage for nutrition programmes, control of malaria and other vector-borne diseases, rapid increase in school enrolment through the abolition of school fees, improved inputs to raise agricultural productivity and increased access to family planning.

84. In line with the June 2008 recommendations of the MDG Africa Steering Group, as external finance for development in Africa needs to rise to \$72 billion per year to support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, development partners should fulfil ODA commitments made at the International Conference on Financing for Development and during the run-up to the 2005 World Summit, including at the G-8 summit at Gleneagles.

85. Given the shortfalls in the quality of aid and the harmonization of delivery, development partners, as highlighted by the MDG Africa Steering Group, should align their assistance with country systems through multi-year compacts, increase the predictability of aid, improve the division of labour among donors and accelerate the shift away from project-based finance towards budget support. Many countries and organizations that are not members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee are assuming an increasingly central role as development partners for African countries. Therefore, efforts to improve aid effectiveness also need to involve high-income country donors that are not members of the Committee such as the Gulf States, enhanced South-South collaboration with partners such as Brazil, China and India, as well as large private foundations.

86. There is a need for the international community to increase resources by establishing currency transaction taxes, global environmental taxes such as carbon taxes and taxes on freight transport.

87. Despite some progress, the current debt sustainability framework for low-income countries remains questionable. There is a need to extend HIPC and MDRI initiatives to non-HIPC African countries, including middle-income and low-income countries, as well as address the challenges that delay countries in reaching the completion point.

88. Forthcoming trade negotiations should take into account the needs of developing nations to gain improved market access and entry for their exports, including agriculture, manufactures and labour-intensive services. Consequently, developed countries should reduce agricultural subsidies. As highlighted by the MDG Africa Steering Group, the current upward trend in food prices challenges the argument for agricultural subsidies and, therefore, provides a window of opportunity for trade reform.

89. As raised at the seventh AU Summit, held in the Gambia in 2006, regional economic communities should coordinate and harmonize their policies among themselves. In addition, adjustments should be made to existing regional trade agreements to bring them into line with the regulations of the African Economic Community. At the same time, regional trade agreements, especially those between developing and developed countries such as the economic partnership agreements, should be compatible with the development objectives and strategies of African countries and with existing WTO rules on regional trade agreements.

90. One of the key priorities that African countries should address is the improvement of their supply-side capacities and the deepening of their regional integration. In this regard, African countries should accelerate the preparation of well-prioritized action plans for Aid for Trade implementation with clear bankable projects at national and regional levels. The international community, for its part, should assist African countries to implement the projects prioritized in the Aid for Trade action plans by providing sufficient and predictable financial resources. At the same time, the rules of WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and the Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures should be liberalized in order to facilitate the adoption of technology as well as expansion of policy space by African countries.

91. The donor community should concentrate its efforts on conflict prevention/early warning, post-war reconstruction, peacekeeping and peace enforcement in order to achieve a conflict-free Africa by 2010, as stated in General Assembly resolution 61/230. Support to the early warning mechanisms of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the Economic Community of West African States, the Economic Community of Central African States, the Southern African Development Community and the overall All Continental Early Warning System should be intensified.

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# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
25 April 2008

Sixty-second session  
Agenda item 64 (a)

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/62/L.29/Rev.1 and Add.1)]

### 62/242. Modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting on Africa's development needs

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 61/229 of 22 December 2006 and 62/179 of 19 December 2007, in which it decided to convene, during its sixty-third session, a high-level meeting on the theme "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward",

*Recalling also* the 2005 World Summit Outcome<sup>1</sup> and its follow-up resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006,

*Recalling further* its resolutions 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 61/230 of 22 December 2006 and 61/296 of 17 September 2007 and the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2001 of the Economic and Social Council of 18 July 2001, entitled "The role of the United Nations in support of the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development",<sup>2</sup>

*Reaffirming its determination* to address the special needs of Africa, which is the only continent not on track to meet the Millennium Development Goals by 2015,

*Noting* that the implementation of commitments made to and by African countries will contribute to the continent's achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015,

*Convinced* that the high-level meeting will constitute a significant event that will review the implementation of all commitments made to and by Africa in order to comprehensively address the special development needs of the continent,

1. *Decides* that the high-level meeting will be held on 22 September 2008, prior to the general debate of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly;

<sup>1</sup> See resolution 60/1.

<sup>2</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/56/3/Rev.1)*, chap. III, para. 29.



2. *Decides also* that the meeting will be held at the highest possible political level, with the participation of Heads of State or Government, ministers, special representatives and other representatives, as appropriate;
3. *Decides further* that the meeting will be composed of an opening plenary meeting, followed by two high-level round tables in the morning and two high-level round tables in the afternoon, which will address the overall theme of the meeting, and a closing plenary meeting;
4. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to finalize the organizational arrangements for the meeting;
5. *Decides* that the meeting will result in a political declaration on Africa's development needs;
6. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to produce a concise draft text, in consultation with Member States and based on their inputs, and convene informal consultations on the initial draft text at an appropriate date to enable sufficient discussion;
7. *Strongly urges* all Member States to actively participate in the meeting;
8. *Decides* that the preparations for the meeting will be conducted in close consultations between the United Nations and the African Union;
9. *Invites* the Holy See, in its capacity as observer State, and Palestine, in its capacity as observer, to participate in the meeting;
10. *Decides* that the President of the General Assembly will consult with representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector, and with Member States, as appropriate, on the list of representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector that may participate in the round tables of the meeting;
11. *Decides also* that the meeting will be chaired by the President of the General Assembly;
12. *Invites* intergovernmental organizations and entities that have observer status with the General Assembly to participate in the meeting;
13. *Invites* heads of the United Nations funds, programmes and agencies to participate in the meeting, in consultation with the President of the General Assembly;
14. *Invites* the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization, the regional development banks, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and development partners to participate in the meeting;
15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the meeting a comprehensive report, with recommendations, on "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward" in cooperation with relevant development agencies of the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and other relevant regional and international financial and trade institutions.

*85th plenary meeting  
4 March 2008*

22 September 2008

**Statement of Mr. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann,  
President of the 63rd Session of the General Assembly,  
at the opening of the High-level meeting on Africa's Development Needs**

Distinguished Heads of State and Government,  
Excellencies,  
Mr. Secretary-General,  
Brothers and sisters,

It is a privilege for me to welcome you to this first substantive meeting of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly. I am particularly pleased that we are beginning our collective work with an issue as urgent as “Africa’s development needs: status of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward”.

At the Millennium Summit, we decided to devote special attention to Africa’s development needs because throughout history, the African continent has endured sacrifice, plunder, slaughter and, finally, oblivion. Considering the irreparable injustices of history and the inherent ravages of colonization, in September 2000 we made a collective commitment to our African sisters and brothers.

Almost a decade later, it is time to assess the progress made towards the goals we set in the Millennium Declaration. In this regard, Africa has undeniably made considerable democratic advances, with the holding of elections and the establishment of elected Governments all across that fair continent.

I would especially like to welcome the establishment of the African Union in 2000 and the launching of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, which were undoubtedly milestones in Africa’s history and in the empowerment of its own political, economic and social development process.

Without listing Africa’s many achievements in good governance, which are described in detail in the Secretary-General’s report, I would like to highlight the African Peer Review Mechanism, a self-monitoring instrument in which African leaders are reviewed by their peers on all aspects of good governance, human rights, macroeconomic policies and so forth.

I also want to stress that Africa, in addition to ratifying the United Nations Convention against Corruption, has adopted the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption, which has now been ratified by all African Union members.

Distinguished dignitaries and friends,

Africa has amply fulfilled its own political, economic and social commitments. To consolidate the progress made and reach our goal of empowering Africa to meet the development challenges it faces, all of us in the international community, especially donor countries and the Bretton Woods institutions, must fully honour our commitments and substantially complement the efforts of the African nations.

Africa's challenges are still enormous. Brave as its nations may be – and we know that they are brave indeed – Africa cannot move ahead on its own. The African countries' gains in terms of economic growth are real, but they must be decisively strengthened through concrete actions such as more substantial external debt relief. The relative progress made in this area cannot obscure the unfair conditionalities that the Bretton Woods institutions and creditor countries continue to impose. These conditionalities have the perverse effect of not only preventing the effective implementation of poverty reduction programmes, but also eroding the living conditions of tens of millions of people, driving them deeper into the poverty from which these institutions were supposed to save them.

Africa's integration into the global economy also requires that it be guaranteed access to the international market. Beyond modest aid-for-trade efforts, the key to providing full access to trade lies in eliminating the developed countries' practice of subsidizing their industries, especially their agricultural producers.

The failure of the Doha trade talks clearly illustrates the limits of the free-market doctrine to which a few players have subjected the rest of the world. These same proponents of extreme liberalism change their tune at the first sign that their economic might could be at risk and that their citizens could suffer the pain they inflict on others.

I therefore call on you once again to work together in fraternal solidarity to eliminate the market distortions generated by developed-country subsidies, since they have played a key role in worsening the global food crisis we are witnessing today. We must join forces to remove this and other structural factors that are endangering the lives of millions of people.

Of course, this crisis has had a terrible impact on African populations and has extinguished what little hope there was of halving, by 2015, the proportion of people in Africa who suffer from hunger.

It is therefore imperative to transfer the necessary technology to give the African countries new instruments to guarantee food for life, food security and food sovereignty. Technology transfers are equally urgent for ensuring that the African countries' adaptation to the devastating consequences of climate change is not just a dream but a reality.

I would also like to recall that the principle of shared but differentiated responsibility is a cornerstone of the international commitments concerning sustainable development. This principle places the developed countries under a moral and legal obligation to honour their many sustainable development commitments, including those relating to technology transfer.

From an ethical standpoint, this need is all the more pressing in that it is completely at odds with the massive and astonishing wealth that multinational extractive industries generate from African land,

flesh and blood, without producing, in return for the generation and at times the pillaging of these assets, diversified foreign direct investment.

Friends,

Helping Africa to boost its capacity to combat infectious diseases must begin with measures to give the entire population access to clean water. Water purification and universal access would curb the spread of many diseases and reduce the number of children and women who die each day for lack of clean water.

Given that there are nearly 25 million people living with AIDS in Africa, saying that Africa has made progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS is rather cold comfort, but it should nonetheless encourage us to continue to mobilize international efforts to step up prevention initiatives and extend universal access to antiretroviral treatment throughout Africa.

Preventing Africa's decimation by the AIDS pandemic is not only a sine qua non for its future development; it is a moral obligation towards Africa that is shared by humanity as a whole!

Friends,

In light of the remarks I have just made, I would like to remind you that the commitments you undertook in Monterrey in relation to financing for development, especially with regard to official development assistance, are still in force and are undeniably urgent.

I therefore call upon the world's rich countries to redouble their efforts to bring official development assistance, which went from 0.33 per cent of GDP in 2005 to 0.28 per cent in 2007, closer to the Monterrey commitment of 0.7 per cent. Remember that this goal was first proposed in this August Assembly as far back as 1970. In the same vein, and in light of current disbursement levels, I ask the members of the Group of Eight, with all the strength of my position as President of this General Assembly, to deliver on the pledge they made at Gleneagles in 2005 to double official development assistance for Africa by 2010.

Friends,

The cry of Africa's peoples, who yearn not only to survive but to live lives of dignity in decent conditions, does not require that we make new commitments, but only that we have the courage to live up to the words we have spoken many times over, at the Rio, Copenhagen, Beijing, Cairo, New York and Monterrey Summits.

It is time to move from promises to concrete action.

What we are witnessing is a state of emergency. Let us answer this challenge with the steadfastness and courage that the African peoples are asking of us.

Thank you.

22 September 2008

**Statement of Mr. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann,  
President of the 63rd Session of the General Assembly,  
at the closing of the High-level meeting on “Africa’s development needs: state of  
implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward”**

Heads of State and Government,  
Excellencies,  
Mr. Secretary-General,  
Brothers and sisters,

I wish from the outset to express my gratitude to my facilitators, the Permanent Representatives from Angola and the Netherlands for conducting the intergovernmental consultations on the draft declaration we have just adopted.

We have come to the end of our day of dynamic deliberations on Africa’s special development needs. Now comes the hard part: keeping the promises. Let’s not repeat history by breaking them. Let us rise to the occasion and make poverty history instead.

The declaration we have just adopted with consensus contains an agenda for action. Urgent action: eradicating poverty, particularly in Africa, is the greatest global challenge facing the world today, our declaration says. A global challenge that must be addressed by and large by the only truly global institution, the United Nations. This is why the declaration states that a stronger Africa requires a stronger UN.

The declaration and our exchange today have strengthened my conviction that we have chosen the right priorities for this session of the General Assembly. Africa’s priorities are the Assembly’s priorities.

Apart from the great global challenge of poverty, the food crisis is prominently featured, along with its potentially ruinous impact on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Climate change: Africa’s vulnerability to its effects and the need for new and additional resources to deal with them.

And water – Africa’s own commitments to the water and sanitation goals are highlighted in the declaration as well as the need to place women empowerment at the heart of the development policies.

The democratization of the United Nations, the key objective of this GA, resonates in this document as well: we read about, and I quote, “the need to enhance the voice and participation of developing countries in policymaking in the areas of trade, money and finance.” While this high-level meeting

itself reinforces international democratization by raising the profile of the world's most representative organ: the General Assembly, we need to ensure that each single voice counts and that the GA can make the difference.

It is high time for the GA to take back from the G8 and the Bretton Woods Institutions the initiative in the development debate in general and Africa in particular. No barricades. No barb wire. No tear gas. We need to move the debate from seclusion to inclusion – that's what development is all about and that's what only this Assembly can offer.

The General Assembly is the body where the African continent constitutes the largest group, and where the African voice is heard at its loudest and clearest. But we are not listening to that voice nearly enough: According to the Organization for Economic Development Cooperation and Development (OECD), less than half of all aid is directed towards the national priorities of developing country governments. Many of you have denounced the fall in Official Development Assistance including the portion allocated to agriculture, a NEPAD priority from the start, now only at 7 percent of over all development assistance. This, coupled with the agricultural subsidies granted by developed countries, portrays a catastrophic scenario, if we are to defeat the ongoing food crisis.

Railroading African governments by ignoring NEPAD's priorities will not get the continent on track for the Millennium Development Goals. Rallying around African priorities instead will go a long way and this Assembly can lead the way. That is what we have seen today.

I will not try to summarize today's rich discussion. Let me briefly highlight some common threads. There is a sense of emergency and concrete actions must follow suit. Africa's future ultimately lies in the hands of Africans themselves – development starts at home – but it is clear that Africa's efforts must be complemented with a substantial change in international economic and trade policies. In this regard, the debt relief must be tackled more aggressively so as to free the necessary funds for social investment instead of paying what has become an *ad vitam eternam* debt. There is also a huge expectation that donor countries will ultimately abide by their pledges and fulfill their commitments to double the ODA by 2010.

The homegrown political and economic reforms, including those focused on strengthening democracy, human rights and creating a healthy private sector, need to be complemented with resources from the outside – Africa lacks the resources to pull itself out of the poverty trap alone.

International aid is not just a matter of the heart it is also a matter of the head, a matter of real and concrete political will. An African renaissance is in the common interest. If we are to bring about that renaissance, we need to look beyond aid alone: development, security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing – they form a trinity. Hence, the imperious necessity to concentrate our efforts in the social development of Africa: the *sine qua non* condition for peace, security and respect of all human rights.

Many of you pointed out that today's meeting is the first in a series of three this fall. Today is about Africa, about the place we need to concentrate our development efforts. The second meeting, this

Thursday, is about the Millennium Development Goals and the themes that require more attention. And finally the upcoming Financing for Development Review Conference in Doha will be about how to muster the financial resources and the political resolve to keep our promises. We must closely monitor whether commitments are indeed being turned into concrete actions. I am pleased that the declaration sets the basis for such a monitoring mechanism.

Before I close, I want to pay tribute to President Thabo Mbeki. During his presidency of the rainbow nation, spanning nearly a decade, he, along other African leaders, championed the vision of NEPAD we still pursue today. When the affluent listen to Africa and partner with it, that vision is within reach. To quote NEPAD's founding document: "In fulfilling its promise, this agenda must give hope to the emaciated African child that the 21st century is indeed Africa's century." End of quote. As was highlighted in the morning, today's mantra should be implementation – implementation of all the commitments to our African brothers and sisters. After speeches of solemnity, comes the test of solidarity.

Thank you.

**STATEMENT BY H.E. JAKAYA MRISHO KIKWETE, PRESIDENT OF  
THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, AT THE HIGH LEVEL  
MEETING ON AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS,  
UN NEW YORK, 22<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2008.**

*Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;*

I am pleased to join all of you this morning. I thank Secretary General Ban Ki-moon for conceiving the idea of holding this High Level meeting devoted to discussing Africa's development needs. I also congratulate the Secretary General on his report on **Africa's Development Needs: State of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward**. Africa deserves this kind of attention because it is the poorest of the five continents. On all human development indicators Africa scores the least on almost all of them.

*Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

The Secretary General's report covers quite extensively and competently Africa's needs and challenges for development. And certainly, numerous studies, publications, and multilateral conferences have enumerated and arrived at a consensus as to what constitutes Africa's development, what impedes it, and what needs to be done about it. The list of Africa's development needs is long from provision of basic, social and economic services to ensuring food security and increasing people's incomes through the transformation of the productive sectors.

The Secretary General has effectively reminded us in his report that one critical thing that stands in the way of dealing with Africa's development needs, is the lack of the requisite resources. Development requires high amounts of resources which unfortunately because of the low levels of development Africa does not have sufficient resources to pull itself out of the poverty trap. The Secretary General's MDG Africa Steering Group has among other things quantified development assistance needs for meeting the MDGs which forms the bulk of Africa's development challenges.



The good thing about this fact is that all of us, in the continent and in the international community recognize the question of Africa's acute resource constraint. We also know that African governments have been taking measures to tackle their development challenges using the little resources available. The other good thing also is the fact that the international community has been generous enough to assist African nations with resources to compliment their efforts. Unfortunately, the resources being committed and being made available are not sufficient to lift Africa out of the poverty trap quickly. The other unfortunate thing is the fact that a lot of the resources promised by the developed countries are not provided.

I would like to take this opportunity to express Africa's disappointment at the failure of the developed nations to honour their commitments to provide resources to deal with the challenges of Africa's development. Allow me to use this forum today to call for a new impetus on meeting their commitment. It is their historic duty, it is a moral obligation to help the needy in Africa. If is not charity.

*Ladies and Gentlemen;*

As we meet here today, it is important to recall the Monterrey Consensus adopted by Heads of State and Government in March 2002. The Consensus provided a key framework for financing development. We, in Africa, saw the adoption of the Consensus as an important step in scaling up efforts to mobilize domestic and external resources for our development and that of other needy developing nations on this planet.

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is only prudent that, as we elevate Africa's development agenda as a matter of global concern, we take stock as to where we are on the implementation of the Monterey Consensus and other decisions taken at different international fora. I am delighted to note the efforts of the United Nations Secretariat and General Assembly in this respect, particularly through the High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development that took place here in New York in October 2007 and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to take place in Doha at the end of this year.

*Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

We in Africa are appreciative of several efforts that have been made in recent years to address the challenges of financing Africa's development needs. These efforts are reflected in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, and the 2005 G-8 Gleneagles Summit Declaration. We are also thankful for G-8 countries for increasingly paying more attention to development issues affecting Africa.

However, while all these efforts have added momentum to the commitments made by world leaders in the Monterrey Consensus, we in Africa are increasingly concerned at the persistent gap between what has been promised and what has been delivered.

Collectively, the G8 are badly off track with their development assistance promises to Africa. I am told, in total, G8 assistance to sub-Saharan Africa has increased by only \$2.3 billion since 2004, when it should have increased by \$5.4 billion over that period.

If current trends continue, African countries will not be able to mobilize the resources required to finance the public investments critical to achieving the MDGs. Now is the time, for friends of Africa in the developed world to walk the talk. Not doing so now may be too late, as far as meeting the 2015 targets is concerned.

*Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

The amount of aid is as much important as the quality. While we appreciate that some of the developed countries have stepped up efforts to meet their commitments, one concern for us in Africa is that most of the recent increases in aid are due to debt relief and humanitarian assistance and so do not reflect additional resources available to finance development programs.

Indeed, when these two components of aid are removed, it is clear that there has not been any significant change in real aid flows since 2004. Therefore, if donors are to meet their pledge to double aid flows to Africa by 2010, there has to be a significant scaling up of aid this year and next year, and beyond.

*Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;*

Before I conclude I would like to underscore the fact that Africa is not a hopeless case. Neither are we desperate nor have we resigned to state of helplessness. We are determined to wrestle ourselves out of our predicament.

All that we are saying is, we need the support of the international community to compliment our efforts. We thank our development partners for the invaluable support extended to us over the many years. But much more needs to be done. This is all that we are asking for.

It can be done, let us all play our respective part.

**I thank you for your kind attention!**

# **United Nations High-Level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs – Speech by M. Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the Republic**

**New York, 22 September 2008**

I would like first to thank the Secretary-General for the very complete report he has prepared on Africa's development needs.

Africa has started to move again. The continent has found the way back to growth. Since 1994 its average annual growth rate has been close to 5%. It is still accelerating today and is expected to be over 6% in 2008. The volume of external investments has just exceeded – which is a good thing – that of official development assistance. The perception of Africa is changing.

Nevertheless, this economic growth remains very theoretical for a majority of Africans: it is a statistical fact, not yet a fact of daily life for people in Africa.

The continent is indeed confronted with many challenges: the food crisis and effects of climate change. Then above all, there is the observation in the Secretary-General's report, one which must concern us all: no African country, none, is on schedule to meet all the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). None.

Europe wants to be involved alongside Africa. The 27 European Union Member States recently reiterated, collectively, very clear commitments with respect to aid. We have confirmed the EU's target of devoting 0.7% of our wealth to official assistance in 2015. A real agenda for action between now and 2015 has been drawn up and we will debate it on 25 September at the special high-level meeting on the Millennium Goals convened by the UN Secretary-General. We also want to do more when it comes to the global partnership for agriculture and food.

But let things be clear, the aid Europe has decided to provide Africa is not simply an emotional response, it is in the first place rational. Since we know, we Europeans, that helping Africa's development is first of all an investment in our common future.

The world, the globalized world needs a developed Africa. The European Union, a direct neighbour of the African continent, needs the development of Africa.

What would be the point of working for the security and stability of the European Union if we didn't seek to eliminate the existing gap between Europe and Africa!

What an illusion also to envisage Europe's prosperity without working for the emergence of a major economic partner 14 kilometres from its coasts; a partner whose population in 2030 will be greater than that of India or China!

What an illusion to claim to ensure world food security without making the most of Africa's agricultural resources: so it can feed itself first, but also help feed the world!

This is why we will continue resolutely to work to achieve the MDGs. There are still 70 million children to send to school; 900 million people suffer from undernutrition and malnutrition.

They live in Africa; 23 million people live with AIDS and every five minutes ten African children die from malaria. This is why education and health will remain at the centre of our aid strategies for Africa.

But let things be clear here too. Meeting the Millennium Goals is necessary, necessary. But meeting the MDGs is not enough to make a lasting reduction in poverty, ensure sustainable growth in Africa and create jobs.

We must help Africa transform its agriculture, especially family agriculture. Africa needs a "double green" revolution, that of yields and that of conserving its environment.

Private initiative in Africa must be unleashed. Businesses, particularly African SMEs, have the greatest capacity to generate jobs. Yet Africa does not have enough businesses.

The President of Liberia, Ms Johnson-Sirleaf, recently proposed putting the private sector at the centre of development and supplementing the Millennium Goals with competitive goals for development. I can only subscribe to this welcome proposal.

NEPAD, a decision Africa took, was the first to affirm the close link between governance, growth and the fight against poverty. Good management of public affairs is essential to bring about the "African renaissance".

Development implies essential political preconditions. There won't be development without peace, there won't be development without security and, even, there won't be development without the accountability of governments to their citizens.

I would like to denounce any temptation to present transparency and respect for human rights as outside, unnecessary conditionalities imposed by donors.

Democracy and respect for human rights are deep-seated aspirations of the African peoples themselves.

Were they not, these motives, at the heart of the wars for independence and the struggle against apartheid carried out by the Africans themselves?

I would like to issue an appeal, one that goes for us all: together, let us avoid repeating the errors of the past.

I am thinking in the first place of debt. Our collective efforts since the end of the 1990s reduced Africa's external debt by 25%. Because Africa's debt had been reduced by 25%, Africa has recovered some room to manoeuvre for public investments and the social sectors.

Let's guard against a too rapid and too costly public re-indebtedness. Let's not set the stage today for a new African debt crisis in 2030.

I am also thinking of the utilization and sustainable management of Africa's natural resources. Just because the terms of trade have improved is not a reason for Africa to have to be locked into only exporting raw materials.

Lastly, donors and recipients of aid must increase their efforts to coordinate and harmonize their actions. We have a duty to achieve greater efficiency.

At a time when the Secretary-General recommends that we speed up recourse to budget support, I ask the question: why do we see new donors – who are welcome – increasing project-based aid? Europeans and Africans have agreed on untying aid. Why then go back on this principle with donors from other continents? The same causes will produce the same results. Let's not start again making the errors of the past.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We all perceive that Africa is at a turning point today. Africa must be able to take full advantage of the new opportunities being presented to it.

It is in our common interest that it should succeed. You have my assurance that the whole of Europe will be at Africa's side to encourage the development of Africa which the world needs to enjoy peace, prosperity and stability.

Thank you.

# **Statement by the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Ms. Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul**

## **High-Level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs**

New York, 22 September 2008

The new millennium has confronted the world with new global challenges, with events that pose a threat to human lives and development achievements: the three major crises, often referred to as "FFF" (food, fuel and finance), and climate change.

We also know that there is a mixed record halfway to the MDGs, especially in Africa. There is light and be shade, achievements and disappointments.

Light: It is possible to reach the MDGs. This can be seen in the fight against malaria by the action of the Global Fund. For example in Rwanda malaria-related child mortality was reduced by two thirds.

Shade: For me – and I think for everyone else – it is completely unacceptable that the risk of a woman dying due to pregnancy or child birth is 300 times higher in Africa than in industrialized countries.

We will only able to reach the MDGs through an extra effort, an effort on the part of donor countries and of the African countries themselves. And the achievement of the MDGs and the resolution of global problems will only be possible if there is a working global partnership, with Africa as a strong player.

At the Doha conference on financing for development, we will need to reinforce confidence in the partnership which we launched at Monterrey. So I am pleased to be able to speak here today as the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy.

For its successful path, Africa needs true partners, considerable investment and predictable funding.

So it is vital that the G8 deliver on the pledges made in Gleneagles, namely doubling aid for Africa by 2010, bringing it to 50 billion US dollars.

The new challenges call for new ideas, new sources of financing, new forms of cooperation, new rules. Business as usual will simply not be enough!

We need innovative financing instruments. One particularly promising approach, which Germany is pioneering, is to use revenues from the auctioning of carbon credits for development.

Let me quote some figures that fill me with concern: in 2008, the LDCs alone will have spent an extra 50 billion US dollars on oil – that is more than they get in ODA (28 billion US dollars in 2006).

Since many countries are suffering from the high food and energy prices I am advocating that the countries and businesses that make high profits invest a proportion of them in development. The international community should establish an agro-facility for that purpose.

The current crisis is related to the lack of transparency in financial markets. We need to prevent our development efforts from being swept away by the tide of financial markets. We need at least a reliable regulatory framework for the global financial markets.

There is also an urgent need for international action on taxation. Tax avoidance and tax flight are costing developing countries an estimated 500 billion US dollars a year in lost revenues. That is five times global ODA. The industrialised countries are losing another 500 billion US dollars.

We therefore need to strengthen our efforts to build efficient and fair tax systems in developing countries and we need an international compact to fight tax flight and evasion.

I firmly believe that, if we boldly address these financing issues, we can achieve all the Millennium Development Goals – also in Africa. The Doha Conference must be a success. As the Special Envoy, I will personally be doing everything to ensure that it is.

In 2008 we must achieve the breakthrough on our road towards a global partnership that allows all people to enjoy a life in dignity.



**ADDRESS BY H.E. MR. BALDWIN SPENCER, PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA, DELIVERED BY H.E. DR. JOHN W. ASHE, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AT THE HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON THE ITEM: "AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS: STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF VARIOUS COMMITMENTS, CHALLENGES AND THE WAY FORWARD" (New York, 22 September 2008)**

Honourable Heads of State and Government,  
Honourable Ministers,  
Secretary General of the United Nations,  
Distinguished President of the 63rd Session of the General Assembly.  
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to be able to deliver this address of the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Chairman of the Group of 77 and China, on this auspicious occasion.

1- I have the honour and privilege to address the General Assembly on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. We attach great importance to this high level meeting on the theme "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward."

2- The development needs and the challenges confronting the African continent are well known, deep-seated and fundamental. The international community has focused on these needs and challenges in a number of international conferences and summits including the Millennium Development Conference, the Financing for Development Conference, the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the 2005 World Summit. There have also been a number of plurilateral and bilateral initiatives directed to Africa; Africa itself has undertaken many initiatives to further its development. We have recognized that addressing Africa's development needs and challenges requires internal action and very significant international cooperation and facilitation in the form of resources, technology and a supporting international environment. We have committed ourselves in declarations, resolutions and plan of action to stand with Africa in the struggle to meet these needs and overcome the challenges.

3- The Secretary General's comprehensive report submitted for this high level meeting and the recommendations of his MDG Africa Steering Group have made one thing abundantly clear: if fully implemented, existing international commitments could take African countries closer to achieving the MDGs and lay the foundation for robust economic growth in Africa. The focus, indeed the mantra, of this high level meeting must therefore be implementation. How do we implement our commitments to Africa?

Mr. President,

4- African countries have done a great deal to change the image of the continent, to mobilize domestic resources, to attract private capital and to enhance accountability and democratic governance. Some African countries have raised domestic revenue as a share of GDP by 6.9 percent between 1996 and 2006, according to the IMF statistics. They have committed to minimum public expenditure targets in key sectors including agriculture. They have shown tremendous leadership in recent years and are putting in place ambitious programmes and strategies to develop and involve their private sector.

5- The obvious question to us is "has the international community delivered on its commitment?"

- Have we provided the committed or promised:

- increase in ODA to Africa? - The Gleneagles promise alone was to increase ODA to Africa by US 25 billion per year by 2010.
- debt relief for all African countries which carry a heavy debt burden?
- international trade environment which allows a level playing field for African agricultural exports such as cotton?

- Have we adjusted the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) regime to allow the required favorable access to vital technologies as has been done for critical pharmaceuticals for HIV/AIDS?

- Have we been mitigating the buildup of greenhouse gasses thereby reducing the climate change related challenges such as droughts and floods or assisting the adaptation effort by African countries especially in agriculture?

- Have we reengineered and streamlined our processes for aid delivery to make them; more supportive of institution building and capacity development in Africa, more effective and less costly and less demanding on the scarce policy, technical and administrative resources of African States?

- Have we increased the flexibility and predictability of our assistance so as to encourage and facilitate longer term planning by African States; and critically

- Have we moved in our assistance and support policy and practice away from the proverbial periodic provision of a fish to Africa to aid Africa's relearning of how to fish in the large African Pond?

Mr. President,

If the answer to all or most of these questions is in the negative, and the Group of 77 and China suspects that this will be the case, then the nature of the

conclusions and determination of this high level meetings and in fact our declaration, will be clear.

The Group of 77 and China's analysis of our declaration and the process leading to it suggests that we have not yet fully grasped the need for urgency, certainty and comprehensiveness in our response to Africa's development needs. We would hope that by the 65th Session of the General Assembly there will be a strong mechanism in place to monitor our commitments so that we can assist Africa in, advancing its development and achieve the MDG's by 2015.

Thank you.

**José Manuel Durão Barroso**

President of the European Commission

**"Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments challenges and the way forward"**

*Check Against Delivery  
Seul le texte prononcé fait foi  
Es gilt das gesprochene Wort*

High Level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs

**New York, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2008**

Excellences,

Mesdames et Messieurs,

2008 ne doit pas seulement laisser le souvenir d'une année de nouveaux engagements de la communauté internationale à l'égard du monde en développement. Elle doit rester aussi comme le moment où nous avons convenu de tenir plus concrètement, et plus rapidement, nos promesses dans un nouvel esprit de partenariat.

Comme le Président Sarkozy vient de le dire très clairement en tant que Président du Conseil européen, l'Union européenne est un acteur mondial particulièrement engagé en faveur de tous les pays en développement. Elle accorde 60 % de l'aide internationale.

Notre relation avec l'Afrique est unique. Nous sommes liés par l'histoire, par la géographie, par le commerce, par nos langues. En adoptant la stratégie commune Afrique – Union européenne en décembre 2007 à Lisbonne, nous avons ouvert un nouveau chapitre de notre relation. Ce chapitre tient compte des nouvelles réalités économiques, politiques et sociales. Mais il a aussi pour vocation d'aller au-delà des domaines classiques de développement pour embrasser les questions mondiales. Autrement dit, les défis d'aujourd'hui.

Permettez-moi d'évoquer trois de ces grands défis: les prix des denrées alimentaires, le changement climatique et la sécurité énergétique.

Firstly, rising world food prices. Action is needed to support agriculture in developing countries – to enable African farmers to grow more food for Africans. We have already stepped in with short term measures worth an additional €550 million in 2008, with a further €250 million to come in 2009. Now the Commission has proposed a new €1 billion Food Facility, promoting agricultural production by improving poor farmers' access to inputs such as fertilizers and seed. This is entirely in line with Africa's own objectives for developing agriculture, and I hope the Facility will soon be agreed inside the European Union.

Secondly, climate change, which is hitting hardest the poorest countries of the world, with severe droughts, desertification, lack of water, and other natural disasters. Climate change threatens to undermine the promising 6% African growth rates and it could be a major threat to peace and security.

The upcoming conferences in Poznan at the end of 2008 and in Copenhagen in 2009 must be the moment when we build a new international consensus. To achieve that, it will be essential for Europe and Africa to work very closely together in the coming months to develop a strong partnership based in particular on adaptation, the key question for Africa. It was with this in mind that the Commission launched the Global Climate Change Alliance between the European Union on the one hand, and poor and vulnerable developing countries on the other.

Another aspect of our partnership, of course, concerns the struggle against deforestation, which is a major concern in Africa. We have to prevent the illegal exploitations of rainforest, and support sustainable management of the forests. A prime example of that is the forest partnership that is being established in the Congo basin.

The third area is energy, where we must look to develop together a sustainable future. We need to establish energy security for both continents; better interconnections both between, and within, Africa and Europe; better governance and use of oil and gas revenues; and finally, we must cooperate closely to tackle the inter-linked issues of poverty, deforestation and climate change. All of these issues will be addressed in the Africa-EU Energy Partnership launched last year.

In conclusion, I want to stress one point. I am proud of the European Union's record in working together with Africa on the crucial mission of development. But the reality is that Africa is getting to its own two feet – building stronger rates of growth, using its rich natural resources more effectively, strengthening good governance. When we in Europe say that we want to be partners with Africa, we will continue to take our responsibilities. But Africa's future must ultimately lie in African hands.

That still requires us to work closely together to tackle global problems that recognise no frontier. But I am confident that we will now do so in a new spirit of partnership.

Thank you very much.

**INTERVENTION  
BY DR. IVO SANADER  
PRIME MINISTER OF CROATIA  
HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON AFRICA  
UN, 22 SEPTEMBER 2008**

Mr. Chairman,

- I am pleased to take part in a meeting that once again places Africa, a continent of immense potential but with multiple security and developmental challenges, at the focus of international attention.
- I am sure that we all share the hope that today's deliberations will help us move towards a real global partnership for development in Africa.
- More than stocktaking, today's meeting should pave the way for concrete action while respecting certain key principles: national ownership, tailor-made approaches and, first and foremost, the comprehensive understanding of and dealing with the challenges before us.
- Countries that have unfortunately had the experience of conflict and have subsequently rebuilt their national capacities and institutions understand well the notion of comprehensiveness and the link between development, security and human rights in the prevention and resolution of conflicts – including post-conflict peace building.
- Croatia has gained extensive experience in post-conflict management, particularly in the fields of the return of refugees and the displaced, confidence-building and reconciliation efforts, as well as economic revitalization and reconstruction.
- Through our participation in UN missions in Burundi, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Sudan and Western Sahara, as well as in the EU-led Mission in Chad, Croatian servicemen are contributing to lay the foundations for development and progress.

- They fulfill their mandates with professionalism. However, they also bring with them Croatia's own experience in dealing with the consequences of war and successfully turning the country on to the road of peace, reconciliation and development.
- This experience and know-how could prove to be invaluable to states emerging from conflict on the African continent. We are pleased that these notions, given their importance, found their place in our deliberations here.
- Over the years the development dialogue has resulted in a number of key international documents which bear witness to the significant progress made in the UN on poverty-related issues, including with regard to ways in which we have agreed to address these most vital challenges: the Johannesburg and Monterrey processes being prominent amongst them.
- Even though we are making positive strides in the fight against under-development and poverty, we are concerned with figures presented by the World Bank stating that "the developing world is poorer than we thought",
- The estimates of the world's poor has been revised from 986 million to 1.4 billion living below the poverty line, the majority of whom live in Africa.
- Thus, while it is important to reaffirm the agreed international development framework, it is equally necessary to move forward. Comprehensive debt relief and better trade access to the markets of developed countries is, in our opinion, the right way forward.
- This means we must seriously redouble our efforts, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, if we are going to meet agreed targets.
- We are aware that the current level of aid to Africa is not sufficient to successfully implement all facets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's). Specific arrangements between donor and recipient countries on the MDG's need to be put into action through a human centered approach to the key themes of the MDG's.



- It is also necessary to look at ways to increase the effectiveness of existing aid, to introduce innovative sources of financing, and ways of adhering to the agreed timetable for progressively increasing flows.
- In order to help further the partnership of the international community with Africa in meeting the development needs of the continent, the above mentioned steps should go hand in hand with efforts in the context of NEPAD [New Partnership for Africa's Development] and the African Union.
- Equally, due attention should be paid to national development strategies and programs as a cornerstone to build upon. It is here that the role of national leadership and local ownership becomes extremely important.

Mr. Chairman,

- In conclusion, allow me to reiterate Croatia's readiness to add its contribution, within its capacities and including through various UN programs and funds it contributes to – in particular the UN Trust Fund for African Development and the Peace-building Fund – to the collective efforts in meeting the development needs of Africa.

Thank you.



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**  
315 Lexington Avenue ♦ New York ♦ N.Y. 10016 ♦ (212) 689-7215 ♦ FAX (212) 689-9073

**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR. JOSE MACHADO VENTURA, FIRST DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE STATE COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA, HEAD OF THE CUBAN DELEGATION, AT THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON "AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS: STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF VARIOUS COMMITMENTS, CHALLENGES AND THE WAY FORWARD"**

**New York, 22 September 2008**

Mr. Chairman,

It is time to stop the rhetoric. Africa's plight will not be resolved by condolences, lamentations and limited charitable aid, while fortunes are spent in the North on luxuries and extravagance. The need is for new relations of solidarity and full cooperation with our African brothers.

Whatever we do will be a sterile exercise if it does not respond to the imperative need to establish a new system of North-South relations, which puts an end to a prevailing unjust and unsustainable world economic, trading and financial order that marginalizes and places at risk 80% of the world population, in order to support waste and extravagance by a tiny minority. This state of affairs, which is aggravated by the imposition of neoliberalism, is accompanied by attempts to denigrate the right of peoples to international solidarity while denying to the African and other developing nations the special differentiated treatment they need and deserve.

It is ironic that several of the statesmen of the North who have expressed ostensible concern for Africa are also those who, through the international financial organizations they control, impose unfair conditions and structural adjustment schemes. Such policies militate against development and the consolidation of basic social services. Servicing and repayment of foreign debt is demanded, while promises of official development assistance are not kept. Servicing its debt is currently costing Africa five times more than it spends on education and public health combined. The all-too-familiar relief initiatives make good television, but do not address the hardships of the African peoples.

The self-serving rules and conditions imposed on trade by the great economies of the North suffocate the less-developed economies. The exclusive, multi-million dealings

whereby the North imposes an unfair international regime of patents and control of technologies obstructs economic development and the welfare policies of both Africa and the vast majority of the South nations.

At the same time as the United States and Europe are closing their borders to millions of people from the South seeking to migrate to improve their living conditions, applying policies of forced repatriation that breach the most elementary rights of the irregular migrants, they are also stealing a large proportion of our most skilled professionals.

Mr Chairman,

If we really want to support the efforts of the African peoples and governments, we must call for:

- Writing off the African nations' foreign debt, which they have already repaid more than once.
- Fulfilment by the countries of the North of their commitment to Official Development Assistance. This should go, unconditioned, to all the African countries, for application in the areas and sectors prioritized by the continent's governments.
- Mobilization of new and additional resources to accelerate implementation of agricultural development projects, with special emphasis on Africa's food requirements, applying measures that go far beyond the feeble results of the recent FAO conference on food security.
- Financial, technical and human support for achieving the goal of eradicating illiteracy and providing education for all.
- A global effort to create the conditions for developing effective primary healthcare systems throughout the continent, and to guarantee supply of the medicines needed for treating AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other pandemics and tropical diseases; it should also include training of doctors and technical personnel for service in the African countries, as well as other healthcare workers needed to address the continent's difficult public-health situation.

Mr Chairman,

Cuba has developed close links with Africa. Cooperation with that continent is an essential element of our nation's post-revolutionary foreign policy. Cuba has resolutely and selflessly supported the African peoples in their struggles against colonialism and apartheid.

Our universities and technical colleges have opened their doors to African students; over 32,000 young Africans have graduated in Cuba during the last five decades.

There are currently 2,253 young people from 45 African countries enrolled in our universities on full scholarships.

In 2007 alone, the 1,982 Cuban doctors and other medical personnel working in 35 African countries conducted nearly 7 million consultations, delivered around 100,000 babies, and performed almost 200,000 surgeries.

If that's what Cuba can do, what could the countries of the North achieve, with their abundance of the necessary resources? There is no shortage of resources; what is lacking is the political will.

The Africans have no need of new promises or paternalistic formulas. What the peoples of Africa need, together with the entire world population, is respect for their rights, a just and equitable international order, in which the guiding principles are solidarity and cooperation in pursuit of wellbeing for every people and every human being.

Thank you very much.



**STATEMENT BY**

**H.E. DR. N. HASSAN WIRAJUDA  
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

**AT THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING  
ON AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS**

**NEW YORK, 22 SEPTEMBER 2008**

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**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

325 East 38<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10016 • Tel. (212) 972-8333 • Fax. (212) 972-9780

[www.indonesiamission-ny.org](http://www.indonesiamission-ny.org)

email: [ptri@indonesiamission-ny.org](mailto:ptri@indonesiamission-ny.org)

Mr. President,

First, I wish to commend the Secretary General's report no. A/63/130 on *African Development Needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward*. I fully agree with the report's recommendation that we intensify our support for Africa in addressing global challenges to development.

The recommendation is timely. Sharp rises in the prices of food and energy have a severe impact on the global economy. The development programmes of many countries, especially to alleviate poverty, have been paralyzed. This is particularly true of Africa. In the face of the situation, many African nations are not likely to reach their Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

And yet, I still believe that Africa can be a very prosperous and progressive continent—if it can get the help that it needs and deserves, and if all conflict situations resolved, and peace and security restored. We all must engage with Africa in a global partnership for development, and accelerate the pace for such support. International initiatives, such as debt relief and cancellation as well as aid for trade must be intensified.

Through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Africa's leaders and people have committed themselves to a common vision for change, in particular by eradicating poverty, to ensure sustainable growth and development. Indonesia welcomes NEPAD's role as a catalyst for peace and security, democracy, good governance, capacity building, and the means to improve macro-economic development frameworks.

Mr. President,

On its own, Indonesia for decades has actively participated in initiatives that support the development of Africa and engaged in peace building efforts, as sustainable peace must be in tandem with national development. In fact, Indonesia has been actively involved through various UN peacekeeping operations in the continent since 1960 in Congo. We are also committed to sustain this involvement through various bilateral, interregional and multilateral mechanisms.

As co-chair of the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP), Indonesia is deeply involved in NAASP projects aimed at accelerating the development of Africa. Within the NAASP framework, Indonesia has conducted many capacity building programmes that have been attended by participants from Africa. The results have been encouraging.

This means that South-South Cooperation remains an important strategy for speeding up progress in Africa. That is why Indonesia continues to promote such cooperation through the Non-Aligned Movement Center for South-South Technical Cooperation. And, despite lack of a multilateral funding mechanism, we have consistently accommodated a large number of participants from African countries.

Mr. President,

As to the challenge of food security in Africa, I believe the experience of Indonesia in developing its agriculture sector is of great relevance. For more than 20 years now, Indonesia has shared its experiences and best practices in agriculture with African countries through technical cooperation programmes. Many African farmers have attended our agriculture training and apprenticeship programmes.

And as we help Africa strive for economic growth, it is our hope that we are also able to help Africa achieve its social welfare goals, as expressed in terms of Millennium Development Goals.

Let me once again stress Indonesia's strong commitment to helping Africa's striving for development. I have no doubt that with the full support of the international community, Africa will not only achieve its development goals, it will also contribute to the attainment of a more stable and more equitably prosperous world.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Royaume du Maroc  
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et  
de la Coopération



المملكة المغربية  
وزارة الشؤون  
الخارجية والتعاون

كلمة معالي السيد عباس الفاسي

الوزير الأول للمملكة المغربية

أمام

الاجتماع رفيع المستوى

للجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة

حول حاجيات إفريقيا في مجال التنمية

نيويورك، 22 شتنبر 2008



السيد رئيس الجمعية العامة،  
السيد الأمين العام للأمم المتحدة،  
أصحاب الفخامة رؤساء الدول والحكومات،  
أصحاب المعالي الوزراء،  
حضرات السيدات والسادة،

يطيب لي، بداية، أن أعرب عن اعتزاز المملكة المغربية بعقد هذا الاجتماع رفيع المستوى حول حاجيات إفريقيا في مجال التنمية، وذلك استجابة للمقترح الذي تقدمت به بلادي خلال الدورة 61 للجمعية العامة لسنة 2006.

وتماشيا مع روح هذا المقترح، يشكل اجتماعنا اليوم مناسبة لعرض تنفيذ الالتزامات بتنمية القارة الإفريقية والتحديات التي تواجهها وأفاقها المستقبلية في سبيل بلورة رؤية شمولية ومندمجة تعتمد أساسا على دعم وتعزيز البرامج والاستراتيجيات الوطنية والقارية التي اعتمدها البلدان الإفريقية.

كما يتيح لقاءنا هذا فرصة سانحة للتنسيق بين مختلف المبادرات الدولية التي تم اتخاذها للإسهام في إنماء قارتنا الإفريقية والتي يجب أن تصب جميعها في "الشراكة الجديدة من أجل التنمية في إفريقيا" كإطار موحد ومندمج أخذت من خلاله قارتنا الإفريقية بزمام أمور تنميتها المستدامة.

السيد الرئيس،

لقد أصبحت تنمية إفريقيا، في القرن الحالي، وأكثر من أي وقت مضى، قضية أساسية بالنسبة للمجتمع الدولي، حيث تشكل القارة الإفريقية ركيزة أساسية من ركائز النظام الدولي المتعدد الأقطاب، كما تلعب دورا محوريا في العلاقات والمبادلات الدولية بحكم ما تتوفر عليه من إمكانات سياسية واقتصادية. مما جعلها ترتبط بشراكات إستراتيجية متعددة مع القوى الاقتصادية والسياسية الكبرى من دول وقارات وجهات في شمال المعمور وجنوبه.

ووعيا منها بالتحديات الجسيمة التي تواجه قارتنا، انخرطت البلدان الإفريقية منذ سنوات في إصلاحات جذرية شملت الميادين السياسية والاقتصادية كما بذلت جهودا كبيرة في توكي الحكامة الرشيدة وترسيخ دولة الحق والقانون والحريات الأساسية وإرساء مناخ مناسب للاستثمار والأعمال. ولم تدخر القارة الإفريقية جهدا في محاولة تقليص بؤر التوتر والعنف واستتباب الأمن والاستقرار. وبفضل تلك الجهود والإصلاحات، حققت معظم الدول الإفريقية، خلال السنوات الأخيرة، معدلات نمو إيجابية تراوحت ما بين 5 و7%.

بيد أن هذه التطورات الإيجابية تبقى هشة بالنظر إلى الإكراهات والعقبات الجسيمة التي تعرقل مسيرة التنمية المستدامة في القارة الإفريقية والتي تهدد بهدر ما تحقق في مجال التنمية الاقتصادية والسلم والاستقرار. كما تبقى تلك الجهود دونما جدوى في ظل ظرفية دولية عصبية تتوالى فيها الأزمات بشكل مستمر، مما يرهق كاهل المجتمعات الإفريقية ويقوض جهود التنمية. فارتفاع أسعار المواد الغذائية وعدم استقرار أسعار الطاقة يزيد من ندرة الموارد المالية المخصصة للتنمية ويرهق كاهل هذه الدول بثقل الدين الخارجي وتراجع المساعدات العمومية وتباطؤ الاستثمارات الخارجية، فضلا عن الانعكاسات السلبية للتغيرات المناخية واستمرار بؤر العنف المسلح وغيرها من الاضطرابات والأزمات.

وفي ظل هذا الوضع المقلق، يبقى إقلاع قارتنا وبلوغها معدل النمو المنشود لتحقيق أهداف الألفية رهينا بالاعتماد على قدراتنا ومؤهلاتنا الإفريقية الذاتية موازاة مع دعم شركائنا في الشمال والجنوب. وفي هذا السياق، تشكل توصيات فريق التسيير الخاص بأهداف الألفية في إفريقيا المنشئ من لدن الأمين العام، أرضية ملهمة لنا جميعا.

وفي نفس هذا التوجه، تهيب المملكة المغربية بالدول المتقدمة والمانحة أن تفي بوعودها من أجل المساهمة في تنمية القارة الإفريقية. كما يؤيد المغرب اعتماد برنامج عمل من شأنه تفعيل التزامات كل الشركاء في تنمية القارة الإفريقية، وخاصة منها تلك المعلن عنها في المؤتمرات الأممية ومجموعة الثمانية، الخاصة بمضاعفة المساعدات الممنوحة لإفريقيا، وإلغاء مجموع الديون متعددة الأطراف للبلدان الفقيرة الأكثر مديونية في أفق 2010.

ولا يفوتني التذكير بالأهمية الخاصة التي ينبغي إيلاؤها للدول الإفريقية المتوسطة الدخل التي حققت معدلات تنموية إيجابية لكنها مازالت تواجه مشاكل وتحديات كبرى ناتجة عن تزايد حاجيات الطبقات الوسطى وارتفاع الضغوطات والمطالب الاجتماعية. ويتطلب هذا الأمر من حكومات هذه الدول مضاعفة الجهود للبحث عن موارد جديدة خاصة وأن الديون الخارجية تشكل عبئا ثقيلا على اقتصاديات هذه البلدان وعائقا لتنميتها الاجتماعية. من هنا، يرى المغرب أنه من الضروري الانكباب بجدية على معالجة هذه الإشكالية، وذلك من خلال العمل على تحويل جزء من هذه الديون إلى استثمارات منتجة ومعبئة لموارد إضافية من شأنها تحقيق تنمية مستدامة قادرة على امتصاص مشاكل البطالة والهجرة السرية وتجاوز معضلات الصحة والتعليم.

### السيد الرئيس،

يعتبر المغرب أن التعاون بين الشمال والجنوب يظل أساسيا لتلبية حاجيات إفريقيا التنموية. موازاة مع الدور الاستراتيجي الذي يجب أن يلعبه التعاون جنوب-جنوب في تنمية قارتنا.

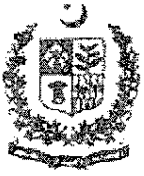
فتنفيذا للرؤيا الإستراتيجية لصاحب الجلالة الملك محمد السادس، جعل المغرب التعاون جنوب-جنوب ضمن أولويات سياسته الخارجية، كما وضع التعاون التضامني مع البلدان الإفريقية من بين الأهداف الأساسية في علاقاته مع محيطه الإفريقي. واعتبارا لضرورة جعل السياسة الخارجية امتدادا للسياسة الداخلية، حرص المغرب على تقاسم تجربته الخاصة بالمبادرة الوطنية للتنمية البشرية التي أطلقها جلالته الملك محمد السادس سنة 2005 مع أشقائه الأفارقة.

وفي هذا الإطار، استضاف المغرب في أبريل 2007 المؤتمر الإفريقي الأول حول التنمية البشرية، الذي توج بتبني خطة عمل شملت مبادرات تعاون فعلية وآلية متابعة لإرساء مسلسل منظم وبعيد المدى يهدف إلى إشراك البلدان الإفريقية في تجارب التنمية البشرية الناجحة وإلى تقاسم الخبرات بينها في هذا المجال.

السيد الرئيس،

لقد حان الوقت لاعتبار تنمية إفريقيا أولوية عالمية وقضية المجتمع الدولي برمته، إذ أن لأوضاع إفريقيا انعكاسات مباشرة على الأوضاع في العالم. وانطلاقاً من هذه الرؤيا، يتحتم على المجتمع الدولي أن يتعامل مع قارتنا الإفريقية بروح من الالتزام المسؤول، وفي إطار شراكة عالمية فاعلة تهدف إلى ترسيخ دعائم السلم والاستقرار والتنمية والرخاء الاجتماعي في قارتنا وفي جميع أنحاء المعمور، وذلك من خلال وضع الآليات الكفيلة لتنفيذ ومتابعة التوصيات التي ستمخض عن اجتماعنا اليوم.

وشكراً.



# **Pakistan Mission to the United Nations**

**8 East 65<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York NY 10065  
Tel: 212-879-8600  
Fax: 212-744-7348**

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## **STATEMENT BY**

**H.E. DR. ASIM HUSSAIN, FEDERAL  
MINISTER/CHAIRMAN NATIONAL  
RECONSTRUCTION BUREAU**

**AT THE**

**HIGH LEVEL EVENT  
ON  
AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS**

New York, 22 September 2008

**Statement by H.E. Dr. Asim Hussain, Federal Minister/Chairman National Reconstruction Bureau at the High Level Event on Africa's Development Needs: State of Implementation of Various Commitments, Challenges and the Way Forward (22 September 2008, New York)**

**Honourable Co-Chairs,**

Over the last decade, the UN has spearheaded the global movement to highlight Africa's security and development needs and to give it the prominence that it deserves on the global development agenda.

2. This High Level meeting of the General Assembly is a manifestation of international community's resolve to renew and refocus its attention towards addressing Africa's development needs, to review the state of implementation of earlier commitments and to discuss the way forward.

**Co-Chairs,**

3. We are meeting at a time when the developing nations are facing a series of challenges exacerbated by reduced market access, rising debt burden and shortages of food and energy. Such challenges pose a serious threat to growth and prosperity. The problems of Africa are even more complex and daunting, especially the issues of development and poverty, and need to be addressed effectively and urgently. There is a need for increased development assistance and foreign direct investment. This has been pointed out by the reports of the UN Secretary-General and the Africa Steering Group of the Millennium Development Goals.

4. Africa, with its rich endowments in human and natural resources and its biodiversity, offers a lot of promise and hope. A lot has been achieved in Africa since the launch of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in 2001. Through NEPAD, African leaders have taken ownership and leadership of the agenda for the socio-economic revival of Africa. Consequently, Africa has experienced record economic growth for the last four years.

5. While a lot has been achieved, much more still needs to be done. Halfway to the target date for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, no country in Africa is on track to achieve the MDGs. The African continent remains one of the poorest and under-developed regions in the world. It constitutes roughly 20% of the total world land area and 14% of the world's population. But two fifths of its population is living on less than US\$ 1 a day and accounting for only about 1 per cent of global GDP and 2 per cent of world trade.

6. Mobilizing adequate international financing has been the biggest challenge. Despite the 2005 G-8 commitment to more than double aid to Africa in real terms, the global assistance flows have actually declined for the second year. This stands in sharp contrast to the estimated US \$ 72 billion external financing required to achieve the Millennium Development Goals of Africa. However, some notable progress has been achieved in recent years on debt relief, but more needs to be done in real terms.

#### **Co-Chairs,**

7. The breakdown in the Doha Round of multilateral trade talks is another source of serious concern. The international community should ensure that multilateral trade agreements prioritize Africa's needs.

8. Similarly, Africa's share in the global Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) remains stagnant between 2 to 3 percent of the global FDI from 2000-2006. Concerted global efforts are required to increase direct investment flows towards African continent, particularly for infrastructure development.

9. Meeting Africa's development needs and challenges will require resolution and leadership to turn international commitments into reality, and vision into actions.

#### **Co-Chairs,**

10. Pakistan has consistently supported the political and economic aspirations of Africa. We support effective and early implementation of New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). We have actively supported and contributed towards efforts for promoting durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. Pakistan has an Africa Plan for Trade Development with bilateral trade today reaching nearly US\$ 1.8 billion a year. Our contribution to UN peacekeeping in Africa comes in the form of a contingent of nearly 10,000 troops deployed which continues to be amongst the two largest contingents in Africa for the last decade.

11. Furthermore, we also provide bilateral assistance in economic, social, technical and military spheres to a number of African countries in the context of South-South cooperation. In particular, Pakistan has been successfully running Special Technical Assistance Programme for Africa since 1986. Hundreds of young African professionals from both the public and private sector have received training under this programme in different fields including public administration, management, banking, customs, accounting and diplomacy. We plan to further enhance the scope of this programme in the years ahead. Our Prime Minister has

conveyed his desire to help Africa replicate our programs focused on the eradication of Hepatitis "C", safe drinking water and low cost housing schemes which are being carried out as his special initiatives in Pakistan.

I thank you Honourable Co-Chairs.





PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
SIERRA LEONE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

245 East 49th Street • New York, NY 10017

**STATEMENT**

*by*

**His Excellency Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma**  
President of the Republic of Sierra Leone

at the

***High-Level Event on the Special Needs of Africa***

**Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2008**

*Speaking Notes for His Excellency the President Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma*

*Event: High-Level Event on the Special Needs of Africa*

*Date: September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2008*

*Time: 10a.m*

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Mr. Chairman, <sup>THE LEADERS</sup>

Distinguished colleagues

Ladies and Gentlemen

Permit me to express my sincere gratitude to the President of the General Assembly for organizing these roundtables on Special Needs of Africa. As the Secretary-General rightly asserted in his last report, these forums provide us with an opportunity to review all major commitments made by the international community, including the United Nations, and by African countries, to address the continent's needs, as well as to analyze the state of implementation of commitments made by African States and institutions.

- Needless to state the obvious fact that the African continent is endowed with abundance of human and natural resource potentials, yet for a variety of

internal and exogenous factors the continent's development has been asphyxiated for a considerable period of time. World leaders meeting at the Millennium Summit reiterated the need to address the special needs of Africa to enable it to integrate into the mainstream of the world economy.

- Today, we are taking stock of the status of the implementation of pledges made by international development partners in such key areas as international development assistance, debt relief and debt cancellation, trade liberalization and aid for trade, peace and security, and in particular the role of the United Nations in supporting the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development in attaining internally

agreed development goals (IADGs), including the Millennium Development Goals.

- For fragile and post-conflict countries like mine, many of which are also Least Developed Countries, the challenges in addressing poverty eradication, pandemic diseases, inadequate infrastructure, weak human and technical capacity and the desperate need to improve living standards among others are enormous. Despite efforts by many to implement sound domestic policies, improve macroeconomic management and political governance; progress in achieving the IADGs is among other things, compromised by the current global food crisis, vagaries of climate change, soaring energy prices, the debt crisis and terms of trade.

➤ While we remain cognizant of the fact that the responsibility for Africa's development lies primarily with Africans themselves, we are also mindful of the fact that the current global economic architecture imposes shared responsibilities on partners alike.

The considerable focus of international attention in the last decade on meeting Africa's development needs must be complemented with a firm determination to turn existing commitments into concrete actions in order to:

- i. Provide policy space for African countries to develop their capacities and infrastructure and to strengthen the private sector as a viable partner in development;

- ii. Action to fully implement the Gleneagles' commitment to meet ODA targets as decided;
- iii. Provide coherent support for the programmes drawn up by African leaders through the promotion of a comprehensive and durable solution to the unsustainable external debt burdens of Africa's heavily indebted poor countries;
- iv. Provide assistance to Africa in preventing the scourge of pandemic diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis by encouraging pharmaceutical companies to make drugs, including antiretroviral drugs, affordable and accessible in Africa;
- v. Supplement the efforts of African countries, individually and collectively, to increase their agricultural productivity in a sustainable way;

On our part we will continue to improve macroeconomic management and political governance with a view to reducing the rates of inflation, ensuring strong fiscal balances and accumulation of reserves in order to provide increased opportunity for enhanced social spending and investment across the continent.

I thank you all for your kind attention.

**PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

**REMARKS**

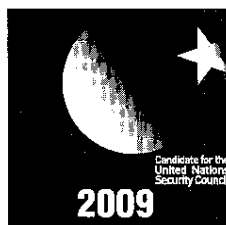
**BY**

**H.E. ABDULLAH GÜL**

**PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**

**AT THE FIRST ROUNDTABLE ON  
“AFRICA’S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS: STATE OF  
IMPLEMENTATION OF VARIOUS COMMITMENTS, CHALLENGES  
AND THE WAY FORWARD”**

**(NEW YORK, 22 SEPTEMBER 2008)**



[www.un.int/turkey](http://www.un.int/turkey)



Distinguished Co-Chairs,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are here to renew our political will to invest in the future of Africa: a continent whose fate represents our common destiny.

It is true that there is an encouraging but yet insufficient progress in addressing the challenges faced by the African countries.

However, meeting Africa's development needs is certainly within reach.

I appreciate the bold initiatives taken by African countries which have already created a conducive environment in this direction.

Now we have to maintain this momentum through a global partnership.

The priority areas have already been clearly identified in NEPAD. They are development assistance, debt relief, Africa's access to global markets, foreign investment and contribution to peace and security.

Within this framework, health, education, agriculture, environment, infrastructure and capacity-building have emerged as strategic areas for us to take action.

Turkey strives to further enhance its relations with the African countries exactly on the basis of these priorities.

In fact, the Turkish-African Partnership has come a long way within the past 10 years.

Our two way trade, for instance, has doubled since 2004 and exceeded 12 billion US Dollars in 2007. Our target now is to reach 30 billion US dollars by the end of 2010.

Many Turkish firms are actively engaged in projects aimed at improving the infrastructure in various African countries.

In parallel, Turkey has also been stepping up energetically its efforts to provide humanitarian and development assistance to African countries.

The Turkish International Development and Cooperation Agency (TİKA) now successfully implements projects in 37 African countries out of its 3 regional offices in Addis Ababa, Khartoum and Dakar.

In this context, we achieved particular progress in enhancing cooperation between small and medium size enterprises, as well as in extending assistance to agriculture, health and education related projects.

Turkey also decided to open 15 new Embassies in African capitals, in addition to our already existing twelve Embassies.

The African Union's decision this year to declare Turkey as one of its three strategic partners has further enhanced Turkey's resolve to deepen our partnership.

Likewise, Turkey's recent membership in the African Development Bank is yet another important step that can open new areas of cooperation.

We have discussed ways and means to further expand our partnership with our African counterparts last month in Istanbul, during the first Turkey-Africa Cooperation Summit where I had the honor of hosting fifty African leaders.

This was truly a historic meeting where we agreed on a renewed road map for our partnership. So I came here with a fresh commitment to continue along this path with even more effective programs and policies.

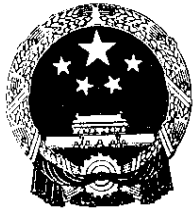
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Turkey views Africa as central for our common future. Africa's success will be the success of all humanity.

We also know that our individual endeavors will be more effective if they are part of an integrated strategy. I hope that today's meeting and the declaration we shall adopt will be a crucial step in achieving this objective.

Turkey is committed to continue its active participation in this process and thus join our African and international partners in moving forward to a more peaceful, stable and prosperous Africa.

Thank you.



**PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**  
**MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

350 EAST 35TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10016

**PRESS RELEASE**

*Please check against delivery*

**Remarks by Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi**  
**At the High-Level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs**

(New York, 22 September 2008)

Co-Chairmen,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year is the year of mid-term review of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It is of special significance that we are having the high-level meeting on Africa's development needs at this time, as this will help all parties review the delivery of their commitments to Africa's development, evaluate Africa's development needs and challenges and offer assistance and support to the accelerated development of Africa.

In today's world, peace, stability and development are the shared aspiration of people of all countries. However, the world is not trouble-free. While traditional hotspot issues remain unresolved, new conflicts break out from time to time. Non-traditional security issues are growing more serious, including terrorist threats, spread of diseases, environmental degradation and widening income gaps. Economic globalization presents both opportunities and challenges to developing countries.

In recent years, the peace and security situation in Africa has kept improving and steady progress has been made in regional cooperation and its integration process. Africa has maintained fairly rapid economic growth. Its terms of trade have improved, its debt burden eased further and its governance capacity strengthened. Africa is now showing an encouraging momentum of accelerated development. At the same time, Africa is still faced with daunting challenges on the way ahead. Its peace and stability need to be consolidated, and its agricultural basis and food

security need to be strengthened. Its weak infrastructure, lack of development finance and heavy burden of external debt affect the improvement of its investment climate and independent development capacity. The serious shortfalls in social services such as health and medical care, culture and education also make it more difficult to improve people's living standards.

African countries account for one quarter of the UN membership and 12 percent of the world's population, but only one percent of the world's total GDP and two percent of the global trade. Without the development of Africa, there would be no sustained development of the whole world. The international community should pay closer attention to the issues of Africa, listen to and respect its views, accommodate its concerns and support African governments and peoples in their development efforts.

First, it is important to safeguard peace and stability in Africa. Peace is the precondition and guarantee for development. At present, some African countries are still under threats of instability. The UN should play a positive role and urge all parties concerned to settle disputes through consultation and negotiation in order to maintain and consolidate peace and stability in Africa and create a favorable political environment for Africa's development. The international community should have a strong sense of urgency and mission to help African countries develop economy, eradicate poverty, improve the environment, promote social progress and remove the root causes of conflicts and instability in Africa.

Second, it is important to deliver on the commitments of assistance to Africa. Africa's development cannot be possible without the strong support of the international community. The international community, the developed countries in particular, should fully honor all assistance commitments to Africa and increase their official development assistance (ODA) to 0.7 percent of their national incomes. The developing countries should continuously deepen South-South cooperation and strengthen mutual help with Africa. In addition to government departments, all sectors in society should be mobilized to form synergies, and this includes encouraging businesses, non-governmental organizations and international organizations to give more support to Africa. Assistance should be relevant in such a way that meets the basic and long-term needs of African people. In providing assistance, it is important to respect the sovereignty of African countries, ensure the ownership, leadership and full policy space of recipient countries, and support the development paths and models that African countries choose according to their national

between China and Africa reached US\$73.31 billion in 2007.

Within the framework of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), China has cancelled 308 debts of 34 Heavily Indebted Poor Countries and Least Developed Countries in Africa and trained more than 22,000 professionals in various fields for Africa. The eight policy measures announced by the Chinese Government at the 2006 FOCAC Beijing Summit for enhancing practical cooperation between China and Africa and supporting Africa's development are now well under implementation and have produced important results. Facts have shown that through strengthened cooperation, China has played a positive role in Africa's economic and social development, expansion of employment and improvement of people's livelihood. We are glad to see that such cooperation has become a successful example of mutually beneficial South-South cooperation and provided new opportunities for the development of both China and Africa. China will continue to enhance communication and cooperation with African countries, ensure the successful implementation of the measures adopted at the Beijing Summit, and take effective steps to support Africa's development. This way, the new type of China-Africa strategic partnership will be advanced to the benefit of the Chinese and African people. In the next five years, China will provide further assistance and support to African countries in agriculture, education, public health, medical care and clean energy.

Co-Chairmen,

The 21st century is a development century. We sincerely hope the fruits of development will be shared by people in Africa and throughout the world, and we will truly live in a harmonious world of enduring peace and common prosperity. China will continue to work with other countries to achieve this goal.

Thank you, Co-Chairmen.

# ISRAEL

## 63<sup>rd</sup> SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Statement by

**Mr. Aaron Abramovich**

**Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

High-Level Meeting on "Africa's Development Needs:  
State of Implementation of Various Commitments,  
Challenges and the Way Forward"

United Nations, New York  
22 September 2008

PERMANENT MISSION OF ISRAEL  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
800 Second Avenue, 15th Floor  
New York, NY 10017



Tel: 212-499-5510  
Fax: 212-499-5515  
info-un@newyork.mfa.gov.il  
<http://www.israel-un.org>

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The challenges facing the peoples of Africa strike a profound chord in the heart of Israelis. Over a century ago, Theodor Herzl, the founder of the Zionist movement, saw a direct connection between the Jews' quest for freedom and independence and that of the nations of Africa. He wrote:

“There is still one other question arising out of the disaster of the nations which remains unsolved to this day, and whose profound tragedy only a Jew can comprehend! This is the African question... I am not ashamed to say that once I have witnessed the redemption of the Jews, my people, I wish also to assist in the redemption of the Africans.”

A century later the people of Israel remain committed to working to meet the challenges facing Africa and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. At the same time, with our shared experience of centuries of persecution, Israel cannot remain indifferent to the suffering of hundreds of thousands of innocent people from Darfur who have been turned into refugees in their own country. Israel sends aid to the victims of this tragedy, wherever possible.

It was Israel's Prime Minister Golda Meir who began to turn Herzl's vision of partnership and progress into a reality. After visiting Africa she was struck by the remarkable similarities between the challenges faced by the peoples of Africa and the young State of Israel. "Like the peoples of Africa", she later wrote, "we had shaken off foreign rule; like them, we had to learn for ourselves how to reclaim the land, how to increase the yields of our crops, how to irrigate, how to raise poultry, how to live together, and how to defend ourselves." And the Israeli experience might be even more appropriate for Africa, she wrote, since Israel "had been forced to find solutions to the kinds of problems that large, wealthy, powerful states had never encountered."

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Israel's international cooperation arm – MASHAV – began in 1958, as a modest program focused on grassroots-level human capacity building. It has since blossomed into an extensive program of cooperation, not only in Africa but throughout the developing world, with the aim of promoting sustainable development and social equity.

One example of an area in which sharing experience can have a dramatic impact is small-scale drip irrigation. The Israeli project TIPA– or *Technological Innovation for Poverty Alleviation* – extends the advantages of drip irrigation to traditional farmers, affording them the means of self-sufficiency. Designed for small holdings of 500-1000 square meters, TIPA can sustain the nutritional requirements of a 6-member family. In practice, as we have seen for example in the TIPA project in Senegal, this simple system can literally revolutionize the lives of an entire village.



PERMANENT MISSION OF  
JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**Statement by**

**the Honourable Dr. Kenneth Baugh, Deputy Prime Minister and  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica**

**during the**

**High-level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs,**

**United Nations Headquarters, 22 September 2008**

*Please check against delivery*



Mr. Chairman,

- Jamaica aligns itself with the Statement delivered by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. It is an honour for my country to participate in this High-level event dedicated to Africa's development needs, which we hope will serve to renew our collective focus and political will to effectively address the plight of the Continent.
- Jamaica shares a special relationship with the continent of Africa given our strong historical ties and the strong bonds of friendship shared with the African people. We therefore have a genuine interest in the progress and welfare of our sisters and brothers on the continent.
- Within this context, we view the initiative of the AU/Diaspora Summit, aimed at fostering a closer alliance with the African Diaspora worldwide, of which Jamaica is a part, as a significant step towards responding to the needs of the Continent. This mechanism would positively complement other activities taking place in the UN and elsewhere.
- I thank the Secretary-General for his very comprehensive report on Africa's development needs which forms the basis for our discussions today. As noted in the report, Africa faces peculiar challenges including alarming rates of poverty, the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases, persistence of violent conflicts, loss of human capital and enormous resource outflows, all of which have been exacerbated by other compelling global developments including inter alia the food crisis, soaring energy prices and climate change.
- Needless to say, this is already having a significant bearing on the ability of African countries to achieve the internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). As we are poised to enter the second phase of the race to the 2015 goalpost to the achievement of the MDGs, it is quite unfortunate to note that while some countries are on target to achieve some of the goals, NO country on the continent is on track to achieve all the goals.
- Jamaica commends the Governments and Peoples of Africa for their individual and collective efforts to advance their own development. Within the framework of NEPAD which is centred on the principle of national ownership, many African countries have taken several bold and positive steps to foster economic growth and enhance stability in their quest for sustainable development.
- Notwithstanding their sterling efforts, Mr. Chairman, the scale and magnanimity of the challenges confronting Africa, far outweighs their capacity to effectively address them.

- Countries emerging from conflict require special attention and assistance given the enormous challenges which they face in the areas of peace, stability and socio-economic development.
- We acknowledge the efforts of the international community to support the development agenda in Africa. It is acknowledged that the UN and the AU have forged a productive partnership over the years, strengthened with the launch of the MDG Africa Steering Group exactly one year ago. The Secretary-General must be commended for this bold initiative. It is our sincere hope that the recommendations/action plan of the Steering Group will be fully implemented, and that the Steering Group will assist in streamlining and coordinating the activities of the United Nations in Africa. Member States could benefit from a report in the future on the work of the Steering Group.
- While also acknowledging the efforts of other development partners in supporting Africa's development, we continue to lament the persistent implementation deficit as it relates to the myriad commitments made to Africa.
- We are heartened by the fact that a number of commitments relating to external debt relief have been honoured and encourage these developments, while reaffirming that debt relief should not detract from conventional official development assistance (ODA).
- We are however concerned that very limited progress has been attained in other areas of financing for development including the promised increase in ODA. It is clear from the Secretary-General's report that without a massive increase in the current resources being allocated to Africa, it is difficult to envisage the continent fully extricating itself from the deepening quagmire of poverty.

Mr. Chairman,

- This High-level event is not a chance encounter. It is an opportune time to undertake stocktaking as we chart a way forward. I can assure you, we already have an abundance of commitments and promises. The missing elements are the resources and concrete actions to truly advance the process. The time for rhetoric is over. Let us use these commitments as a springboard to a brighter future for the People of Africa.
- I thank you Mr. Chairman.



**ADDRESS**

**BY**

**H.E. MR. FAWZI SALLOUKH**

**MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND EMIGRANTS  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LEBANON**

**AT THE  
HIGH LEVEL PLENARY MEETING  
ON  
“AFRICA’S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS:  
STATE OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF VARIOUS  
COMMITMENTS, CHALLENGES, AND THE WAY  
FORWARD”**

**NEW YORK  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2008**

*CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY*

*Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations  
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 531, New York, NY 10017*

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

I wish at the outset to express Lebanon's appreciation for holding this High-Level meeting. I am confident that under your able leadership we will engage in a constructive debate and reach concrete results.

I also wish to associate myself to the statement made by the distinguished representative of H.E. Mr. Baldwin Spencer, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of the G77 and China.

The African continent has been lately the focus of increasing world attention. This has manifested itself through various political and diplomatic initiatives, including by the Security Council and various high-level bodies. In this context, this meeting is more than necessary to take stock of African developments pertinent to the Millennium Development Goals, which unfortunately are unevenly achievable. This meeting gains crucial importance also to verify and make sure that International commitments to Africa are in synergy with local endeavors.

The world has a moral and strategic obligation to address concerns of poverty and disease and despair on the African Continent, which continues to face daunting challenges that are putting the majority of its countries off track to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Those challenges were further exacerbated by the global food crisis, the soaring energy prices, and the adverse effects of climate change and, at times, unresolved conflicts. All this is claiming the lives of people and the fading away of investments. To all this we add a high level of brain drain resulting from the process of migration thus depriving the continent of an essential human capital. Today, 200 hundred million African people are malnourished with 30 million risking starvation.

Promising developments, however, did occur. the birth in 2001 of NEPAD, the transformation of the Organization of African Unity into AU in 2002 and the increasing effectiveness of Africa's Regional Economic Communities (REC's). To all this I add strenuous efforts being made by the African countries themselves towards improved governance across the continent. All this is as further confirmation of Africa's determination, and enhanced capacity to exercise full

ownership of its own development agenda in an effort by developing countries to put the house in order, as former Secretary General Kofi Annan called it. Notwithstanding all this, there remains a tremendous job to be done by African Countries themselves, but also by the international community and, Africa's development partners in particular, which have a crucial role to play in supporting Africa's own efforts to address and overcome challenges. This should consist of a multidimensional strategy which consists of defined goals within binding timeframes to boost economic growth, help in achieving MDGs, consolidation of peace and addressing Climate Change.

Within this strategy, debt remains among the most important factors that hamper all efforts for development. Developed countries should effect major debt relief and restructuring and grant debt relief to non HIPC African Countries.

Mr. President,

Africa's trade represents only 2% of world trade while the continent represents 12% of the world's population. The resumption and conclusion of the Doha trade round should not be delayed, and developed countries are invited to facilitate the creation of an open, non-discriminatory trading system particularly by addressing trade distorting domestic support like agricultural and export subsidies. African Agricultural products should be provided market access to developed Countries, and in this regard we support the Aid for trade initiative as it promotes the productive and trade capacities of African Countries.

Transfer of technology from developed to developing countries represents an essential element in development efforts. Capacity building efforts of African countries should be assisted as they constitute a primordial element in enhancing the production and the human capital.

Today, 2/3 of people infected with HIV / AIDS live in Africa and the treatment is not yet available on a universal basis. We believe that generic drugs should become more accessible and partnerships between local and pharmaceutical companies and multinationals should be encouraged.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, addressing the development needs of Africa is a necessity which should rank high on the world's agenda. This kind of reflection of Africa's development needs should not be an occasional exercise, but rather a lasting commitment which should benefit from a follow up mechanism with definite timeframes, and all this should benefit from an active support by the United Nations and the UN System. International peace and security cannot be dissociated from a global holistic strategy to address underdevelopment and resolve conflicts peacefully according to International law. African countries, like all developing countries, are not just business opportunities on which major powers compete; furthermore, they constitute partners in world civilization which should be treated as such with all due respect to their peoples' aspirations, cultures and rights. This is very true for Africa but also true for all regions and continents.

My country, Lebanon, is proud to have historic close relations with African countries, further consolidated by the presence of Lebanese communities in nearly all countries of the continent. We, Lebanese, are proud to have contributed to the development of African countries while benefiting from the opportunities which lie in this generous continent, inheritor of great civilizations. Thousands of Afro - Lebanese join me today in saluting this initiative and adhering to the final declaration and hoping for its thorough follow-up. We are convinced that Africa has provided a lot to the world, and it is high time of the community of States to stand by Africa in its efforts towards economic prosperity and human development.



# MADAGASCAR



**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. Mr. MARC RAVALOMANANA  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MADAGASCAR**

**BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
THE 63<sup>RD</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

=====

**AGENDA ITEM 57 a)**

**HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING ON  
"AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS:  
STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF VARIOUS COMMITMENTS,  
CHALLENGES AND THE WAY FORWARD".**

**NEW YORK, 22 SEPTEMBER, 2008**

*vérifier au prononcé*

**MISSION PERMANENTE DE MADAGASCAR AUPRÈS DES NATIONS UNIES  
820 SECOND AVENUE SUITE 800, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017  
TEL. (212)986-9491- FAX N. (212)986-6271**

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I thank you Secretary-General for your initiative to organize a specific panel on the development of Africa. I further would like to thank those involved in drawing up this very thorough report.

This report outlines many useful and practical ideas and strategies on how to improve development efforts in Africa. Today, I would like to concentrate on four issues in particular:

First, let us remember that the Millennium Development Goals are common goals shared by all nations of the world, both developing and developed countries. We must recognize that the ultimate responsibility for the development of our countries is ours. We need to take the lead on our own destiny and show the world that we, the leaders of Africa, are serious, committed and determined. In turn, we ask our partners in the developed countries to honor their pledges of increased aid to Africa.



In Madagascar, we developed the Madagascar Action Plan to realize our vision “*Madagascar-Naturally!*” and to reach the Millennium Development Goals. We have outlined the costs: In addition to the funds we have already raised - we will need an additional \$570 million for education, \$960 million for rural development, \$450 million for health and more. To date, we have raised \$4.2 billion and we need another \$4.9 billion. If the international community follows through on its promises of increased aid, we will reach these financial targets, thereby allowing us to move forward on achieving the MDGs in Madagascar.

I would like to ask the United Nations to get more involved in advocacy to promote doubled aid for Africa.

Second, during this year’s General Assembly, we will talk about various challenges, especially the food crisis, but also others, like climate change, increasing energy prices and fuel shortages, unpredictable financial markets, etc. We have to be very careful that these other global crises and important issues do not push the MDGs into the margins of our agenda.

We especially have to take care that resources that have been dedicated to achieving the MDGs are not directed towards other crises and challenges. The other crises and challenges require additional resources and better coordination of efforts.

We, as Africans, should also take care to strengthen existing partnerships and develop more creative partnerships with foundations, the private sector and the civil society to deal with those complex challenges and issues.

Third, we need an agricultural revolution across Africa, one that will significantly boost farm productivity and incomes for the poor while safeguarding the environment, one that will help millions of small-scale farmers lift themselves out of poverty and hunger.

In Madagascar we developed a vision called "Madagascar - *Naturally!*" and launched a "natural revolution" to strengthen rural areas, enhance agricultural productivity, give land titles to farmers, provide access to micro credit, process natural products, enhance the value chain and create economic growth from the bottom up.

The UN together with other donors should increase the provision of financial resources and technical expertise to all our countries to speed up and support this agricultural revolution.

Fourth and last, besides finances, the lack of capacity is the main hurdle in the way of our development. This stresses the importance of education. But I believe that we can do more to enhance our capacity apart from simply improving our general school and university systems:

a) We should further develop and strengthen programs to educate our people in the “Management of Development” so as to have a strong pool of development professionals with the skills and capacities to tackle our problems and to help build our future. Partnerships between universities in developed and developing countries, faculty and student exchange programs and joint research initiatives are some of the important areas to work on.

b) We should reinforce and enhance our efforts to reverse the brain drain and to stem the outward flow of skilled professionals from developing countries. We need efforts to bring our best minds, those who have studied abroad, back to their native countries.

We need these people and very often they would like to return but there are many factors that prevent them from doing so. We need to help motivate these women and men to dedicate their talents to the development of their home countries. For that, we welcome the support of the UN and other partners.

I thank you for your attention.

**REPUBLIC OF POLAND**  
**PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**



9 EAST 66th STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021

TEL. (212) 744-2506

High-level Meeting on the theme  
“Africa’s development needs: state of implementation  
of various commitments, challenges and the way forward”  
General Assembly of the United Nations

*Check against delivery*

**S T A T E M E N T**

by

**Mr. Ryszard SCHNEPF**

Under Secretary of State

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland

New York, 22 September 2008

Madam President, Mister President,  
Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests,

At the outset let me thank you for convening this important and timely meeting which gives us all an excellent opportunity to discuss the crucial issue of Africa's development needs.

I wish to thank all task teams and groups that were responsible for preparing the documents concerning the progress on the implementation of Millennium Development Goals, including the *MDG Gap Task Force*. They constitute an excellent basis for our discussion regarding Africa's development needs. The body of evidence contained in those documents shows us clearly the areas where we should put the utmost effort in order to fulfill our commitments. It is also evident that Africa is the continent in most urgent need of assistance from the international community on its way to reach the Millennium Development Goals.

We are very satisfied with the economic growth that Africa has been experiencing in recent years, and thanks to which some progress has been made in the area of Africa's development. However, international community must react quickly and effectively to counteract a growing impact of recent negative phenomena, that can draw back the progress that has been made. I refer specifically to the observed slowdown of the global economy, and rapid growth of the food and energy prices.

In that context, it is of vital importance to restore the right dynamics of the scaling up of financial resources for development. During the last three years, the Polish official development assistance (ODA) has grown threefold in a very dynamic way. In 2005 the Polish ODA amounted to more than 204 millions of USD, while in 2007 it surpassed the amount of 362 millions. We hope to keep this pace of growth, so that we are able to fulfill our commitments undertaken within the European Union, and various international fora.

We observe with satisfaction a growing number of new donors appearing in the field of global development. Poland itself has joined the community of donors recently. We undertake all efforts to implement our commitments in accordance with provisions of the Paris Declaration, and the principles of aid efficiency expressed therein. It is essential that we avoid at all costs the fragmentation of aid. It is one of the greatest obstacles on the way to the sustainable and effective fulfillment of the MDGs.



# THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

335 East 45<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, N.Y. 10017  
Tel (212) 439-4000, Fax (212) 986-1083

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**Statement by H.E. Mr. Yu Myung-hwan  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
UN High-Level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs  
22 September 2008  
New York**

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**Distinguished co-chairs,**

I would like to begin by expressing my deep appreciation to President D'Escoto Brockmann and Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon for the crucial leadership role they have played in promoting the cause of Africa's development. This meeting is timely indeed as we have just passed the midpoint towards the MDG target year of 2015.

While fully sharing the concerns of the international community over the mixed picture of Africa's performance in achieving the MDGs, I would like to point out that we should not downplay what Africa has achieved so far. Rather, Africa deserves the recognition of the international community on the progress it has made, especially in recent years, despite a number of challenges such as on-going conflicts and pandemic diseases.

Apart from these, the triple crises of food, energy, and climate change are now affecting Africa more seriously than anywhere else. In this age of globalization, not only Africa but also the world at large will have to face the dire consequences of failure. As such, collective interests as well as moral imperatives have dictated our choice of standing in solidarity with Africa in addressing these immense global challenges. This is why our gathering here is important as we lay out our next course of action to deliver on the promises of supporting Africa for the attainment of the MDGs.

As a relatively new donor which was once a war-torn and impoverished nation, Korea is exerting utmost efforts to increase its ODA and to further the partnership for international development. For instance, the volume of Korea's ODA last year was triple that of 2000. We plan another three-fold increase by 2015 for our aid volume to reach \$3.3 billion a year. Africa is the region where a larger share of our increased assistance finds its new destination.

Under Korea's Initiative for Africa's Development that started in 2006, we have tripled our ODA to Africa and it will be further scaled up. Moreover, we introduced an "air ticket solidarity levy" in 2007, the funding of which is primarily earmarked for the eradication of diseases in Africa. And, the Korea-Africa Forum was created as a channel of cooperation for governments, businesses, and the civil society of Korea and Africa.

However, aid alone is not the answer. Korea's development experience illustrates that trade and investment are powerful engines for development by enabling economic growth and poverty reduction. Accordingly, we promote investments in Africa by the Korean private sector through relevant trade policies. In conjunction with continued support for trade capacity building, Korea strives to further expand duty-free and quota-free access for imports from the least developed countries in Africa.

We are also exerting efforts to address Africa's "development divide" by contributing to human resource development through training, exchanges of experts and students as well as the dispatch of volunteers.

**Distinguished co-chairs,**

The challenges facing Africa are multi-dimensional and complex. It seems more realistic to admit that we do not have a 'cure all' solution at hand. What we need to do is to replicate what has worked for Africa and continue our fight against the scourges of poverty, diseases, and conflicts on all fronts through concerted and better coordinated efforts. I would like to reaffirm Korea's willingness to work together with the international community in accelerating such efforts. Thank you.



**Map International**

152 W 57th street  
54<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10017  
USA

**Michael Landau****Chairman**

[Michael@mapinternational.net](mailto:Michael@mapinternational.net)  
+1.212.362.4499

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***MAP International: Bringing Financial Services and  
Economic Empowerment to the Rural and Under-Served***

Your Excellencies, Mr Co-chairs, , Ladies and Gentlemen

The lack of financial services and a uniform accepted form of identification for people in rural areas has long left the bulk of rural populations in Africa un-banked – without access to savings, credit and efficient money transfer instruments, leaving them vulnerable to fraud, theft, and physical abuse. The cash-based environment in much of Africa hampers the individual's ability to proactively and safely chart a path out of poverty – into sustainable self-determination, self-reliance and self respect.

Map International is transforming the financial services infrastructure in developing Nations by integrating and offering a Central Bank Approved BioMetric Identification System which interfaces with the most advanced Mobile Telecommunication Technology. Map offers its newly enfranchised bank customers, mobile banking, a National network of Point of Sale Machines, electronic funds transfer, debit/credit cards, and BioMetric Identification that can be used for a national ID, election cards and even a Health and Education Card. Map International's objective is to promote universal access to financial services. We help Developing Nations leverage their existing financial infrastructure and institutions, to be able to deliver new and enhanced electronic financial solutions to all their citizens – regardless of socioeconomic position.

Map works directly with government, in a Public Private Partnership to create a pioneering relationship that will reduce poverty and accelerate economic development. This is achieved by radically improving the way payment processing and remittances flow through the entire economy, connecting and enfranchising all socioeconomic groups as well as enhancing the efficiency and transparency of Government Institutions in both the formal and informal sectors.

Map's services are currently being implemented in Uganda. With the strong encouragement and endorsement of His Excellency, The Honorable President Museveni in his vision of "Bono Bagagaweleh, Prosperity for All" , Late in 2007, Map teamed with the Finance Ministry of Uganda and Post Bank Uganda (PBU) to offer its customers access to innovative banking solutions, including secure debit cards, ATM machines, a network of Point of Sale Machines and Mobile Banking enabled Cellular phones, making the Government owned, Post Bank Uganda the only banking institution in Uganda to offer such an advanced suite of services.

Map has partnered with PBU to deploy proprietary mobile data capture units to enfranchise rural citizens into the Map/Post Bank Uganda service offering. Development is underway to expand the rural initiative to SACCO's (Savings and


**Map International**

152 W 57th street  
54<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10017  
USA

**Michael Landau  
Chairman**

[Michael@mapinternational.net](mailto:Michael@mapinternational.net)  
+1.212.362.4499

Credit Co-operatives) as well as to recipients of Government funds such as State Employees Pensioners.

Beyond fortifying the financial infrastructure and reliability of rural banking institutions, the Map offering will greatly reduce the expense, travel time, and loss of earning opportunities that rural workers, farmers and laborers endure to travel to the often distant urban financial centers to collect their wages. In addition, access to MicroFinance Loans will be achieved as potential borrowers can now be identified and a national repayment mechanism is created, borrowing costs should also be drastically reduced.

Access to quality financial services is central to achieving the MDG goals of reducing poverty and hunger. The Map offering will result in a dramatic increase in the availability of financial services and will lead to a major reduction in the costs of financial transactions for rural populations. The System will also form the bedrock of establishing a stronger formal economy, enabling the Governments and domestic economies to leverage the increase in deposits in the financial system for local capital projects.

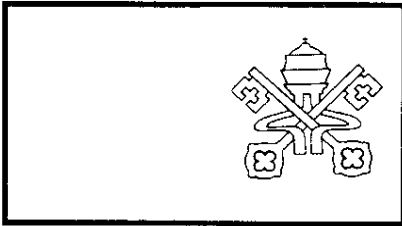
Finally, by enabling universal access to financial transactions, MAP makes it easier for micro-entrepreneurs (SMEs) to function, encourages the establishment of socially relevant and economically sustainable projects and businesses, and fosters increased trade and investment between and with developing countries. Thank You !



*a) Map International's Uganda Office Managing Director, Roscoe Nsubuga, enrolls a rural citizen into the Map system*



*b) A newly enrolled Post Bank Uganda customer uses a Map ATM for the first time*



# HOLY SEE

PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION OF THE HOLY SEE TO THE UNITED NATIONS 25 EAST 39th STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10016-0903 (212) 370-7885

*Check against delivery*

**Statement by H.E. Archbishop Celestino Migliore  
Apostolic Nuncio  
Permanent Observer of the Holy See**

**63<sup>rd</sup> session of the  
United Nations General Assembly**

**Agenda item 57 (a)**

**High-level plenary meeting on the theme  
“Africa’s development needs: state of implementation of  
various commitments, challenges and the way forward”**

**New York, 22 September 2008**

Mr President,

Africa has always played an important role in the various challenges taken up every year by the General Assembly of the United Nations. For the last 60 years Africa, with its historical and geographic particularities, has challenged the capacity of the United Nations to carry out the high ideals enshrined in its Charter of peace and prosperity for all. Recent history has also witnessed the capacity of African governments to harmonize their wide array of interests and local needs, their great cultural diversity and the special geographic and climatic challenges with the need to coordinate a common response to the serious problems that affect without distinction the entire continent.

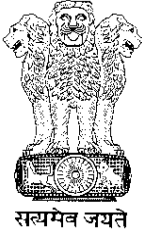
The successes achieved in the consolidation of independence, the overcoming of the ideological conflicts of the twentieth century, the abolition of apartheid, and more recently the strengthening of the African Union and many other regional structures of cooperation, are a sign of hope for the potential of Africa. It is now high time to allow and encourage an African sense of ownership in leading a sustained and sustainable developmental process that frees all the peoples of Africa from the scourge of extreme poverty.

The Holy See commends this very timely meeting aimed at taking stock of the implementation of various commitments put forward by the international community as well as the efforts being undertaken at the national level throughout Africa.

My delegation expresses its appreciation for the Report of the Secretary-General. The Holy See echoes the Report's call for concrete action and believes that delivery must be the principal result at the international, regional and national levels. The political Declaration constitutes an effective guide for such concrete action if accompanied by the political will to put its aspirations into practice.

The development of Africa is a great opportunity for the whole world given its human resources and unique climatic and cultural diversity. Africa is the "youngest" of continents with sixty percent of its population under 25. In a number of African countries growth has kept pace with and even surpassed that of developed nations. Such growth, substantiated in the Report of the Secretary-General, is due not only to the improvement of the terms of exchange of raw materials but also to a generalized improvement in methods of government.

In spite of this, however, the recent economic growth has not been sufficient to free from extreme poverty large segments of the population of Africa, and the average life expectancy remains one of the lowest in the world. Clearly there is still a long way to go in improving the health of the people of Africa.



# INDIA भारत

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## STATEMENT

BY

H.E. Mr. Anand Sharma  
Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs of India

at the

High-Level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs: state of  
implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way  
forward.

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK

SEPTEMBER 22, 2008

Excellency President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal,  
Excellency Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines,  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

India and Africa have a unique and special bond based on shared experiences and civilisational links. Over centuries, vibrant cultural and economic exchanges have marked the relations between India and Africa which were interrupted by colonization. Decolonization and emergence of free countries in Asia and Africa restored this engagement, bringing India and Africa together to address the challenges of social and economic development and poverty eradication.

We have a long-standing, close and multi-layered relationship with Africa based on our abiding commitment to work with the continent to fulfill its aspirations. Our partnership encompasses priority sectors integral to the developmental goals of Africa in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. A vibrant India and a resurgent Africa are witnessing an intensification of relations and growing convergence of interests in their common quest for sustainable economic growth and development.

India has always been committed to elevate its special engagement with Africa into an enduring partnership by developing an institutional mechanism for India-Africa dialogue. The first-ever India Africa Partnership Forum Summit held in New Delhi in April 2008 was convened in partnership with the African Union. It is the African Union which worked with us in choosing the participants and in defining the roadmap of Africa-India cooperation in accordance with Africa's priorities. The Delhi Declaration and the Africa-India Framework for Cooperation adopted at the Summit highlight our shared political vision and world view and provide a solid foundation for a systematic and stepped-up engagement in the years to come.

The vision of the Delhi Declaration is based on equality and mutual respect. The Framework of Cooperation, adopted at the Summit, outlines the priority areas of our future engagement. These are in line with the priorities of the continent and include capacity-building, agriculture, infrastructure development, health and food security and technology cooperation. Our Prime Minister also announced the enhancement of the available concessional Lines of Credit for Africa to US\$ 5 billion. India sincerely aspires for a long-term partnership with Africa and is therefore investing in building economic infrastructure including railways, IT, telecom and power.

India has made a unilateral announcement of duty free and quota free market access to goods from 34 Least Developed Countries in Africa. This will spur economic activity in manufacturing, particularly for African SMEs, by allowing them enhanced market access to one of the fastest-growing economies in the world.

I would like to conclude, Distinguished co-chairs, by reiterating India's commitment to continue to work closely with the countries in Africa to meet the diverse challenges that they face, to achieve the developmental targets and fulfill the aspirations of the people of Africa.

Thank You

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# ITALY

## HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS: STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

### *Round Table number 3*

*(22 September 2008, 3 to 6 p.m., Trusteeship Council Chamber)*

### **ELEMENTS FOR THE STATEMENT BY DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HON. VINCENZO SCOTTI**

- The principle that “development, security and human rights are interconnected and mutually reinforcing,” as indicated in the Millennium Declaration and reiterated in the draft political declaration scheduled to be adopted at the conclusion of the High-level Meeting, is central to the Italian approach to African development issues. It is also the founding vision of NEPAD.
- In proposing the adoption of a Plan of Action for Africa at the Genoa G-8, later approved at Kananaskis, Italy sought to respond to the need to identify, in this broad and complex field, the priority actions for the achievement of the goal of an Africa free of conflicts, hunger and oppression. We thus understand fully well the African demand that this meeting not be yet another UN ritual exercise, destined to have no impact on reality, but that it instead mark a gear shift, sanctioning a collective commitment to targeted action on priority goals.
- We will of course convey this sense of urgency also to the G-8, through our incoming Presidency of the Group. The visions and perceptions of the African leaders that emerge from this meeting will be an important legacy in view of an updating of the G-8 African Action Plan, which we wish to keep firmly anchored to the principle of African ownership. We are ready to build on your inputs.
- We have taken note of the strong demand for enhanced flows of resources, although let us not forget that ODA is not the only response to Africa's special needs. We believe that improving the quality of assistance should also be a key priority. As governance in Africa continues to advance at national and local level, assistance





بعثة الجماهيرية العربية الليبية الشعبية الإشتراكية العظمى  
لدى الأمم المتحدة - نيويورك

الدورة الثالثة والستون  
للجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة

كلمة  
وفد الجماهيرية العربية الليبية

أمام  
الإجتماع رفيع المستوى المعني  
بـ " إحتياجات إفريقيا الإنمائية "

جلسة المائدة المستديرية

نيويورك في 22\9\2008 إفرنجي

الرجاء المراجعة عند الإلقاء

# بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

السيد الرئيس،،،

إسمحوا لي بداية أن أعبّر عن تقديرنا لإدارتكم هذه الجلسة وأن أشكر الأمين العام على التقرير المقدم في الإجتماع رفيع المستوى حول إحتياجات إفريقيا الإنمائية، والذي يؤكد من جديد إهتمام المجتمع الدولي بتلبية الإحتياجات الإنمائية الخاصة بإفريقيا، القارة الوحيدة التي لا تسير في إتجاه تحقيق أهداف التنمية الألفية بحلول 2015.

سيدي الرئيس،،،

حققت الإقتصاديات الإفريقية نمواً قوياً للسنة الرابعة على التوالي منذ 2004 بمعدل سنوي قدره (5%)، إذ إستفادت القارة من نمو الطلب العالمي على السلع الأولية مما نتج عنه زيادة في عائدات الدول المنتجة والمصدرة لهذه السلع. ولكن هذا المعدل بقي دون المستهدف (7%) سنوياً اللازم لتحقيق أهداف التنمية الألفية المتمثلة بالأساس في خفض الفقر بـ(50%) بحلول عام 2015. لقد بذلت الدول الإفريقية جهوداً كبيرة للقضاء على الفقر والمرض والقيام بإصلاحات سياسية وإقتصادية وإجتماعية وبناء الأمن والسلام. ولم يكن هذا ممكناً دون مساعدة المنظمات الإقليمية، ومنظومة الأمم المتحدة، ومؤسسات "بروتن وودز"، والدول المانحة، والتعاون المتنامي بين دول الجنوب.

سيدي الرئيس،،،

إننا نتفق مع ما ورد في تقرير الأمم المتحدة من أن تعهدات الجهات المانحة بتقديم الموارد المالية والتقنية للدول الإفريقية لبلوغ أهدافها الإنمائية وغيرها من الأهداف المتفق عليها دولياً، لم يتحقق معظمها إلا جزئياً؛ مثل

تخفيف الدين، وتقديم العون من أجل التجارة، ودعم عمليات حفظ السلام والتنمية.

إحتياجات إفريقيا الإنمائية كبيرة في جميع المجالات. فقطاع الزراعة والأمن الغذائي - مثلاً - يحتاج إلى زيادة العون من (2) مليار دولار سنوياً في الوقت الراهن إلى (8) مليار دولار سنوياً حتى عام 2010. وبالنسبة لقطاع التعليم، وإن سجلت بعض البلدان الإفريقية نتائج جيدة، فإنه يحتاج إلى تمويل إضافي في شتى مجالاته ومراحله. أما القطاع الصحي فما زال يعاني من أوضاع مقلقة نتيجة لعدم توفر الخدمات الصحية ومتطلبات الوقاية من الأمراض خاصة الإيدز والملاريا، وإستمرار إرتفاع وفيات الأطفال والنساء من جراء مضاعفات الحمل والولادة. كما تحتاج أغلب الدول الإفريقية إلى مضاعفة الإستثمارات في البنى التحتية. وقد زاد من حجم التمويلات المطلوبة الأضرار والمخاطر الناجمة عن تغير المناخ من جفاف وتصحر وندرة المياه.

سيدي الرئيس،،،

لقد أصبح توافق "مونتيري" مرجعاً رئيسياً للتعاون الإنمائي الدولي، وصارت إجتماعات مجموعة الثمانية تعني مباشرة البلدان الإفريقية اعتباراً من عام 2002، عندما اعتمدت المجموعة في "كاناناسكيس" (كندا) "خطة عمل إفريقيا" (Africa Action Plan)، وهكذا دأبت "النيباد" ومفوضية الإتحاد الإفريقي واللجنة الإقتصادية لإفريقيا ومصرف التنمية الإفريقي على حضور إجتماعات المجموعة على مستوى القمة، كما تم إنشاء "منتدى الشراكة مع إفريقيا" (APF) لرصد تنفيذ إلتزامات كافة الأطراف في مجالات المساعدة الإنمائية الرسمية (ODA)، وتخفيف عبء الديون، وتحرير التجارة، والمعونة من أجل التجارة، وقضايا الشفافية، والحوكمة، والمساواة بين الجنسين، والأمن والسلام، والإصلاح السياسي والإقتصادي والإداري في الدول الإفريقية. وفي هذا الإطار، أنشئت "الآلية الإفريقية لمراقبة النظراء" (APRM) تنفيذاً لمشروطة "كاناناسكيس" وتعهدات "جلينجلز".

من المؤسف أن المنجز من الوعود لا يرتقي إلى مستوى الآمال وبشكل خاص تجاه "النيباد"، حتى بدت هذه الوعود وكأنها نوع من أنواع التعبئة

الإعلامية لإظهار الإهتمام بإفريقيا تجاه الرأي العام الوطني والمجموعة الدولية دون إلزام حقيقي. فالحكومات المعنية بتلقي العون ليس في إستطاعتها التنبؤ بتدفقات المعونة إلا على أساس يعتمد، وبشكل متزايد، على مدى الأداء وتحقيق النتائج، وهي شروط غير مضمونة التحقق دائماً، خاصة عندما يكون التعامل ثنائياً وليس على أساس مجموعة الثمانية تجاه المجموعات الإفريقية والإقليمية ومشاريعها العابرة للحدود كما هو متفق عليه في مقررات وبرامج النيباد والإتحاد الأفريقي و"خطة عمل إفريقيا".

**سيدي الرئيس،،،**

إن بلدي كدولة إفريقية وعضوة في مجموعة ال-77 والصين تقدر عالياً التعاون جنوب - جنوب الذي يتعاضد بشكل مطرد خاصة بوجود دول مثل الصين والهند والبرازيل فاعلة في مجال المعونة على مستوى إفريقيا، وتلعب دوراً مهماً في المفاوضات المتعددة الأطراف مثل مفاوضات جولة الدوحة لمنظمة التجارة العالمية والمراجعة المنتظرة لتوافق "مونتيري" في الدوحة. إننا نأمل أن لا تنضم هذه الدول للنادي التقليدي للدول المانحة الكبرى.

**سيدي الرئيس،،،**

أكد الفريق التوجيهي المعني بالأهداف الإنمائية الألفية في إفريقيا (MDG'S Africa Steering Group) الذي أنشأه الأمين العام للأمم المتحدة في سبتمبر 2007 لحث المجتمع الدولي على الوفاء بالتزاماته تجاه إفريقيا، بأن مجموع ما التزمت به مجموعة الثمانية والإتحاد الأوروبي والجهات المانحة الأخرى يقدر بمبلغ (72) بليون دولار سنوياً، كافية لتمويل برنامج توصياته بتحقيق أهداف التنمية الألفية في إفريقيا. ويشمل هذا المبلغ ما قيمته (62) بليون دولار كمساعدات تنمية رسمية (ODA) قررتها مجموعة الثمانية والإتحاد الأوروبي في قمة "جلينجلز" وهي مساعدات يجب أن ينظر إليها كمكمل للمصادر التمويلية الأخرى. ولكن ما حدث هو إنحصار تلك المساعدات في تخفيف عبء الديون والمساعدات الإنسانية ولم تنعكس كموارد إضافية متاحة لتمويل برامج تنمية.

سيدي الرئيس،،،

لقد تبنت قمة الإتحاد الإفريقي في "شرم الشيخ" في شهر يوليو المنصرم قراراً بخصوص هذا الإجتماع رفيع المستوى، أكد على أهمية الإجتماع وتوقيتته، ويدعم ما جاء في تقرير فريق الخبراء المشار إليه أعلاه من توصيات محددة ودقيقة جاءت نتيجة للعمل المشترك مع المجموعة الإفريقية خاصة المفوضية والمصرف الإفريقي للتنمية واللجنة الاقتصادية لإفريقيا والنيباد.

بالرغم من أن القارة الإفريقية محتاجة لمساعدة إنمائية رسمية حقيقية، وزيادة في فاعلية العون، ولإستثمارات مستدامة عامة وخاصة في البنى التحتية والزراعة والصناعة والتجارة من أجل التنمية، ولهيكليّة جديدة ومبتكرة للتمويل الإنمائي للمضي قدماً في محاربة الفقر وتحقيق الإستقرار والتنمية الإقتصادية والإنسانية المستدامة، إلا أنها تدرك بأن مسؤولية تنميتها تقع على عاتقها في المقام الأول. ونعتقد أن على الكثيرين أن يدركوا أن إفريقيا دفعت الكثير... الكثير جداً من أجل نمو وتقدم ورفاهية أغنياء اليوم.

سيدي الرئيس،،،

إننا نؤيد الإعلان السياسي الذي سيصدر عن هذا الإجتماع الرفيع المستوى ونأمل أن يمثل زخماً جديداً لتنفيذ مجموعة الإلتزامات لتحقيق أهداف التنمية الألفية في إفريقيا.

شكرا السيد الرئيس،،،

## **Principauté de Monaco**

**S.E.M. Franck Biancheri**

**Conseiller de Gouvernement pour les Relations Extérieures  
et pour les Affaires Economiques et Financières Internationales**

### **Les besoins de développement de l'Afrique**

**22 septembre 2008**

Monsieur le Président,

Alors que nous avons déjà parcouru la moitié du chemin pour atteindre les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement, leur réalisation est encore incertaine et la question du développement de l'Afrique est désormais centrale.

En effet, alors que la situation s'est significativement améliorée dans d'autres régions du monde, les retards accumulés en matière de développement humain en Afrique sub-saharienne demeurent toujours préoccupants.

La Déclaration que nous allons adopter est cruciale car elle va permettre de recentrer les efforts en faveur de ce Continent sur des domaines clefs d'intervention et de renouveler notre soutien en faveur du NEPAD.

Les trois quarts des africains en situation de grande précarité vivent dans des zones rurales ; l'un des domaines prioritaire d'intervention devra donc concerner l'agriculture. Des investissements massifs devront être consentis dans les années à venir pour relever la productivité agricole et ainsi augmenter les revenus des populations rurales et réduire les problèmes de sécurité alimentaire dans cette région du monde.

Ce secteur d'intervention est d'autant plus prioritaire que l'on a pu constater cette année la fragilité de l'Afrique face aux très fortes hausses des prix des denrées alimentaires. Cette situation provoque une augmentation drastique du nombre de personnes souffrant de la faim et de la malnutrition, minant ainsi les progrès accomplis ces dernières années. L'Afrique sub-saharienne, avec 60% de sa population touchée par cette crise, est une nouvelle fois la région la plus affectée.

La maladie est également un frein important au développement de l'Afrique. La santé doit, à ce titre, constituer un axe d'intervention prioritaire. Des interventions pour améliorer la santé maternelle et infantile, empêcher la transmission du VIH/SIDA et le traiter, prévenir et soigner la tuberculose et le paludisme, améliorer l'état nutritionnel de la population sont un préalable indispensable au développement de l'Afrique. Ces mesures appelleront un soutien financier et technique concerté de la part des pays développés avec le soutien des Organisations Internationales, et plus particulièrement de l'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé.

L'éducation reste une problématique centrale. En Afrique sub-saharienne, à peine plus de la moitié des enfants ont accès à l'enseignement primaire et l'inégalité de scolarisation entre les filles et les garçons est parmi <sup>les</sup> les plus forte au monde. Le développement passera par une formation des élites et à un accès à l'éducation plus massif qui évitera les inégalités.

Mon pays, Monsieur le Président, souhaite s'acquitter, à son échelle, de ses engagements envers les pays les plus pauvres et concentre déjà ses efforts sur les Pays les Moins Avancés du Continent africain. La Principauté soutient pleinement le projet de déclaration qui vise à faire avancer le développement à travers des partenariats.

Sous l'impulsion de S.A.S. le Prince Albert II, le Gouvernement Princier met tout en œuvre pour atteindre l'objectif de consacrer en 2015 0,7% de son RNB à l'Aide Publique au Développement.

Les crédits correspondant ont augmenté ces dernières années de plus de 25 % par an, ce qui constitue, vous en conviendrez, un effort exceptionnel dans une période de crise financière et énergétique généralisée.

La politique de coopération au développement du Gouvernement Princier adoptée cette année se concentre sur la lutte contre la pauvreté et s'articule autour de la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement. Les domaines de la santé et l'éducation représentent aujourd'hui plus de 60 % de l'aide allouée par la Principauté.

D'un point de vue géographique, une vingtaine de pays bénéficient de l'aide de Monaco. La politique de coopération de la Principauté place l'Afrique au cœur de nos préoccupations avec près de 80 % de l'aide bilatérale allouée à des actions sur ce continent.

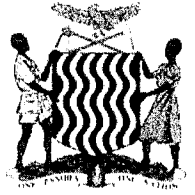
Les Pays les Moins Avancés d'Afrique sub-saharienne concentrent, pour leur part, plus de la moitié de notre aide bilatérale.

En Complément de l'aide apportée par l'Etat, la société civile monégasque est fortement mobilisée pour soutenir les populations les plus démunies. Les nombreuses ONG monégasques sont particulièrement active en Afrique et complètent le dispositif mis en place par notre coopération publique.

En conclusion, Monsieur le Président, le développement durable de l'Afrique ne se fera pas sans l'appui du secteur privé. Je tiens à saluer, à ce titre, les entreprises monégasques qui sont particulièrement actives sur ce Continent et avec lesquelles nous travaillons actuellement pour la mise en place d'un partenariat au bénéfice de projets de développement.

Je vous remercie de votre attention.

# REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA



Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations, 237 East 52nd Street, New York, NY 10022  
Tex: (212) 888-5770 Fax: (212) 888-5213 E-mail: zambia@un.int

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## STATEMENT

BY

**HON. BRADFORD MACHILA, MP, MINISTER OF LANDS  
ZAMBIA DELEGATION TO THE 63<sup>RD</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

ON

**THE OCCASION OF THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON  
AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS**

**New York**

**22<sup>nd</sup> September 2008**



Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,

It is gratifying to note that this year's Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly will address the plight of Africa by convening this High Level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs. It is indeed an opportune time to look at Africa's development concerns, the state of implementation of the various commitments, challenges and the way forward.

All the statements that have been made so far have recognised the extent of poverty prevailing on our continent. The majority of our people live in rural areas and are the worst affected in terms of poverty.

In the case of Zambia, another dimension of poverty has manifested itself in the form of rapid urbanisation through rural-urban migration. This has brought with it the serious challenges of urban unplanned settlements, resulting in poor housing infrastructure as well as poor water and sanitation facilities, and diseases such as diarrhoea which have led to high infant mortality rates.

In her quest to reduce poverty, Zambia has articulated its long term development goals in the National Vision 2030 which envisages that by 2030, the country will be a middle-income

industrialised nation that provides opportunities for improving the well being of our people, embodying values of social-economic justice, underpinned by the principles of: (i) gender responsive sustainable development; (ii) democracy; (iii) respect for human rights; (iv) good traditional and family values; (v) positive attitude towards work; (vi) peaceful coexistence and; (vii) private-public partnerships.

Much as the country has a focussed Vision, the issue of rising world food and oil prices is of major concern to Zambia. The current global hunger threat coupled with high incidences of HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria, and other infectious diseases has been exacerbated by the rising incidences of poverty, inadequate safe water supply and sanitation.

Mr. Chairman,

I recognise that the recent improved performance in commodity prices has contributed positively to the growth of most of the African countries including my own country, Zambia, which has been growing at an average of 5.5% per annum over the past three years. This positive growth is yet to be translated into poverty reduction and improved socio-economic welfare for the majority of the population as poverty levels remain high mainly because of low investments in key sectors that employ majority of the inhabitants. What is even

worse is that, just as we were beginning to see the silver lining as a result of these positive developments, the recent increases in world food and oil prices now threaten to reverse all these gains.

In this regard, it is not surprising that as we reach the mid-point of achieving the MDGs, most African countries are off target and will not be able to achieve the set goals by 2015 without stepping up efforts at both national and international levels such as the implementation of most commitments under the internationally agreed Development Goals and Targets.

Although commitments have been made by cooperating partners at the international level to improve investment flows, market conditions, Official Development Assistance Flows and Finance for Development for African countries, the implementation of these commitments has not been fully met. In addition, the stalled negotiations under the Doha Development Agenda and the break down of talks in July are also a source of concern. Zambia, like many other developing countries, is looking forward to the completion of the negotiations at the earliest possible time.

Mr. Chairman,

It is in this regard that Zambia is calling upon cooperating partners and the international community at large to provide support to its quest for development by assisting the country to address the following challenges:

- The small share in FDI inflows;
- Inadequate resources for research and development;
- Vulnerability to climate change;
- Inadequate and poor infrastructure
- Limited financial and human resources availability for undertaking huge investment programmes such as infrastructure development.

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

We are seeking this assistance not as a matter of charity but because it is in the interest of all of us – Africa and the rest of the world, including the industrialised countries. A developed Africa will be a positive force that will enhance world economic growth. A prosperous Africa will be a peaceful Africa, an Africa whose enormous wealth and potential will be put to the benefit of all the Citizens of the World.

I thank you.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT  
SOCIETIES DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

800 Second Avenue  
Suite 355, 3rd Floor  
New York, NY 10017  
Tel: (212) 338-0161 Fax: (212) 338-9832  
E-mail: ifreny@un.in

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**UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
63<sup>rd</sup> session**

**Trusteeship Council Chamber**

*Round table 3*

***High-level plenary meeting on the theme "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward"***

**THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES (IFRC)**

**Statement by  
Bekele GELETA  
Secretary-General**

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**New York, 22 September 2008**

*Chair, Excellencies, colleagues and friends,*

I am honoured to be here today. This is my first opportunity to attend a high-level meeting at the United Nations since becoming Secretary-General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) on 1 July 2008.

There is no dearth of analyses on the many ills of Africa. Neither is there a paucity of declarations on Africa's development needs nor stated commitments to address them. Under the circumstances, it is somewhat puzzling that progress is slow and uneven, and sometimes we even go backwards.

I am privileged to represent the world's largest humanitarian and development network consisting of 189 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of which 54 are in Africa. With tens of millions of volunteers and members in communities everywhere, we bear daily witness to the trials and tribulations of ordinary people. We work alongside them as they toil for the better life that is surely their human right. Here is what they say: they would like to live a life of security in which they are treated with fairness and dignity, and where they can make a decent living to enable them to meet their basic needs. They welcome help in the spirit of our common humanity, but they do not want charity. They would like to see a balanced projection of the images of Africa. People work hard and governments are increasingly accountable. Economies are growing, some faster than others. Change is there for some and very much on its way for others. But a lot more needs to be done together.

In a world that is not lacking in knowhow and resources, how can we *do more and do better*? The prescription is familiar and does not need to be repeated here. But there are three special items, from the perspective of the communities in which the Red Cross / Red Crescent is engaged:

*First*, we have to change mindsets and attitudes in relation to development. This means that we have to focus development efforts on enabling the poor and vulnerable to better handle current and future risks. We all know well that recurrent disasters diminish precious development gains. We can, unfortunately, also be quite certain that, whatever future shocks our evolving world has waiting for us, from climate change or other factors, it is the poor that will bear the brunt. The implication is that we must move on from an approach that is preoccupied not just with managing disasters after they have happened but one that also tackles risks head on. This requires a comprehensive package of policies and investments that are oriented towards **creating a more resilient society**. This will not only help the poor to deal with the familiar problems of disease and disaster as we know them today but enable them to face the predicted or unknown uncertainties of tomorrow. On this way of thinking, **development is not just about raising income levels. It is also about liberating people from fear of the future that can paralyse them from acting boldly to lift themselves out of poverty.**

*Second*, we have to re-examine the concept of capacity building for sustainable development. Moving beyond traditional education and training, the capacities we need to develop are ones that will generate social entrepreneurship through new business partnerships that capitalise the ideas and capabilities of communities in finding solutions to their day-to-day needs and problems. This is not just about more partnership with the private sector which is, of course, necessary, but about finding ways to stimulate and reward creativity, and providing incentives that enable the fruits of innovation to be enjoyed by the poor and vulnerable faster and on a much wider scale than is currently the case.

*Third*, we must respectfully, but critically, ask if the international system for development assistance is, as yet, optimal in serving the best interests of the poor. This is not simply about the volume of aid but

# AUSTRIA



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**High-level meeting on the theme  
“Africa’s Development Needs: state of implementation of  
various commitments, challenges and the way forward”**

Statement of

**H.E. Heinz FISCHER  
Federal President of Austria**

**New York  
September 22, 2008**

Mr. President,

It gives me great pleasure representing my country Austria today and addressing this important assembly on Africa's development needs. Only a few months ago I had the occasion to pay State visits to two African States and to interact with the African Union at its seat in Addis Ababa. The warmth with which I was received by leaders and citizens of Africa has strengthened my commitment to contribute my share to advancing the African agenda. My interesting talks with the Chairman of the Commission of the African Union Jean Ping a few days ago in Vienna have further heightened my resolve.

In this important assembly on Africa's development needs I should like to focus my remarks on three critical areas for Africa's development:

- **food security**
- **water**
- **energy**

Austria is active in these areas. The Austrian government has confirmed that it will uphold the EU-commitment of devoting 0,51 % of Gross National Income (GNI) to official development assistance (ODA) by 2010 and to reach 0,7 % in 2015. For 2007, our ODA percentage has been confirmed by the OECD-DAC at 0,5 %. Already now, more than 50 % of Austria's overall ODA is devoted to Africa. In line with existing international commitments, this share will increase as funds for ODA augment overall.

The present crisis in global **food security** has revealed the collective neglect of food agriculture in developing countries since the eighties. This has led to a significant deceleration in agricultural productivity growth since then.

In order to produce more food, donors and partner countries alike need to invest more in agriculture, in particular of small holders. The Austrian Development Cooperation has continuously been engaged in rural development programs and will continue to do so.

In order to enable the poor to buy the food that is available we have to undertake greater efforts to create sustainable livelihoods for the poor in agriculture and to expand training opportunities for the urban poor. From the very poor who have to live on less than one dollar a day, some 300 million live in Africa alone.

Another key question is the **water** issue. The Austrian Development Cooperation supports the EU Water Initiative through the provision of an electronic information system and bilaterally promotes integrated water resource management, in particular in Eastern Africa where Austria has been the lead donor for the water sector in Uganda. The International Water Association Congress, held in Vienna from 7 to 12 September, brought together some 3000 experts and decision-makers to advance their common goal of sustainable water management. I hosted a dinner around water issues on the African continent for colleagues on the eve of this High-Level Event since I share the view of many experts, including the president of the African Development Bank Group, that advancing on access to water and sanitation may be one of the best opportunities to jump-start African development.



Of central importance for development is **energy**. UNDP has drawn up very informative correlations between low human development and extreme energy poverty. UN Energy, currently chaired by the Director General of UNIDO Kandeh Yumkella, has demonstrated how none of the Millennium Development Goals can be achieved if access to energy is not improved for the roughly 2 billion people worldwide without access to modern energy services (lighting, cooling, heating, mobility, power, etc.).

The information technology gap, for instance, which severely handicaps Africa, its students, entrepreneurs, and civil society cannot be closed without increasing access to energy.

Mr. President,

Across the three critical areas – food security, water and sanitation and energy services - we need to pursue **gender justice**. It is the women who bear the largest burden when it comes to providing for food, for water and for fuel wood to cook the family's meals. Austria therefore actively promotes the empowerment of women and their active participation in all dimensions of economic and political life.

Mr. President,

Africa's development needs will be better met if the process of continental integration proceeds smoothly and steadily. We are therefore enhancing our cooperation with the African Union and are pleased that upon our initiative and with our support we can expect an Office of the African Union to be opened in Vienna by 2009. This will enable the AU to interact more effectively with the Vienna-based international organisations.

There can be no lasting development without **peace**. And no lasting peace without development. Austria has therefore, over the last few years, intensified its endeavours to work within a regional setting with African partners.

Thank you.

*Please check against delivery*



**Statement by  
His Excellency Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed, Hon'ble Chief Adviser (Prime Minister),  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh at the High-level Meeting of  
the General Assembly on Africa's development needs  
22 September 2008, New York**

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Distinguished Co-Chairs,

The challenges that Africa faces today are truly daunting, including poverty, hunger, malnutrition, deadly disease, and the search for lasting peace and security. The current global food crisis, irreversible climate change, soaring energy prices and volatility in international financial markets are only making it harder for many African countries. Their hard-won progress in curbing hunger and malnutrition is facing new threats.

Africa has immense potential, something I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand while living in Kenya for five years, during which I traveled to many regions of the continent. Africa is endowed with vast human and natural resources. By adopting NEPAD, African countries have put the Internationally Agreed Development Goals at the centre of their development agendas. The Peer Review Mechanism manifests their unswerving commitment to good governance. Africa today is afflicted by far fewer armed conflicts than it was a decade ago. As Africa marches ahead to address its own challenges, we have a moral responsibility to extend our full cooperation to the African countries. International cooperation in the forms of aid, trade, debt relief, investment, technology transfer and capacity building will remain crucial for transforming the continent.

Trade is critically important for this region. The international community should correct the trade distortion and expand African countries' access to developed country markets, which is imperative to support their economic development. We call upon major economies to conclude the Doha negotiation immediately with full implementation of its development agenda bearing in mind the special concerns of the African countries and the LDCs. We are also hopeful that the New Partnership for Development Act (NPDA), as considered in the US Congress, will pave the way for duty-free market access to the US market for all products from all LDCs. Bangladesh would like to work closely with African LDCs to ensure that this initiative is truly non-discriminatory and pro-development.

Distinguished Co-chairs:

The external debt situation remains a source of serious concern for Sub-Saharan Africa and the LDCs. We note with satisfaction that there has been some progress in Sub-Saharan African countries as their debt to GDP ratio has reduced over the years. However, the current debt relief initiative has been slow and inadequate, particularly for non-HIPC countries. There is an urgent need to ensure that all creditors, especially private creditors, fulfill their burden-sharing obligations.

We are deeply concerned that, since 2005, the ODA-GNI ratio for developed countries has declined from 0.33 per cent to 0.28 per cent. It falls far short of the G-8 Gleneagles pledge in 2005 to double aid to Africa by 2010. Conditionality, unpredictability and earmarking of ODA are further key impediments in ensuring aid effectiveness. ODA to infrastructure and productive sectors are important to stimulate growth, generate employment and reduce poverty. OECD countries will need to substantially increase their ODA to deliver on the commitment made at the G-8 summit at Gleneagles.

Development partners and the international community should also take steps to help Africa integrate into the global economy through foreign direct investment. The continent is the only region in the world that has not benefited from a Green Revolution. As a result, yields have stagnated in recent decades, leading to a fall in per capita food availability since the 1970s. Yet, proven and cost-effective technologies exist today to launch an African Green Revolution that could double yields for smallholder farmers in a relatively short period of time.

Distinguished Co-chairs,

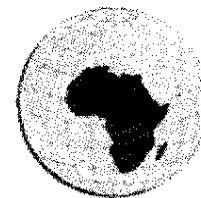
Bangladesh has been an active and ardent proponent of peace and development for Africa. There has hardly been a UN peacekeeping mission in Africa in the last two and half decades in which Bangladesh did not participate. Currently around 10,000 Bangladeshis are working in 12 UN peacekeeping missions. We send our peacekeepers even to the highest risk areas. We do so in line with our deep commitment to the UN Charter and in the spirit of solidarity with our African brethren. Our blue-helmet soldiers have been working shoulder-to-shoulder with our brothers in Africa in restoring peace in this region.

As a member of the organizational committee of the Peacebuilding Commission, Bangladesh is actively engaged in supporting the ongoing development efforts in Burundi and Sierra Leone. I would like to reiterate the Bangladesh Government's firm commitment to further strengthening of our support and cooperation for the development of Africa.

In development, as in peace, Bangladesh walks with fellow African nations—as a member of the Group of 77, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The Brussels Declaration and Programme of Action for the LDCs outline a set of actions by the global community to address the socio-economic challenges facing the 49 most impoverished countries, 33 of which are in Africa. Fulfillment of the Commitments of the Programme of Action will go a long way to addressing Africa's problems.

Within the framework of South-South cooperation, countries like Bangladesh can meaningfully contribute to Africa's sustainable development. Over the years, Bangladesh has successfully adopted a number of innovative ideas to development like microcredit, non-formal education and women's empowerment. Microcredit has now been replicated in around 100 countries, including many in Africa. BRAC – one of our largest NGOs – already has a presence in Africa. We remain ready to share our experiences in all these areas with African nations. Despite the vicissitudes of nature, we in Bangladesh have succeeded in outpacing our huge population growth generally with agricultural productivity. Bangladesh is willing to share her Green Revolution experiences with fellow LDCs, especially those in Africa. We must remain comrades in our quest for peace, development and prosperity.

Thank you.

**BELARUS**

Address by

**His Excellency Sergei Martynov****Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus**

to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly  
'Africa's development needs: state of  
implementation of various commitments,  
challenges and the way forward'

22 September 2008

**Response to the Africa's  
development needs is  
a critical maturity test  
for the whole of humankind**

**Africa is a definitive point of reference for the development of humankind.** Humankind was born in Africa. Through the trials and sacrifice of Africa the world recovered from the plague of world-wide colonialism. Fighting the global challenges in Africa might be crucial for the future of humankind as the challenges Africa faces represent the most acute, win-or-die situations which the human race has never faced before. This is why a response to the Africa's development needs is **a critical maturity test** for all of us.

Belarus believes that **the whole of international community should invest in Africa**, especially the nations which have undertaken such commitments. This pledge of assistance includes Belarus as well. Despite its non-donor status, Belarus is willing to explore the innovative ways of investment in Africa – through **education, trade, cooperation in technology, through our extensive experience in agriculture.**

**Belarus regards itself as a long-standing partner and reliable friend of Africa.** The most recent example of our practical engagement to help meet Africa's needs was the Ministerial Conference on Developmental Co-Operation with Middle Income Countries (Namibia, August 2008). We are honoured to be an active participant of this process for the sake of Africa and for the sake of the world's needy.

In order to make Africa more secure and sustainable – economically, socially, politically – the international community should not only assist with financing Africa's development needs but also **accord a much more profound and sincere trust in the African peoples' ages-long wisdom, desire to live and ability to manage their own affairs.** Strengthening of the capacity of the African Union to maintain regional peace and stability is a topic we are all very much interested in. The United Nations Security Council should find the practical ways to encourage the enhancement of the role of the African Union as well as support the Peace and Security Council of the African Union with its authority and universal legitimacy.

A joint **Africa-UN Strategy** may contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by all African countries and would be a useful overarching long-term framework for the Africa-UN cooperation. The first action plan under the strategy could chart some concrete elements for a specified term, similarly to the new Africa-EU strategic partnership. The strategy could be worked out on the basis of the lessons and achievements of NEPAD.



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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. DR. OMAR. A. TOURAY**  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

AT THE

HIGH-LEVEL MEETING  
ON THE THEME

**"AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS: STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF VARIOUS  
COMMITMENTS, CHALLENGES AND THE WAY FORWARD"**

63<sup>RD</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**NEW YORK**  
**22<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2008**

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## **Distinguished Co-Chairpersons,**

On behalf of my delegation, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this roundtable discussion on "Africa's Development Needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward". But before expounding further on the issue being discussed, let me express that my delegation wishes to associate itself with the statements made this morning on behalf of the African Group and the Group of 77 and China respectively during the Opening Plenary of this august high level meeting.

Let me seize this moment to express our gratitude to both the Presidents of the 62<sup>nd</sup> and 63<sup>rd</sup> Sessions of the General Assembly, as well as to the Member States for contributing towards the organization of this high level meeting which is of great significance to us all, particularly those of us from the continent of Africa. This very important gathering is also timely in the sense that it is being held at eve of several imminent high level meetings such as the UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on the MDGs and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to be held in Doha during which related issues of great importance to Africa will be discussed.

My delegation also wishes to thank the Secretary General for his useful report on the activities undertaken by the United Nations system in support of the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's development.

## **Co-Chairpersons,**

General Assembly resolution A/RES/57/7 was adopted almost six years ago on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2002 recognizing among other things, that the New Partnership for Africa's Development should be the framework within which the international community, including the United Nations system, should concentrate its efforts in support of Africa's development. Since then, several commitments have been made in this regard by the African countries and members of the international community including Africa's major development partners, but many of these commitments are yet to be realized. Prospects in the continent have been quite positive. The adoption of appropriate policy reforms coupled with sound macroeconomic management during the past five years resulted in strong economic growth of 5 to 6 per cent in some cases. Democracy and the rule of law are spreading. Of recent, Africa has displayed unparalleled maturity in successfully resolving crisis situations with home grown solutions. Despite the persistent efforts exerted by Africa to achieve its development aspirations, the continent continues to face enormous challenges.

One of the highly debated irregularities of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is the undemocratic and unfair global economic framework in which both the participation and influence of the developing part of the world, particularly Africa, continue to be extremely marginal

despite the fact that decisions taken by this global system have significant implications for the growth and development of developing countries.

The extent of the debt crisis in Africa poses a great obstacle to advancing the Millennium Development Goals and taking forward human development. External debt has impeded the process of establishing sustainable development and achieving social, economic and political security and stability in Africa.

The recent debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiatives (HIPC) and Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) may have partly freed some resources for development related expenditure in the developing countries, yet they are clearly inadequate in helping African countries to realize the Internationally Agreed Development Goals (IADGs) including the MDGs.

Therefore, my delegation would like to join the rest of the international community members in calling for the consideration of additional measures and initiatives aimed at ensuring long-term debt sustainability through increased grant-based financing, cancellation of 100 per cent of the official multilateral and bilateral debt of heavily indebted poor countries in Africa.

### **Co-Chairpersons,**

The efforts of African countries to maintain debt sustainability would also be greatly facilitated by improved market access for their exports and other measures to enhance their productive capacity without which, growth and sustainable development cannot be attained.

Besides, despite the fact that an increasing number of African countries are liberalizing their trade regimes, the drift of trade policies in developed countries is towards greater protectionism. Such enlarging protectionism will only aggravate problems associated with international trade imbalances, indebtedness, and exacerbate the problems of poverty and development. It is very unfortunate that the recent WTO trade negotiations in Geneva were ended with an impasse. In this regard, it is important for all parties to bring the Doha Round to a successful conclusion with balanced and development oriented outcome as an essential contribution of the trading system to the Millennium Development Goals, particularly Goal 8, of achieving an open, transparent, predictable, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system.

In this respect, the Government of The Gambia wishes to reemphasize that development concerns form an integral part of the Doha Development Agenda, which places the needs and interests of developing and least developed countries at the heart of the Doha Work Programme. Developed countries should therefore demonstrate the flexibility and political will needed to undo the current impasse in the Doha Round of trade negotiations and to work towards early resumption and timely completion of the Doha Round of trade negotiations.

In this regard, it is imperative to note that the ongoing global food crisis is a consequence of transitory as well as more deep-rooted problems. Food export subsidies and subsidies to domestic food producers as well as the high tariffs imposed by the developed countries on many agricultural products coming from the south have discouraged production and exports in numerous developing countries with agricultural potential.

My delegation would also like to seize this opportunity to once more urge the donor community to provide the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) with the increased resources necessary to deliver effective and demand-driven assistance to African countries, as well as to enhance their contributions to the trust funds of the Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries, particularly those in Africa.

Whilst recognizing that South-South trade should be enhanced and that further market access should continue to stimulate South-South trade, we are deeply concerned about the imposition of laws and other forms of coercive economic measures, including unilateral sanctions against developing countries, which undermine international law and the rules of the World Trade Organization and also severely threaten the freedom of trade and investment as well as the right to development. In this regard, we once more call upon the international community to denounce the implementation of such measures, which are intended to undermine the existence of humanity.

#### **Co-Chairpersons,**

Africa must learn from the successes registered by emerging economies which can be attributed to investments in infrastructure. Poor infrastructure and inadequate services are among the major factors impeding the continent's development. For Africa to develop effective global trade partnerships it must first develop its regional trade potential and the most effective way to unlock this potential is through the development and implementation of infrastructural programmes and projects as proposed in the NEPAD Plan of Action, including improvements in communications, transportation and energy at sub-regional and regional levels. Investments in infrastructure also represent an untapped potential for the creation of productive employment.

Notwithstanding, the support of the international community to the New Partnership for Africa's Development is critical in enabling African countries to take their fair place in the global economy. Investing in Africa's priorities, particularly infrastructure, agriculture, human development and the environment would go a long way in eliminating the major constraints to trade, development and poverty reductions in Africa.

Africa still faces major implementation gaps which must be filled if the continent is to get out of the current development dilemma. In this regard, whilst my delegation acknowledges the efforts by our international development partners to increase official development assistance (ODA), we note with concern, however, the overall decline in ODA in the last two years. Therefore, we urge Africa's development partners,

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*Statement by H.E. Dr. Omar A. Touray  
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs  
Republic of The Gambia  
22<sup>nd</sup> September 2008*





*Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations*

866 U.N. Plaza, Rm 304, New York, NY 10017

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**HON. WICLYFFE AMBETSA OPARANYA,**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING,**

**NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**AND VISION 2030 DURING**

**THE HIGH LEVEL MEETING**

**ON**

**“AFRICA’S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS:**

**STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION**

**OF VARIOUS COMMITMENTS,**

**CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD”**

**ON 22<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2008 AT**

**THE UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS,**

**NEW YORK**

Please check against delivery

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**Co-chairs,  
Excellencies, Heads of State and Government  
Honorable Ministers,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my very great honour and privilege to address this very important High-level meeting on "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of the various commitments, challenges and the way forward".

I would like at the outset to thank the Secretary-General for his report. It is comprehensive and captures the state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and way forward.

I also wish to congratulate the secretary General, the President of the General Assembly and all the speakers during this morning's opening session for their expressions of understanding, commitment to assisting African countries in their efforts to implement national and sub-regional development strategies and plans. I do thank them for they made it very clear that the development challenges facing the African continent are numerous, varied, but more so important was the realization that time has come for action instead of words and promises.

**Co-chairs  
Excellencies, Heads State and Government  
Distinguished Delegates,**

The story about Africa's development challenges has been told and retold at various fora. Reports have elaborated the grave situation facing majority of our countries. The Mid-term report on Millennium Development Goals acknowledges that most African countries are off-track in the implementation of the Millennium development goals and other internationally agreed development goals hence the likelihood of African countries not being able to achieve the goals by the target 2015.

In the interest of brevity, I will not dwell on details. Nevertheless I would like to take this opportunity to touch on four points that I consider very important.

**Excellencies,**  
First, I wish to emphasize the fact that Africa's development challenges are indeed numerous. Some are perennial such as the limited resources, poverty, debt problems, environmental degradation, rapid urbanization and associated problems; HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases, conflicts among others. Still there are emerging challenges such as climate change energy and food crises are worth considering. In addition, the current financial crisis in the United States is a challenge to the whole world and particularly so for African countries that do not have strong safeguard measures in case the crisis extends to the continent. Hence our message in this regard is that any problem facing Africa is a reflection

of the state of the world and therefore the urgency and imperative of addressing Africa's development needs can not be overemphasized.

**Second**, we do recognize that the international community as well as the African countries themselves have committed to addressing the most pressing development challenges in Africa. In Monterrey, Johannesburg, in the Group of Eight summits, here at the United Nations and elsewhere world leaders committed to addressing Africa's development challenges. Little progress has been made in implementing their undertakings. On the other hand, African countries have made commitments including through the NEPAD framework, the various African Union Summits, several plans of action have been developed but with mixed results. The state of implementation of the various commitments concerning Africa brings a sterning fear that the world is turning international conferences and summits into avenues for false promises. We should focus on action rather than rhetoric.

**Excellencies,**

**Third**, notwithstanding the above let me also note that a few of the African countries and development partners have made some efforts in implementing their commitments. Some African countries including Kenya are striving to meet their national and international commitments especially by ensuring sustained development, peace and security and human rights. In Kenya, we have successfully implemented a comprehensive Economic Recovery Strategy for Employment and Wealth Creation between 2002-2007. We adopted a blue print: have developed a Vision 2030 that aims at making Kenya a middle income country by 2030. I am pleased to report that we are implementing the first medium term plan (2008-2012) of the vision 2030. It focuses on making Kenya globally competitive and prosperous. Vision 2030 is an all inclusive development strategy bringing together private sector, civil society and other non-state actors through public-private partnership framework to implement programmes that will lead to marked improvements in the lives of Kenyans.

At the regional and sub regional levels, Kenya is actively engaged in implementing various regional pacts including the NEPAD programmes. I wish to take this opportunity to urge the international community to support Africa in efforts to promote development and improve the well being our people.

**Fourth**, I wish to emphasize the need to establish a strong follow-up mechanism both within the United Nations and the various partnership arrangements. I believe it would ensure consistency and at the same time complement the various plans of action in our continent.

**Lastly**, Excellencies I would like once again to emphasize that Africa's development needs must be addressed urgently. I hope this meeting will pave way for invigorative action.

**I thank you.**



STATEMENT  
BY

**His Excellency Dr. Khaled bin Mohammad Al-Attiyah  
Minister of State for International Cooperation  
of the STATE OF QATAR**

IN

**The high-level plenary meeting of the United Nations  
General Assembly**

ON

**Africa's development needs:  
State of implementation of various commitments,  
challenges and the way forward  
(Round table 4)**

NEW YORK, 22 SEPTEMBER 2008

Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations  
809 UN Plaza, 4<sup>th</sup> Fl., New York, NY 10017 - Tel: 212-486-9335 - Fax: 212-758-4952

**Mr. President,**

I would like to thank you for convening this important debate on an issue that is considered at the heart of the concerns of the organization. I would also like to extend to His Excellency the Secretary-General of the United Nations my thanks and appreciation for his efforts to enhance the performance of the organization.

**Mr. President,**

The difficult challenge facing the international community today is to maintain international peace and security while achieving economic welfare and sustainable development. There is no doubt that the maintenance of peace and security is almost impossible in an environment deprived of the minimum of decent living conditions. Poverty and destitution beget tensions that eventually lead to breach of international peace and security.

**Mr. President,**

Progress made towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the African continent is not up to the required level, especially given that half of the period allowed for the achievement of these goals has passed. And as you know, the MDGs should be realized by 2015. The slow rate of progress towards the achievement of the MDGs is cause for great concern over the African continent. The adoption of the Millennium Declaration in 2000 is a laudable initiative by the international community to combat poverty, accelerate human development and facilitate the gradual and more effective integration of Africa, particularly in the mainstream of the global economy. While parts of Africa have achieved good results in attaining food security for their population, sub-Saharan Africa has little to show in terms of rates of progress, for they have not been able to achieve a sustainable reduction in poverty and hunger, provide universal primary education, decrease infant mortality rates, or improve maternal health. The question to be asked in this regard is whether the international community has done enough to accelerate development in Africa. If we are to judge from the state of implementation of various commitments to date, the answer would be negative.

**Mr. President,**

Sustaining economic growth is a prerequisite to finding the necessary resources to combat poverty and hunger. If the Millennium Development Goals are to be achieved in Sub-Saharan Africa, it is necessary to strengthen the official development assistance provided to those countries. The donor community should be quicker in taking action if it is really willing to meet the commitments it made at the highest level in 2005 to double aid to Africa by 2010. Progress must be made also in the global trade talks on the Doha Round, and more equitable rules for foreign trade must be established. At the same time, sub-Saharan African countries need to ensure that their national development policies and strategies reflect clearly their obligations

not only towards the reduction of poverty, but also towards addressing the multidimensional causes and implications of poverty in an equitable manner.

**Mr. President,**

Our meeting today entails that we ascertain that the most critical action in the fight against poverty is to activate international partnerships to assist African nations in the implementation of programs and projects aimed at achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all in urban and rural areas alike. This has been emphasized by the world leaders at the 2005 World Summit.

Endorsed by the General Assembly of the United Nations as the political framework for Africa's Development, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) recognizes that the resolution of conflicts and promotion of peace and security are prerequisites for making any development or progress effort.

That partnership, as developed by the African leaders, requires the commitment of the African countries to the respect of human rights, good governance and democracy. Thus, Africans themselves would be responsible for the success of that collective African program, which would still count also on the effective and real contribution of the United Nations system and the international community as a whole, including the private sector and the civil society.

Finally, we believe that focus must be put on four pillars to help the African countries in their efforts to achieve development and, subsequently, the Millennium Development Goals.

The first pillar is the maintenance and increase of development assistance, while the second pillar is the international trade, since trade could constitute, under the right conditions, a powerful catalyst for development. It is worth mentioning that little significant outcome has been realized in this regard since the start of the Doha Development Round.

The third pillar relates to cooperation and security, for violent conflicts mar the lives of people. They are also a source of violation of human rights and an obstacle to progress towards the achievement of the sought-after development. A more effective international cooperation can help remove the barrier that violent conflicts erected in the face of progress towards those goals, thus creating conducive conditions to accelerate human development and real security.

Education, beyond any doubt, constitutes the fourth pillar in view of its role in poverty reduction. Education both in terms of quality and quantity is an essential component of the holistic approach to development.

**I thank you, Mr. President.**



**High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly  
“Africa’s development needs: state of implementation of various commitments,  
challenges and the way forward”**

**Remarks by Juan Somavia,  
Director-General, International Labour Organization  
New York  
22 September 2008**

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Mr President,  
Excellencies,

I want to begin by reiterating the commitment of the ILO and myself to Africa’s development. This conviction is deep and abiding—stretching from the Social Summit in Copenhagen to the African Union Extraordinary Summit in Ouagadougou.

Dear friends, this is a time of anxiety and turbulence. Repeated excesses leading to the current financial crisis are eroding confidence in poorly regulated markets. Inequality is widening everywhere. Skyrocketing food prices are hitting the poorest the hardest. And obviously we are off-track in meeting the MDGs.

The present course of globalization is not delivering for the majority - this is the whole meaning of the June 2008 ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization.

The African Union and NEPAD have pointed the way with a clear policy message to the world: if your commitment to Africa is real, then help us generate decent and productive jobs, not just through aid, but through fair trade and financial rules that can permit us to compete on an equal playing field.

It is essential to acknowledge what the leaders of Africa have stated during their Extraordinary Summit in Ouagadougou in 2004 - without decent employment, it will be impossible to reach the MDGs.

Realizing the “Decent Work Agenda in Africa 2007-2015” is an opportunity for the international community to deliver its commitments to Africa:

- By promoting workers’ rights;
- By supporting sustainable enterprises for better employment and upgrading the economic activity of women and men in the informal economy;
- By developing social protection systems;
- And by encouraging voice, representation and dialogue.

Now is the time. We must place productive employment and decent work at the centre of economic and social policies: home grown decent work solutions for a vibrant Africa. By working together and joining forces, we can make change happen. Thank you.



## PRESS RELEASE

# UN Secretary-General urges Africa and donors to turn vision into action

**United Nations, New York, 18 September 2008** — Most of Africa's economies are now growing more strongly than they did a decade ago, and even faster than in many other developing regions. Yet despite such progress, reports UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Africa remains "off track" in its quest to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other development targets. African countries and their international partners alike thus need to redouble their efforts, not by making new commitments, but by turning existing pledges into reality and "vision into policy actions."

The Secretary-General's report (A/63/130) — a comprehensive balance-sheet of achievements and shortfalls, analysis and recommendations — was mandated by the UN General Assembly for its 22 September 2008 high-level meeting on Africa's development needs. The meeting will be the first thorough assessment by UN member states of actions taken by Africa and the international community since African leaders adopted the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as the continent's main blueprint in 2001.

The meeting also takes place at the mid-point of the global campaign for the MDGs, as concern mounts that Africa is lagging behind other world regions. While a number of African countries have made notable progress on some goals, the Secretary-General finds, no African country is likely to achieve all of the MDGs by 2015, on the basis of current trends. Two-fifths of the African population lives in extreme poverty. Compounding the challenge of persistent and extreme poverty, Africa is also facing several looming problems: a global food crisis, profound climate change and soaring energy prices.

To overcome such difficulties, Africa and its partners have made a number of commitments in recent years. However, notes the Secretary-General, those commitments, on both sides, "remain only partially realized."

### Aid

In 2005, a summit meeting of the Group of Eight (G-8) industrialized countries agreed to double aid to Africa by 2010. By the following year, overall official development assistance to Africa (excluding debt relief) had risen by only 8 per cent, and since then, reports the Secretary-General, "donors are falling behind." A greater share of European Union (EU) assistance is now going to Africa, reaching 62 per cent in 2006, although in 2007 there was a slight decline in global EU aid commitments. The Secretary-General proposes that external finance for development in Africa reach \$72 bn annually to support achievement of the MDGs.

The Secretary-General also reports that while there have been improvements in how donors deliver aid to Africa, aid programmes still often remain uncoordinated and are directed only partially to recipient countries' national development priorities. His criticisms do not spare the United Nations, where there has been a tendency "to support a proliferation of Africa-related activities, which creates incoherence."

### Debt

One bright spot has been on the debt front. As of July 2008, nineteen African countries had received major reductions in their official debt to governments and multilateral institutions. As a result, Africa's total official debt

**High-level meeting on Africa's development needs**  
**United Nations, New York, 22 September 2008**

United Nations Department of Public Information, [www.un.org/AR](http://www.un.org/AR)





fell from \$205.7 bn in 1999 to \$144.5 bn in 2007. However, the Secretary-General cautions, Africa's private debt has been creeping up, from \$92.4 bn to \$110.2 bn over the same period. Debt relief should be extended to other African countries as well, he recommends.

### **Trade**

Progress in improving Africa's trade prospects has been very limited, reports the Secretary-General. The Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations stand "at a critical juncture," he notes. In particular, Africa countries have been pressing for a reduction in agricultural subsidies by the EU, US, Japan and Canada, which have totalled \$750 bn since 2001 and which greatly depress the world market prices for Africa's agricultural exports. The Secretary-General strongly urges a reduction in such agricultural subsidies, as well as other trade reforms to improve market access for African exports.

### **Peace and security**

To help Africa better resolve armed conflicts, the G-8 pledged in 2005 to train 25,000 African peacekeepers and provide technical support to the African Union's projected African Standby Force. The US alone is expected to train some 75,000 troops in Africa by 2010, and the EU transferred €250 mn to the African Union's peace and security efforts between 2005 and 2007. The Secretary-General notes, however, that such G-8 assistance has been provided "on an unharmonized and ad hoc basis."

### **African actions**

African countries themselves need to do more to enhance domestic revenues and improve the productivity of their economies, the Secretary-General argues. To support NEPAD's agricultural development programme, African governments pledged in 2003 to devote 10 per cent of their public expenditures to agriculture and rural development by 2008. So far, only six African countries have met that target. Similarly, African governments agreed in 2001 to increase their health budgets to 15 per cent of public expenditure. But only six countries have reached that goal.

Under NEPAD, a number of African governments agreed to establish a voluntary scheme to review each other's adherence to democracy, human rights and good governance, known as the African Peer Review Mechanism. To date, 29 countries — more than half — have acceded to the mechanism and seven have completed such a peer review. The Secretary-General recommends that African governments, media and civil society groups do more to involve their citizens in the peer review process. He also suggests that African countries embark on a similar peer-review exercise of their activities to achieve the MDGs.

African women have made some political gains, the Secretary-General reports, with the share of women holding parliamentary seats rising from just 7 per cent in 1990 to 17 per cent in 2007. More generally, the Secretary-General recommends that African countries strengthen mechanisms "for participation, inclusion and empowerment of all segments of society" in their political and development processes.

For more information contact:

Mr. Ernest Harsch

Africa Section, Dept. of Public Information

Tel: (1-212) 963-4513

E-mail: [harsch@un.org](mailto:harsch@un.org)

The full text of the Secretary-General's report on "Africa's Development Needs" can be found at the *Africa Renewal* website: [www.un.org/AR](http://www.un.org/AR). At the home page, click on "NEPAD / UN Reports".

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## PRESS RELEASE

# Turn 'vision into action,' UN leaders urge

## General Assembly meeting on Africa

**United Nations, New York, 22 September 2008** — On the eve of the General Assembly's high-level meeting on Africa's development needs, which opens today, UN Under-Secretary General and Special Adviser on Africa Cheick Sidi Diarra urged world leaders to live up to their promises to advance the continent's progress. Rather than issuing new pledges, he said at an 18 September press conference, they should follow through on existing commitments and turn "vision into action."

Mr. Diarra highlighted the main messages of a new report by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (A/63/130), who notes that while most of Africa's economies are now growing more rapidly than they did a decade ago, the continent remains "off track" in its quest to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other development targets. The Secretary-General's report — a comprehensive balance-sheet of achievements and shortfalls, analysis and recommendations — was mandated by the UN General Assembly for its high-level meeting, in which some four dozen heads of state and government are expected to participate.

The meeting, Mr. Diarra notes, will be an "extraordinary opportunity" for UN member states to thoroughly assess actions taken by Africa, donor countries, the UN and the rest of the international community since African leaders adopted the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as the continent's main development blueprint in 2001.

The gathering today, Mr. Diarra further observed, takes place at the mid-point of the global campaign for the MDGs, as concerns mount that Africa is lagging behind other world regions. While a number of African countries have made notable progress on some goals, says the Secretary-General's report, no African country is likely to achieve all of the MDGs by 2015, on the basis of current trends. Two-fifths of the African population lives in extreme poverty. Compounding the challenge of persistent and extreme poverty, Africa is also facing several looming problems: a global food crisis, profound climate change and soaring energy prices.

Finding solutions to such challenges are important not just to Africa, Mr. Diarra stressed. "Africa's development problems are everyone's problems." The Secretary-General's report, he explained, examines the initiatives of both Africa and its development partners to overcome such difficulties. How-

**High-level meeting on Africa's development needs**  
**United Nations, New York, 22 September 2008**

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ever, the report stresses, commitments on both sides “remain only partially realized.”

Also today, some 15 seminars and workshops, organized by United Nations agencies and programmes, will take place alongside the official head of state roundtable discussions. These will engage heads of state, business and non-governmental organizations in many of Africa’s priority issues. The schedule is at <http://www.un.org/ga/president/62/ThematicDebates/adnhlm.shtml>.

### **Aid**

In 2005, a summit meeting of the Group of Eight (G-8) industrialized countries agreed to double aid to Africa by 2010. By the following year, overall official development assistance to Africa (excluding debt relief) had risen by only 8 per cent, and since then, reports the Secretary-General, “donors are falling behind.” A greater share of European Union (EU) assistance is now going to Africa, reaching 62 per cent in 2006, although in 2007 there was a slight decline in global EU aid commitments. The Secretary-General proposes that external finance for development in Africa reach \$72 bn annually to support achievement of the MDGs.

The Secretary-General also reports that while there have been improvements in how donors deliver aid to Africa, aid programmes still often remain uncoordinated and are directed only partially to recipient countries’ national development priorities. His criticisms do not spare the United Nations, where there has been a tendency “to support a proliferation of Africa-related activities, which creates incoherence.”

### **Debt**

One bright spot has been on the debt front. As of July 2008, nineteen African countries had received major reductions in their official debt to governments and multilateral institutions. As a result, Africa’s total official debt fell from \$205.7 bn in 1999 to \$144.5 bn in 2007. However, the Secretary-General cautions, Africa’s private debt has been creeping up, from \$92.4 bn to \$110.2 bn over the same period. Debt relief should be extended to other African countries as well, he recommends.

### **Trade**

Progress in improving Africa’s trade prospects has been very limited, reports the Secretary-General. The Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations stand “at a critical juncture,” he notes. In particular, African countries have been pressing for a reduction in agricultural subsidies by the EU, US, Japan and Canada, which have totalled \$750 bn since 2001 and which greatly depress the world market prices for Africa’s agricultural exports. The Secretary-General strongly urges a reduction in such agricultural subsidies, as well as other trade reforms to improve market access for African exports.

To better engage in trade, Mr. Diarra commented, Africa needs to improve its infrastructure, including roads, railways, ports and power systems. The continent needs some \$52.2 bn per year in public and private investment to resolve its critical bottlenecks in infrastructure, “a pre-requisite to connect African markets to the rest of the global market.”

### **Peace and security**

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alone is expected to train some 75,000 troops in Africa by 2010, and the EU transferred €250 mn to the African Union's peace and security efforts between 2005 and 2007. The Secretary-General notes, however, that such G-8 assistance has been provided "on an unharmonized and ad hoc basis."

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### **For more information on the meeting, contact:**

David Mehdi Hamam  
UN Office of the Special Adviser on Africa  
Tel: (1-212) 963-2645  
Email: hamamm@un.org

Julie I. Thompson, Chief  
Africa Section, Strategic Communications Division  
UN Department of Public Information  
Tel: (1-212) 963-2645/(1-212) 963-6857

See also [www.un.org/AR](http://www.un.org/AR) (High-level meeting on Africa)

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THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

16 May 2008

Excellency,

On 4 March 2008, the General Assembly adopted resolution 62/242 entitled "Modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting on Africa's development needs", by which it decided that the high-level meeting would take place on 22 September 2008, prior to the general debate of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly.

I am pleased to announce that arrangements for the meeting are underway. My two facilitators, Ambassador Frank Majoor of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Ambassador Ismael Gaspar Martins of the Republic of Angola, have begun informal consultations with delegations and groups, and will continue to do so in the coming weeks and months. I encourage delegations to contact them with any specific ideas or thoughts which should be reflected in the Political Declaration to be adopted at the end of the meeting.

The General Assembly requested the President of the General Assembly to finalize the organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting. In the coming weeks, I shall communicate through the two facilitators some specific information regarding the organisational arrangements for the meeting, including a draft programme for the event.

The high-level meeting on Africa's development needs comes at a time of both promise and challenge for the continent. While on the one hand many African countries have shown strong GDP growth and progress on the MDGs over the last few years, rising world prices for food and oil, climate change and intractable conflict threaten to reverse these gains. This meeting provides an opportunity for world leaders to come together to renew their commitments to Africa's development and focus attention on how to address the challenges.

The General Assembly decided that this meeting will be held at the highest possible political level, with the participation of Heads of State or Government, ministers, special representatives and other representatives, as appropriate. Given the importance of the issues, I would therefore like to encourage delegations to be represented at that level.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Srgjan Kerim".

Srgjan Kerim

All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York





THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

20 August 2008

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the draft political declaration for the high-level meeting on the theme “Africa’s development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward,” which will take place on 22 September 2008.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the co-facilitators, Ambassador Ismael Gaspar Martins of Angola and Ambassador Frank Majoor of the Netherlands, for their dedication and hard work in conducting consultations and for preparing this draft.

The co-facilitators intend to convene informal consultations to discuss the draft political declaration on Thursday, 28 August 2008 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and on Friday, 12 September 2008 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. I would encourage delegations to be represented in these consultations at the Ambassadorial level.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

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Srgjan Kerim

All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

25 August 2008

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith for your information the list of side events that will be taking place during the high-level meeting on Africa's development needs on 22 September 2008. This list, together with detailed concept notes for each event, is available on the website of the President of the General Assembly: <http://www.un.org/ga/president/62/>.

I would encourage delegations to participate actively in these side events. The events constitute an important part of the meeting as they will focus attention on specific issues impacting on Africa's development.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Srgjan Kerim'.

Srgjan Kerim

All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

Office of the Special Adviser on Africa

**HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS  
22 SEPTEMBER 2008**

**Side Events**

Contact: Juliet Wasswa-Mugambwa, OSAA, Tel: 212-963-9576, E-mail: wasswa-mugambwa@un.org

Time & Location	Event	Main Organizers	Participants
<b>8:00-9:45am</b> Location: <b>International Peace Institute</b>	<b>CRIME AS AN IMPEDIMENT TO SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing the links between Development and the Rule of Law, and sharing best practices from the region</li> </ul>	UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), International Peace Institute (IPI)  <i>[Focal point: Simone Monasebia, monasebian@un.org, 212-963-5631]</i>	Senior Member of the AU, Permanent Representatives to the UN
<b>10:00am-1:00pm</b> Location: Conf. Room 7	<b>YOUTH, EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore how to promote youth empowerment and engagement in order to address Africa's development needs</li> </ul>	UNFPA, ILO, UNOSDP, IOM, ECA  <i>[Focal point: Obi Emekekwe, emekekwe@unfpa.org, 212 297 5173]</i>	Government Representatives, NGOs, CSOs, UN Agencies
<b>10:00am-1:00pm</b> Location: Conf. Room 8	<b>THE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE IN AFRICA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health for all in Africa: Combating AIDs, TB, malaria, maternal and infant mortality</li> <li>• Water and Sanitation</li> </ul>	UNFPA, IOM, UNAIDS, UNHCR, UN-HABITAT  <i>[Focal Point: Akinyele Dairo, dairo@unfpa.org, 212-297-5162]</i>	Government Representatives, Civil Society, UN Agencies
<b>10:00am-1:00pm</b> Location: <b>Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium</b>	<b>MICROCREDIT, MICROFINANCE, INCLUSIVE FINANCE: BUILDING SUCCESS FOR INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR POVERTY ERADICATION IN AFRICA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good practices and successful experiences in Africa towards building inclusive financial sectors</li> </ul>	UNCDF, the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the UN, UN Advisors Group on Inclusive Finance  <i>[Focal point: Monica Gaba, monica.gaba@uncdf.org, 212 906 6181]</i>	Government Representatives, NGOs, Private Sector, UN Agencies
<b>12:00-2:45pm</b> Location: <b>Delegates</b>	<b>ACCELERATING POVERTY REDUCTION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH :</b>	UNIDO, UNCTAD, UNDP, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)	Government Representatives, NGOs, Private



Time & Location	Event	Main Organizers	Participants
<b>Dining Rooms, 5, 6, 7, 8</b>	<b>TRANSFORMING AFRICAN COUNTRIES INTO TIGER ECONOMIES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lessons learnt from Asian tiger economies</li> <li>• How international cooperation can facilitate growth in Africa</li> <li>• Economic growth vs. environmental protection</li> </ul>	<p>[Focal point: <i>Graham Clough, cloughg@un.org, 212 963 6885</i></p>	Sector, UN Agencies
<b>1:15- 2:45pm</b> <u>Location:</u> <b>Delegates Dining Room, West Terrace</b>	<b>TRANSFORMING THE CLIMATE FOR BUSINESS TO ACCELERATE PRIVATE SECTOR-LED GROWTH AND PROGRESS TOWARDS THE MDGs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlight good practices and experiences in Africa of building policy and regulatory frameworks that contribute to growth and poverty reduction</li> </ul>	UNOP, The LTB Foundation, Business Action for Africa, Africa Investor, the Commonwealth Business Council, UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa (tbc), Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the UN, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), the Gates Foundation, Permanent Mission of Angola, and The Netherlands together with the CEO of a major corporation that would co-host the event (for example Coca-Cola, Microsoft, Nestle, Unilever, Standard Chartered Bank, etc), the Public-Private Alliance Foundation (PPAF).  <p>[Focal point: <i>William Kennedy, kennedyw@un.org, 212963-6438</i>]</p>	Government Representatives, NGOs, Private Sector, UN Agencies
<b>1:15-2:45pm</b> <u>Location:</u> <b>Delegates Dining Room</b>	<b>BIOENERGY, AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: POLICY REPORT FOR THE WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate the launch of a report on advancing the development of bioenergy in ways supportive of sustainable development in the region</li> </ul>	UN Foundation, Italian Ministry of Environment, UNOP  <p>[Focal point: <i>William Kennedy, kennedyw@un.org, 212963-6438; jhall@unfoundation.org, 202-887-9040</i>]</p>	Government Representatives, NGOs, Private Sector, UN Agencies
<b>1:15-2:45pm</b> <u>Location:</u> Conf. <b>Room 7</b>	<b>LAUNCH OF: AFRICA ATLAS OF OUR CHANGING ENVIRONMENT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atlas highlights important environmental issues of all African countries, progress towards MDG7 and provides evidence of local changes</li> </ul>	UNEP  <p>[Focal point : <i>James Sniffen, sniffenj@un.org, 212 963 8094</i>]</p>	Government Representatives, NGOs, Private Sector, UN Agencies

Time & Location	Event	Main Organizers	Participants
<b>1:15-2:45pm</b> Location: Conf. Room 8	<b>GLENEAGLES SCENARIOS: APPROACH FOR SCALING UP ODA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentations on experiences in developing a “Gleneagles” scenario to mobilize and deliver more effective, predictable and coordinated scaled-up resources for accelerated progress toward the MDGs</li> </ul>	UNDP/MDG, two member states, World Bank, IMF, EC, AfDB and Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)  <i>[Focal point: Brett House, <a href="mailto:brett.house@undp.org">brett.house@undp.org</a>, 646 379 9841; <a href="mailto:boubou.camara@undp.org">boubou.camara@undp.org</a>]</i>	Government Representatives, NGOs, UN Agencies, WB and IMF
<b>2:00 pm-4:30pm</b> Location: Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium	<b>STRENGTHENING AFRICAN PRIVATE SECTOR COMPETITIVENESS IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT</b>	International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC) World Bank, UN Global Compact  <i>[Focal point: Yuvan A. Beejadhur, <a href="mailto:ybeejadhur@worldbank.org">ybeejadhur@worldbank.org</a> 212- 355-6114; Ashish Shah, <a href="mailto:shah@intracen.org">shah@intracen.org</a>, 41-22-730-0351]</i>	Government Representatives, NGOs, Private Sector, UN Agencies
<b>3:00-5:30pm</b> Location: Conf. Room 8	<b>GOVERNANCE CHALLENGE IN AFRICA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Democratic governance; state and non-state capacity</li> <li>• Impacts of the APRM</li> <li>• Equality, Opportunity and the Rule of Law</li> </ul>	UNU, OSAA, UN-HABITAT, ECA, UNIFEM, UNODC, IPU  <i>[Focal point : Jin Zhang, <a href="mailto:jin@ony.unu.edu">jin@ony.unu.edu</a>, 212 963 6387 ; Katrin Toomel, <a href="mailto:toomel@un.org">toomel@un.org</a>]</i>	Government Representatives, UN Agencies, NGOs, Private Sector,
<b>3:00-5:30pm</b> Location: Conf. Room 2	<b>A RESPONSE TO THE WORLD FOOD CRISIS : SMALLHOLDER AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considers key elements of a possible plan to enhance agricultural productivity, raise incomes, reduce hunger and improve nutrition in Africa</li> </ul>	FAO, IFAD, WFP, Permanent Mission of the republic of Malawi to the UN, UNDP, Earth Institute at Columbia University, UN-NGLS, UNAIDS, WB, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)  <i>[Focal point: Themba N. Masuku, <a href="mailto:masuku@un.org">masuku@un.org</a>, 212 963 6319 Sharon Brennen-Haylock, <a href="mailto:brennen-haylock@un.org">brennen-haylock@un.org</a>, 212 963 0977]</i>	Government Representatives, UN Agencies, NGOs, CSOs and Private Sector
<b>3:00-6:00pm</b> Location: Conf. Room 3	<b>AFRICA WOMEN FORUM</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accountability to commitments made regarding gender equality and women’s rights in Africa</li> <li>• Measures to address the needs of the poor most marginalized and excluded women</li> <li>• Roles of various stakeholders in promoting women leadership and engendering local development plans</li> </ul>	UNIFEM, UNFPA, IOM, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNV, ECA, ITC, UNCTAD/WTO, OSAA, Co-Hosts: Rwanda, Iceland, Denmark, African Union, European Commission  <i>[Focal point : Micheline Ravololonarisoa, <a href="mailto:micheline.ravololonarisoa@unifem.org">micheline.ravololonarisoa@unifem.org</a>, 212 906 5025]</i>	Government Representatives, NGOs CSOs, Private Sector, UN Agencies



Time & Location	Event	Main Organizers	Participants
<b>3:00-5:30pm</b> Location: Conf. Room 9	<b>AFRICA'S VULNERABILITY: THE ENERGY CRISIS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implications on achievement of MDGs and sustainable growth</li> <li>• How to ensure environmental and sustainable energy production and consumption</li> </ul>	ECA, UNIDO, UNEP, FAO, UNHCR  <i>[Focal point : Amr Nour, <a href="mailto:nour@un.org">nour@un.org</a> 212-963-5565            Daniela Simioni, <a href="mailto:simioni@un.org">simioni@un.org</a> 917-367-2003]</i>	Government Representatives, NGOs, Private Sector, UN Agencies
<b>3:00- 5:30pm</b> Location: Conf. Room C	<b>MIGRATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore potential contribution of migrants to the development of the countries of origin and destination</li> <li>• Identify how solutions for internally displaced persons can be connected to sustainable development efforts</li> </ul>	IOM, ECA, UNDP, UNHCR  <i>[Focal point: Amy Muedin, <a href="mailto:AMUEDIN@iom.int">AMUEDIN@iom.int</a>, 212-681-7000 Ext. 212]</i>	Government Representatives, UN Agencies, NGOs
<b>3:00- 6:30pm</b> Location: Japan Society	<b>CONFRONTING THE DISEASE OF POVERTY TO MEET THE MDGs: "DIGITAL HEALTH AND AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT" INTERACTIVE ROUNDTABLE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to engage the health, technology and development communities on common goals in order to provide a common language to address challenges and progress</li> </ul>	UN Office for Partnerships, UN "Health 8" partners, the Earth Institute at Columbia University, Commonwealth Business Council, African Business Roundtable, International Business Leaders Forum, Business Action for Africa, Oxford Health Alliance, The Rockefeller Foundation  <i>[Focal point: Denis Gilhooly, <a href="mailto:gilhooly@un.org">gilhooly@un.org</a>]</i>	Government Representatives, UN Agencies, NGOs, Private Sector



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5 September 2008

Excellency,

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/242 and following consultations with the African Union, I have the honour to transmit herewith the second information note on the organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting on the theme “Africa’s development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward”, which will take place on 22 September 2008 at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

I wish to recall that in accordance with resolution 62/242, participation at this high-level meeting is expected at the highest possible political level, including Heads of State or Government, ministers, special representatives and other representatives. Delegations that have not yet inscribed for one of the four roundtables of the meeting are encouraged to do so with the General Assembly Affairs Branch as soon as possible.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Srgjan Kerim', written in a cursive style.

Srgjan Kerim

All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York

Organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting on the theme  
“Africa’s development needs: state of implementation of various  
commitments, challenges and the way forward”  
New York, 22 September 2008

Second Information Note

**Introduction**

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 62/242 of 4 March 2008, inter alia, requested its President to finalize the organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting, to be held on 22 September 2008. This note elaborates on and supersedes the information note issued on 25 June 2008.

**Participation**

2. Participation in the high-level meeting will be in accordance with paragraphs 2, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 14 of resolution 62/242.
3. In accordance with paragraph 2 of the resolution, participation at the meeting is expected at the highest possible political level, including Heads of State or Government, ministers, special representatives and other representatives.
4. In accordance with paragraphs 10 and 14 of the resolution, the President of the General Assembly has invited non-governmental organizations that have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations, the private sector, regional financial institutions as well as the Bretton Woods institutions, UNCTAD, and the World Trade Organization participate in the roundtables of the meeting. The complete list of these participants, as well as participants from the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations, will be circulated to all Member States prior to the meeting.

**Programme of the high-level meeting**

5. The high-level meeting will comprise an opening plenary meeting, followed by two high-level round tables in the morning and two high-level round tables in the afternoon, and a closing plenary meeting.
6. The opening plenary meeting will take place between from 9am-10am in the General Assembly Hall, and shall be addressed by the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General of the United Nations. In addition, following consultation with the African Union, the President of the General Assembly has invited the following dignitaries to address the opening plenary meeting: the President of the United Republic of Tanzania; the President of France; the Prime Minister of Japan (TBC); the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda; the Secretary of State of the United States of America;



the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union; and the President of the European Commission.

7. A closing plenary meeting will take place at 6.15-6.45 pm in the General Assembly Hall to adopt the political declaration on Africa's development needs.

### Round tables

8. There will be two round tables in the morning (10am-1pm) and two in the afternoon (3-6pm). These round tables will take place in the Trusteeship Council and ECOSOC Chambers.
9. The four round tables will have the same overall theme of the meeting: *"Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward."*
10. The co-chairs for the round tables shall be as follows:  
Round table 1: H.E. Thabo Mbeki (South Africa) and H.E. Haris Silajdžić (Bosnia and Herzegovina)  
Round table 2: H.E. Paul Kagame (Rwanda) and H.E. Tarja Halonen (Finland)  
Round table 3: TBC (African Group) and H.E. Ralph Gonsalves (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)  
Round table 4: H.E. Pedro Verona Pires (Cape Verde) and TBC (Asian Group)
11. The round tables shall open with a brief statement from one of the co-chairs, after which the floor will be open for an interactive, free-flowing discussion. Participants will be encouraged to **limit interventions to not more than three minutes** and not to read prepared statements. There will be no formal list of speakers. Delegations and other participants who wish to take the floor will be invited to signify their intentions by raising their flags.
12. One of the co-chairs shall make brief concluding remarks at the close of each round table.
13. Each head of delegation may be accompanied to the roundtable by three advisors.
14. In order to ensure equitable geographical balance in the four round tables, the maximum number of participants from each regional group shall be distributed as follows:
  - African States: 14 Member States
  - Asian States: 14 Member States
  - Eastern European States: 6 Member States
  - Latin American and Caribbean States: 9 Member States
  - Western Europe and other States: 7 Member States
15. A Member State which is not a member of any of the regional groups, the Holy See, in its capacity as Observer State and Palestine in its capacity as observer, may participate in any one of the round tables.

16. Inscriptions in the round tables shall be on a first-come, first-served basis, taking into account the maximum number for each regional group and on the understanding that the total number of Member States participating in each round table shall not exceed 50. Delegations that have not yet inscribed are encouraged to do so as soon as possible. Inscriptions for each round table can be made with the General Assembly Affairs Branch (room S-2940B; tel. 1 (212) 963-5063; fax 1 (212) 963-3783; email: heddachem@un.org).
17. Due to limited availability of space, access to the round tables will be on the basis of colour-coded passes. Each delegation shall be provided with four passes to the round table for which they have inscribed. Delegations that wish to observe roundtables for which they are not inscribed may do so in the public galleries of the Trusteeship Council and ECOSOC chambers (3<sup>rd</sup> floor) on a first-come, first-served basis.

#### Passes for Delegations

18. The United Nations Pass and ID Office on 45<sup>th</sup> Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue will be open for registration of delegates on the following days at the following times: **Thursday, 18 September 8am – 6pm; Friday, 19 September 8am - 6pm; Saturday, 20 September 10am - 6pm; Sunday, 21 September 10am - 8pm; Monday, 22 September 7am - 8pm.**
19. The United Nations Protocol and Liaison Service will authorize delegation passes, as well as VIP passes for Heads of State and Government and Cabinet Ministers. To facilitate the issuance of these passes, lists of delegations for the High-Level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs should be submitted to the Chief of Protocol (room S-201 or by fax: 1 (212) 963-1921) as soon as possible.

#### Overflow Room and Webcast

20. Conference Room 2 will serve as the “overflow room” to enable participants to follow proceedings of the opening plenary meeting.
21. Plenary meetings and the round tables will be transmitted by live Webcast.

#### Side-Events

22. A calendar of various events related to the high-level meeting is posted on the website of the President of the General Assembly <http://www.un.org/ga/president/62/ThematicDebates/adn/events.shtml>. Contact information for the organizers, as well as concept notes for each side event, are also available on the website.



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

9 September 2008

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the revised draft political declaration for the high-level meeting on the theme “Africa’s development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward,” which will take place on 22 September 2008.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the co-facilitators, Ambassador Ismael Gaspar Martins of Angola and Ambassador Frank Majoor of the Netherlands, for their continued dedication and hard work in preparing this draft.

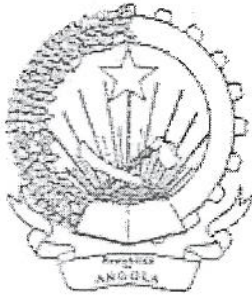
I would encourage delegations to attend the second informal consultations to be convened by the co-facilitators on Friday, 12 September 2008, from 10am – 1pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Srgjan Kerim'.

Srgjan Kerim

All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York





9 September 2008

Excellency,

We write to you in our capacity as co-facilitators for the political declaration to be adopted on 22 September 2008 at the High Level Meeting on "Africa's Development Needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward"

We are pleased to transmit to you a new draft of the political declaration. The changes we made were based on the interventions during the consultation held on 28 August 2008.

This draft will be discussed during the informal consultation on Friday, 12 September 2008, from 10am to 1pm, in the Trusteeship Council Chamber.

We would appreciate if you could distribute this draft to the Member States and invite them for the upcoming consultation.

We would also be grateful if, through your good offices, this new draft could be shared with the incoming President of the General Assembly.

We thank you for the excellent cooperation on this matter,

Yours sincerely,

Ismael Gaspar Martins  
Permanent Representative  
of the Republic of Angola

Frank Majoor  
Permanent Representative  
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

H.E. Mr. Srgjan Kerim  
President of the 62nd session of the  
United Nations General Assembly

*Political declaration of the High Level Meeting on  
"Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments,  
challenges and the way forward"  
22 September 2008*

1. We, heads of State and Government, ministers and representatives of member states gathered at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 22 September 2008 to address Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward. We stress that this high-level meeting represents a unique opportunity to strengthen the global partnership for development in Africa, pivotal to bringing Africa into the mainstream of the global economy.
2. We recommit ourselves to reinvigorate and strengthen a global partnership of equals based on our common values, shared responsibility and the determination to collectively act for our common future and to mobilize the resources, including human, financial, and technological, required to end poverty, hunger and underdevelopment in Africa, with the explicit objective of turning existing commitments into concrete actions.
3. We will strengthen support for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) the overarching framework for development cooperation in Africa, as well as for the implementation of national development plans and strategies.

*State of implementation of various commitments*

4. We stress that eradicating poverty, particularly in Africa, is the greatest global challenge facing the world today. We reaffirm our commitment to address the special needs of Africa, a continent where, despite recent considerable improvements, the full and timely achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, remains elusive.
5. We will support the consolidation of democracy in Africa and assist Africans in their struggle for lasting peace, poverty eradication and sustainable development.
6. We underline that good governance at all levels is essential for sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development. We welcome the progress many African countries have made with respect to implementing pro poor economic policies, deepening democracy and protecting human rights. We stress the importance of African-led initiatives to strengthen political, economic and corporate governance, such as the African Peer Review Mechanism.
7. We recommit ourselves to actively protecting and promoting all human rights, the rule of law and democracy, including through African and international human rights mechanisms.
8. We welcome the efforts of African governments to mobilize domestic resources and attract private capital to finance the investments and expenditures needed to achieve their development goals. We underscore the importance of an enabling environment at all levels, which is vital for mobilizing domestic resources, increasing productivity, reducing capital flight, fighting corruption, encouraging the private sector and attracting foreign direct investment. We underline the importance of human, professional and institutional capacity-building to development.
9. We stress the importance of strengthening domestic financial sectors as a source of capital, by making them truly inclusive thus expanding access to financial services.



10. We underline the importance of increasing foreign direct investment into Africa and its diversification away from the extractive industries for greater employment generation, transfer of technology and knowledge as well as access to international markets.
11. We are concerned that, at the current rate, the goal of doubling aid to Africa by 2010 will not be reached. We call for the fulfillment of all Official Development Assistance commitments, including the commitments by many developed countries to increase their Official Development Assistance to 0.7 percent of Gross National Income by 2015, including the specific target of 0.15% to 0.20% of GNI for Least Developed Countries by 2010.
12. We welcome the increased aid flows from new development actors, such as middle-income countries, global funds, the private sector and civil society organizations.
13. We emphasize the special importance of continued work towards durable solutions to debt sustainability and management of African countries.
14. We recommit to improve the effectiveness of development assistance and stress in this regard the fundamental principles of ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results and mutual accountability. We call for the full implementation of the Accra Agenda for Action.
15. We will promote South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, which have great potential to facilitate the exchange of successful strategies, practices and experiences.
16. We welcome the commitments made by Africa and its development partners in the context of various important initiatives and partnerships in recent years, such as, inter alia, the Africa Partnership Forum, the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership, the China-Africa Partnership, the Africa-European Union Strategic Partnership, the G8-Africa partnership, the Millennium Challenge Account, the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief of the President of the United States of America, the Africa-Turkey Cooperation Summit, the Africa-South America Summit and the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD).
17. We urge the United Nations system, international and regional financial institutions and other multilateral development partners to continue to support African governments in their efforts to implement national development strategies and programs. We stress the need to strengthen the capacities and capabilities of the United Nations in supporting Africa's development.
18. We are concerned that Africa's share of international trade is only 2% and underline the important role that trade plays in promoting economic growth. We call for Africa's share of international trade to be increased through regional integration and greater integration into the global economy and fulfillment of our commitment to a well-functioning, universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system which promotes sustainable development. We commit to redouble our efforts to achieve a successful development-oriented outcome of the Doha Round of trade negotiations. We call for stronger national action and international support to build domestic productive competitive export supply capacities, as well as trade-supportive logistics for African countries.
19. We stress the need for well functioning national and international financial systems, which should have the capacity to help reduce uncertainty and support economic growth. We recognize the need to enhance the voice and participation of developing countries in policymaking in the areas of trade, money and finance



20. We underline that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. We stress that conflict prevention, resolution and management and post conflict consolidation are essential for the achievement of the objectives of the special needs of Africa. We welcome the progress that the African Union and the subregional organizations have made in this regard, inter alia through the strengthening of Africa's Peace and Security architecture.
21. We call for intensified efforts and a coordinated approach between national Governments, the African Union, subregional organizations, the United Nations system and partners with a view to achieving further progress towards the goal of a conflict-free Africa. We stress the importance of and pledge to support peace consolidation mechanisms and processes, such as the *African Union Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development Framework* and the UN Peacebuilding Commission. We welcome the intensification of the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union on peace and security and underline the importance of the implementation of the ten-year capacity-building program for the African Union. We call upon the international community to assist post conflict countries in achieving a smooth transition from relief to development.

### *Challenges*

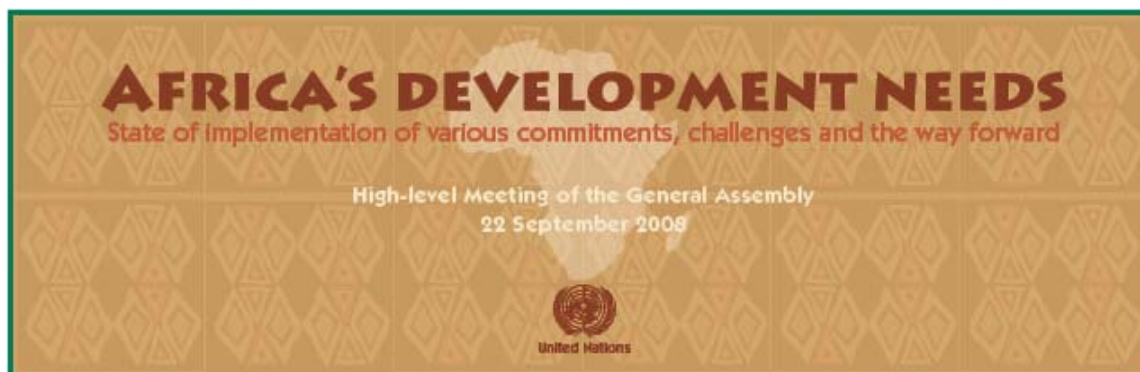
22. We recognize that Africa faces a number of serious challenges, including poverty, hunger, climate change, energy supply and HIV/AIDS. We commend African countries for their leadership in addressing these challenges and charting the way forward for the region in the context of NEPAD as well as through national development plans and strategies.
23. We stress that climate change has serious implications for poverty eradication, food security, water and energy. We express concern that Africa faces increased risks from the negative effects of climate change, despite emitting the least greenhouse gases. We underline the urgent need to address both adaptation and mitigation, including financing needs related to such effects and appropriate international cooperation mechanisms and policies, as well as by the reduction of global emissions with at least 50% by 2050, in particular by the contributions from all major economies, consistent with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. We are committed to assist developing countries to improve their resilience to climate change and integrate adaptation into their sustainable development strategies and will support the facilitation of transfer of appropriate technology in order to ensure a low carbon intensive economic development in Africa.
24. We are concerned about the consequences of the global food crisis for poverty and hunger. We call for an integrated response by African countries and the international community to invest in integrated and sustainable agriculture and rural development approaches and stress the importance of strengthening the agricultural sector, as set out, inter alia, in the *Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)* of the *New Partnership for Africa's Development*. We call upon all donors and the United Nations system to increase their assistance to Africa, in particular least developed countries and those that are most negatively affected by high food prices.
25. We welcome Africa's commitment to the *African Water Vision 2025*, the Sirte Declaration on agriculture and water in Africa, and the Sharm El-Sheikh commitments for accelerating the achievement of water and sanitation goals in Africa.
26. We recognize the urgent need for large-scale investments in energy infrastructure, as outlined in NEPAD and are committed to promote innovation, clean energy, energy efficiency and conservation.



27. We reaffirm our commitment to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, recognizing that they are key actors in development.
28. We resolve to increase our efforts to reduce maternal and child mortality and reaffirm our commitment to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015.
29. We note with concern that violence against women and children everywhere continues and often increases and resolve to ensure the strict universal adherence to national and international norms regarding violence against women and girls. We commit ourselves to safeguarding the principle of refugee protection and to upholding our responsibility in resolving the plight of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons, especially women.
30. We recognize the commitment by African governments and regional institutions to scale up their own HIV/AIDS responses in order to curb the devastating effects of this pandemic. We reaffirm our resolve to improve health systems and to provide assistance for the prevention, treatment and care, with the aim of ensuring an HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis-free generation in Africa. We also reaffirm our commitment to achieve the goal of universal access to treatment by 2010 for all those who need it. We call upon pharmaceutical companies to provide drugs, including antiretroviral drugs that are affordable and accessible in Africa. We reaffirm our commitment to research on prevention tools, especially on an HIV vaccine.
31. We renew our resolve to fulfill our commitments towards education, using the full range of bilateral and multilateral instruments, including continued efforts to mobilize resources to meet the needs of the *Education For All – Fast Track Initiative Catalytic Fund*. We emphasize the importance of expanded primary, secondary and higher education as well as vocational education and technical training, especially for girls and women.

*Way forward*

32. Meeting Africa's development needs requires coordinated, balanced and integrated actions at all levels, for the full and timely achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and to comprehensively address all challenges to Africa's development.
33. All commitments to Africa should be effectively implemented and given appropriate follow-up, by the international community and by Africa itself. In this regard, we welcome the Secretary-General's comprehensive review of Africa's development needs and the report of the MDG Africa Steering Group.
34. This political declaration is adopted on 22 September 2008 on the occasion of the High Level Meeting on "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments challenges and the way forward". It seeks to reaffirm the commitment of all states to addressing the development needs on the African continent. In adopting this political declaration, member states reaffirm their belief in a prosperous future for Africa in which core human values of dignity and peace are fully enshrined. In this context, member states further confirm their adherence to the spirit of cooperation that defines the United Nations system and that is based on a partnership among equals.



### Side Event Table

Contact: Juliet Wasswa-Mugambwa, OSAA, Tel: 212-963-9576, E-mail: [wasswa-mugambwa@un.org](mailto:wasswa-mugambwa@un.org)

<b>Time &amp; Location</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Main Organizers</b>	<b>Participants</b>
<b>8:15-10:00a.m.</b> <u>Location:</u> <b>International Peace Institute</b>	<b>CRIME AS AN IMPEDIMENT TO SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA: BEST PRACTICES AND INSTITUTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing the links between Development and the Rule of Law, and sharing best practices from the region</li> </ul>	UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), International Peace Institute (IPI)  <i>[Focal point: Simone Monasebian, <a href="mailto:monasebian@un.org">monasebian@un.org</a>, 212-963-5631]</i>	Senior Member of the AU, Permanent Representatives to the UN
<b>10:00a.m.-1:00p.m.</b> <u>Location:</u> <b>Conf. Room 7</b>	<b>YOUTH: DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore how to promote youth empowerment and engagement in order to address Africa's development needs</li> </ul>	UNFPA, ILO, UNOSDP, IOM, ECA, UNV, AU  <i>[Focal point: Obi Emekekwe, <a href="mailto:emekekwe@unfpa.org">emekekwe@unfpa.org</a>, 212 297 5173]</i>	Government Representatives, NGOs, CSOs, UN Agencies
<b>10:00a.m.-1:00p.m.</b> <u>Location:</u> <b>Conf. Room 8</b>	<b>THE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE IN AFRICA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health for all in Africa: Combating AIDs, TB, malaria, maternal and infant mortality</li> <li>• Water and Sanitation</li> </ul>	UNFPA, IOM, UNICEF, UNHCR, UN-HABITAT, WHO, UNAIDS, INTRACEN, UNECA, OSAA, AU  <i>[Focal Point: Akinyele Dairo, <a href="mailto:dairo@unfpa.org">dairo@unfpa.org</a>, 212-297-5162]</i>	Government Representatives, Civil Society, UN Agencies

<b>Time &amp; Location</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Main Organizers</b>	<b>Participants</b>
<b>10:00a.m.- 1:00p.m.</b> <u>Location:</u> <b>Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium</b>	<b>MICROCREDIT, MICROFINANCE, INCLUSIVE FINANCE: BUILDING SUCCESS FOR INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR POVERTY ERADICATION IN AFRICA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good practices and successful experiences in Africa towards building inclusive financial sectors</li> </ul>	UNCDF, the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the UN, UN Advisors Group on Inclusive Finance  <i>[Focal point: Monica Gaba, <a href="mailto:monica.gaba@uncdf.org">monica.gaba@uncdf.org</a>, 212 906 6181]</i>	Government Representatives, NGOs, Private Sector, UN Agencies
<b>12:00-2:45p.m.</b> <u>Location:</u> <b>Delegates Dining Rooms, 5, 6, 7, 8</b>	<b>ACCELERATING POVERTY REDUCTION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH : TRANSFORMING AFRICAN COUNTRIES INTO TIGER ECONOMIES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lessons learnt from Asian tiger economies</li> <li>• How international cooperation can facilitate growth in Africa</li> <li>• Economic growth vs. environmental protection</li> </ul>	UNIDO, UNCTAD, UNDP, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)  <i>[Focal point: Graham Clough, <a href="mailto:cloughg@un.org">cloughg@un.org</a>, 212 963 6885]</i>	Government Representatives, NGOs, Private Sector, UN Agencies
<b>1:15- 2:45pm</b> <u>Location:</u> <b>Delegates Dining Room, West Terrace</b>	<b>TRANSFORMING THE CLIMATE FOR BUSINESS TO ACCELERATE PRIVATE SECTOR-LED GROWTH AND PROGRESS TOWARDS THE MDGs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlight good practices and experiences in Africa of building policy and regulatory frameworks that contribute to growth and poverty reduction</li> </ul>	UN Office for Partnerships, The LTB Foundation, Business Action for Africa, and Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the UN in cooperation with the Commonwealth Business Council, The Corporate Council on Africa, Africa Investor, and the Public-Private Alliance Foundation.  <i>[Focal point: William Kennedy, <a href="mailto:kennedyw@un.org">kennedyw@un.org</a>, 212963-6438]</i>	Government Representatives, NGOs, Private Sector, UN Agencies
<b>1:15-2:45p.m.</b> <u>Location:</u> <b>Conf. Room 7</b>	<b>LAUNCH OF - AFRICA ATLAS OF OUR CHANGING ENVIRONMENT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atlas highlights important environmental issues of all African countries, progress towards MDG7 and provides evidence of local changes</li> </ul>	UNEP  <i>[Focal point : James Sniffen, <a href="mailto:sniffenj@un.org">sniffenj@un.org</a>, 212 963 8094]</i>	Government Representatives, NGOs, Private Sector, UN Agencies

<b>Time &amp; Location</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Main Organizers</b>	<b>Participants</b>
<b>1:15-2:45p.m.</b> <u>Location:</u> <b>Conf. Room 8</b>	<b>THE MDG AFRICA STEERING GROUP AND THE GLENEAGLES SCENARIOS APPROACH FOR SCALING UP ODA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentations on experiences in developing a “Gleneagles” scenario to mobilize and deliver more effective, predictable and coordinated scaled-up resources for accelerated progress toward the MDGs</li> </ul>	UNDP, two member states, World Bank, IMF, EC, AfDB and Oxfam  <i>[Focal point: Brett House, <a href="mailto:brett.house@undp.org">brett.house@undp.org</a>, 646 379 9841; <a href="mailto:boubou.camara@undp.org">boubou.camara@undp.org</a>]</i>	Government Representatives, NGOs, UN Agencies, WB and IMF
<b>2:00 p.m.-4:30p.m.</b> <u>Location:</u> <b>Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium</b>	<b>AFRICAN PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVE: STRENGTHENING AFRICAN PRIVATE SECTOR COMPETITIVENESS IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How the donor community, governments and international organisations can collaborate better to enhance the competitiveness and growth of African private sector enterprises.</li> <li>• How private sector development can foster both economic and human development.</li> <li>• Recommendations on how to encourage the promotion of partnerships between the public and the private sector</li> </ul>	International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC) World Bank, UN Global Compact  <i>[Focal point: Yuwan A. Beejadhur, <a href="mailto:ybeejadhur@worldbank.org">ybeejadhur@worldbank.org</a> 212- 355-6114; Ashish Shah, <a href="mailto:shah@intracen.org">shah@intracen.org</a> 41-22-730-0351]</i>	Government Representatives, NGOs, Private Sector, UN Agencies
<b>3:00-6:00p.m.</b> <u>Location:</u> <b>Conf. Room 8</b>	<b>THE GOVERNANCE CHALLENGE IN AFRICA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Democratic governance; state and non-state capacity</li> <li>• Impacts of the APRM</li> <li>• Equality, Opportunity and the Rule of Law</li> </ul>	UNU, OSAA, UN-HABITAT, ECA, UNIFEM, UNODC, IPU  <i>[Focal point : Jin Zhang, <a href="mailto:jin@ony.unu.edu">jin@ony.unu.edu</a>, 212 963 6387 ; Katrin Toomel, <a href="mailto:toomel@un.org">toomel@un.org</a>]</i>	Government Representatives, UN Agencies, NGOs, Private Sector,
<b>3:00-5:30p.m.</b> <u>Location:</u> <b>Conf. Room 2</b>	<b>A RESPONSE TO THE WORLD FOOD CRISIS : SMALLHOLDER AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considers key elements of a possible plan to enhance agricultural productivity, raise incomes, reduce hunger and improve nutrition in Africa</li> </ul>	FAO, IFAD, WFP, Permanent Mission of the republic of Malawi to the UN, UNDP, Earth Institute at Columbia University, UN-NGLS, UNAIDS, WB, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)  <i>[Focal point: Themba N. Masuku, <a href="mailto:masuku@un.org">masuku@un.org</a>, 212 963 6319 Sharon Brennen-Haylock, <a href="mailto:brennen-haylock@un.org">brennen-haylock@un.org</a>, 212 963 0977]</i>	Government Representatives, UN Agencies, NGOs, CSOs and Private Sector



<b>Time &amp; Location</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Main Organizers</b>	<b>Participants</b>
<b>3:00-6:00p.m.</b> <u>Location:</u> <b>Conf. Room 3</b>	<b>AFRICA WOMEN'S FORUM</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accountability to commitments made regarding gender equality and women's rights in Africa</li> <li>• Measures to address the needs of the poor most marginalized and excluded women</li> <li>• Roles of various stakeholders in promoting women leadership and engendering local development plans</li> </ul>	UNIFEM, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNV, ECA, OSAA, AU, INTRACEN Co-Hosts: Liberia, Rwanda, Iceland, and European Commission  <i>[Focal point : Micheline Ravololonarisoa, <a href="mailto:micheline.ravololonarisoa@unifem.org">micheline.ravololonarisoa@unifem.org</a>, 212 906 5025]</i>	Government Representatives, NGOs CSOs, Private Sector, UN Agencies
<b>3:00-5:30p.m.</b> <u>Location:</u> <b>Conf. Room 9</b>	<b>AFRICA'S VULNERABILITY: THE ENERGY CRISIS, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implications on achievement of MDGs and sustainable growth</li> <li>• How to ensure environmental and sustainable energy production and consumption</li> </ul>	ECA, UNIDO, UNEP, FAO, UNHCR  <i>[Focal point : Amr Nour, <a href="mailto:nour@un.org">nour@un.org</a> 212-963-5565 Daniela Simioni, <a href="mailto:simioni@un.org">simioni@un.org</a>, 917-367-2003]</i>	Government Representatives, NGOs, Private Sector, UN Agencies
<b>3:00- 5:30p.m.</b> <u>Location:</u> <b>Conf. Room C</b>	<b>MIGRATION, POPULATION DISPLACEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA</b> Explore potential contribution of migrants to the development of the countries of origin and destination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify how solutions for internally displaced persons can be connected to sustainable development efforts</li> </ul>	IOM, ECA, UNDP, UNHCR  <i>[Focal point: Amy Muedin, <a href="mailto:AMUEDIN@iom.int">AMUEDIN@iom.int</a>, 212-681-7000 Ext. 212]</i>	Government Representatives, UN Agencies, NGOs
<b>3:00- 6:30p.m.</b> <u>Location:</u> <b>Japan Society</b>	<b>CONFRONTING THE DISEASE OF POVERTY TO MEET THE MDGs: "DIGITAL HEALTH AND AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT" INTERACTIVE ROUNDTABLE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to engage the health, technology and development communities on common goals in order to provide a common language to address challenges and progress</li> </ul>	UN Office for Partnerships, UN "Health 8" partners, the Earth Institute at Columbia University, Commonwealth Business Council, African Business Roundtable, International Business Leaders Forum, Business Action for Africa, Oxford Health Alliance, The Rockefeller Foundation  <i>[Focal point: Denis Gilhooly, <a href="mailto:gilhooly@un.org">gilhooly@un.org</a>]</i>	Government Representatives, UN Agencies, NGOs, Private Sector



**High Level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs: State of Implementation of Various Commitments, Challenges and the Way Forward"  
22 September 2008**

**Summary Report  
Side Events**

**Title:** A Response to the World Food Crisis: Smallholder Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development in Africa

**Date and Venue:** Monday 22 September 2008, Conference Room 2, UN General Assembly Building

**Organizers:** FAO, IFAD, WFP, UNDP, UN-NGLS, UNAIDS, Republic of Malawi and the Earth Institute at Columbia University

**Moderators:** Mr. Scott Kilman and Mr. Roger Thurow, Wall Street Journal

**Keynote speakers:** Mr. BAN Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General  
H.E. Mr. Armando Guebuza, President of the Republic of Mozambique  
Mr. Jacques Diouf, FAO Director-General  
Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, UN Secretary-General's Special Advisor on the MDGs  
Ms. Elisabeth Atangana, President of the Sub-Regional Platform of Peasant Organizations of Central Africa

**Focal points:** Mr. Themba N. Masuku and Ms. Sharon Brennen-Haylock, FAO Liaison Office with the UN

## **1. Introduction (Background and Context)**

Since 2005, a number of agricultural commodity prices have sharply risen, culminating in a 23 percent increase (in US dollar terms) in the FAO Food Price Index from 2006 to 2007. Escalating food prices have already led to food-related protests and riots in many countries, including several in Africa, as the number of people left hungry has increased. This complicates the achievement of internationally agreed goals on hunger reduction, including MDG 1 which calls for the proportion of people who suffer from hunger to be halved between 1990 and 2015. This side event will examine responses to the world food crisis through support for smallholder agriculture, greater food security and integrated rural development in Africa.

Agriculture and food security are central to Africa's development needs and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other internationally agreed development goals (IADGs) will only be met on the continent if much greater attention is given to agriculture, food security and nutrition. Despite the key role agriculture plays in development, it has been relatively neglected in recent years and needs to be put back at the centre of national development strategies.

For decades, Africa's rural sector has been caught in a perverse poverty trap of low productivity caused by many factors such as an absence of modern farming technologies, a degraded base of natural resources, limited capacity, poor food distribution, inadequate governance, incomplete access to markets and hunger. The present food crisis has sharpened calls for a uniquely African 'Green Revolution' to boost productivity. The 22 September High-Level Meeting's side event on agriculture and food security will focus on efforts to translate recommendations into action on the ground.

## **2. Organization (Chair, Panelists, Presenters and Participants)**

### **Opening remarks:**

Mr. Roger Thurow, Wall Street Journal

### **Keynote speakers:**

The UN Secretary-General, BAN Ki-moon; The President of Mozambique, H.E. Mr. Armando Guebuza; The FAO Director-General, Mr. Jacques Diouf; UN Secretary-General's Special Advisor on the MDGs, Prof. Jeffrey Sachs; President of the Sub-Regional Platform of Peasant Organizations of Central Africa, Ms. Elisabeth Atangana

### **Moderators:**

Mr. Scott Kilman, Mr. Roger Thurow, Wall Street Journal

### **Participants (not exhaustive):**

## **3. Summary Discussions**

The UN Secretary-General pointed out that the steep rise in food prices is putting lives at risk. Mr. BAN lamented the reduction of official development assistance (ODA) going to agriculture, where the current share of total ODA stands at only 4 percent compared to 1980 when it stood at 20 percent. The importance of the 2003 African Union's Maputo Declaration's commitment by African Member States to allocate 10 percent of national budgets to agriculture was stressed. It was also mentioned that this commitment would go a long way toward meeting the challenges of the global food situation by stimulating supply for African and global consumers. The role of the High-Level Task Force on the Food Crisis and its Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA) was highlighted and could be used to mobilize resources and the political will to address high food prices through concrete solutions.

The number of people at risk of hunger owing to high food prices and limited supply is rising. Food aid is essential as a temporary measure to respond to the food crisis, but must quickly be followed by long-term solutions. As called for in the CFA and the MDG Africa Steering Group's recommendations, support of smallholder farmers is necessary.

The President of Mozambique pointed out that the most vulnerable groups are generally the most affected by this crisis. It was mentioned that the international community had the power to reverse the crisis, especially amongst the estimated 70 percent of Africans who live in rural areas. If strategic complementarity is employed in collaborative actions, it would be possible to transform the high prices into an opportunity to create jobs in local areas. Action plans for increased food production were enumerated, including the introduction of Green Revolution technologies to enhance seed and fertilizer inputs, construct watering systems, and provide small farmers with access to credit, as well as the need for more resources.

The FAO Director-General raised additional urgency to the need to respond to the food crisis, noting that high prices have increased the number of the hungry by about 75 million. The high prices have also contributed to protests and riots in the urban areas of several countries and impacted small scale farmers. It was also noted, though, that high agriculture commodity prices could be an opportunity to re-launch efforts to increase production and productivity, compounded with the necessity to ensure that high prices are transmitted to small-scale producers. FAO agreed that efforts must be made to address the structural constraints facing smallholder farmers, and that in this regard, institutional innovations would be necessary. Emphasized on access to water would be critical to secure a productive sustainable agriculture in Africa since only 7 percent of all arable land is irrigated. Coherence and cooperation between international organizations would also be crucial. Toward this end, the FAO launched the Initiative on Soaring Food Prices (ISFP) in December 2007 to mobilize US\$1.7 billion to provide immediate help to smallholder farmers with improved seeds and fertilizers in time for the current growing season. Regrettably, only a small portion of funds committed have been provided.

The UN Secretary-General's Special Advisor on the Millennium Development Goals explained that Africa's agricultural output could be more than doubled, but this has not been achieved at least in part because needed and committed external financing has not been provided for the implementation of evidence-based, established interventions. Prof. Sachs noted Malawi's experience over the last several years with its subsidy programme for agricultural inputs, which has had a large positive impact on food security. Since the introduction of this programme, the country has substantially increased production and has now become a food exporting country only a few years after experiencing famine. Prior to the introduction of the input support programme, agricultural yields had been 1 ton per hectare, amongst the lowest in the world. Yields are now at 2 to 3 tons per hectare under the input support programme. Malawi provides a clear example that Africa can feed itself with the right policies, programmes and external support. This success could be replicated in other countries, but adequate financing would have to be made available from internal and external sources for inputs, infrastructure and distribution networks. Donors were strongly called upon to provide this increased support for enhanced agricultural development. The situation has never been more urgent: with increased population densities and shrinking average farm sizes, crop and land rotation can no longer be practiced in many areas. This results in the depletion of soil nutrients, leaving the land incapable of supporting adequate production to sustain local populations. Improved agricultural inputs—seeds, fertilizer, irrigation, and pest control—provide the only clear path to improved productivity.

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, on behalf of President of Malawi, explained that the Malawi government's agricultural input subsidy programme that started in 2004 resulted to a food surplus never achieved in the last two decades. This achievement positively spilled over employment, exports, and in the stabilization of domestic prices, particularly of maize. Marking the 4th year of its implementation in 2008, the program targets 1.7 million poor small holder farmers involving a more diverse inputs subsidies and is on course for another year of substantial success. Malawi has also indicated its responses to the issue of climate change by investing in irrigation farming and diversified agriculture, marketing and controlling post harvest losses. On the question of the sustainability of Malawi's commitment to subsidize farm inputs now that farm input prices went up, the WB has committed to assist Malawi in this program until Malawi is able to prepare for a sustainable funding for its agricultural needs.

The President of the sub-regional Platform of Peasant Organizations of Central Africa (PROPAC) highlighted the vital role of smallholder agriculture, which produces 70% of Africa's food supply and creates 70% of rural jobs, the vast majority of which are worked by women. Several problems facing smallholder farmers were highlighted such as: increasing poverty, lack of access to credit and to land, increase in prices for fertilizer and seeds, and population growth. Efforts of farmers to find solutions to these problems were being offset by the current food crisis. Smallholder farmers could not solve the food crisis single handed; the action of States and the international community are essential and that resulting international support must be within direct reach of smallholder farmers. On behalf of a network of smallholders, recommendations were made to accelerate policy coherence and to improve the competitiveness of the agricultural sector by investing in smallholders farms; to strengthen the capacity of producers and their organizations to participate in agricultural development programmes, especially by increasing the participation of women; to accelerate the process of regional integration in order to promote regional exchanges of agricultural products; and to share best practices and adapt them to regional and national specificities. On the international level, PROPAC called for fair market and trade rules between the rich and poor countries, particularly within the World Trade Organization. The need to increase agricultural loans and to support micro-financed rural projects was also emphasized.

Interventions during the discussion were raised from the floor from Member States, international institutions including UN-affiliated funds and programs, NGOs and from the private sector, most of which are summarized from here on.

The World Food Programme thanked donors for their response to the food crisis but warned that the crisis is compounding and we are still in the danger zone. Smallholder farmers are not all benefiting from soaring food prices. Many cannot afford inputs and have planted only one-third of what they planted one year ago. In fact, half of those reached by WFP's urgent food assistance are smallholder farmers who can't raise enough food to feed their families, let alone make enough income to break the poverty cycle.

The Horn of Africa is in particular danger. Critical action plans to address the food crisis have already been developed, but bold international leadership is needed. Embedded in this crisis is opportunity for farmers. Eighty percent of the food given to hungry people that WFP spends cash on is bought in the developing world. Africa has the potential to help feed the world, but first we must act together to beat this "perfect storm within a perfect storm."

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) pointed out that coordination of action is a key component for tackling the current crisis and for ensuring medium and long term agricultural growth and food security. The Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) provides the right framework for coordination at the regional and global level for effectively implementing comprehensive initiatives to raise food production and promote agricultural and rural development. The commitment made by the European Commission to make available an additional \$1 billion is a welcomed step towards reversing the downward trend that has affected funding for agriculture over the last decades. But more needs to be done.

It was further noted that investments in agriculture will help to unleash the potential of African small holder farmers by increasing their productivity, enhancing local and national food security and accelerating poverty reduction. Malawi, Mozambique, and Ghana and several other countries in the region have demonstrated that African farmers have the potential to grow enough food for domestic consumption and export. Required are significant investments in infrastructure, improved market access, and agricultural research to enhance productivity. Governments, donors and international institutions need to work with new actors such as AGRA, foundations and the private sector. IFAD, on its part, is prepared to expand its investment in Sub-Saharan Africa and engages with its members to mobilize resources to provide \$2.5 billion over the next five years to support smallholder agricultural development in the region.

In light of the complex vulnerabilities arising out of the combined effect of the recent food crisis, high energy prices and climate change, UNDP called for global and coordinated response to address the development needs and challenges of poor countries, particularly those in Africa. In addition, UNDP emphasized the need to rethink the international community's standard response to food shortages by supplementing short term interventions with longer term measures.

The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), highlighted their organization's commitment, together with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, The Rockefeller Foundation, and the DFID, in providing across the value chain access of smallholder farmers to farm inputs required for production. Collaboration with international institutions and donor countries for funding are necessary but urged African countries not to wait for external resources, important as they may be. Imaginative ways must be created to make available and then mobilize internal resources.

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) emphasized reaching the vulnerable people and specifically targeting them in public investments. She also raised the necessity of investing in coordinated and improved information systems for coherent monitoring and assessing frameworks important in policy analysis and measuring effectiveness of implementation. The lack of consistent information systems place implications in measuring impact of programs at the household level. Apart from looking at food security in an agriculture dimension, she raised the issue of recognizing the synergies between food security, nutrition and health which are closely linked in the African context.

The World Bank agreed that there is an urgent need to increase funding for agriculture in Africa. The Bank has already or is making available over \$850 million to-date under its Global Food Price Crisis Response Facility (GFRP) with the majority of projects supporting Africa. This includes important contributions to finance fertilizer and seed distribution. Agreement with Mr. Diouf and Dr. Sachs as well as other participants were also expressed in that much more funding is needed. Recently the World Bank welcomed the commitment from Australia to the GFRP and the pending 1 billion Euro support from the EC.

At the same time, there is recognition that under-investment in agriculture is based on the perception that agricultural support doesn't work. Many of the problems in the 1980s in performance of agricultural support were linked to poor policy environments such as marketing boards and input policies which did not benefit

farmers - at least not smallholders. Many of these policies have been improved and there are apparent successes in boosting smallholder production in many countries through more effectively managed and targeted input subsidies combined with good technical support and improved marketing systems. Attention must be drawn to these successes and ensure that they are being replicated broadly to build a sense of real progress in the agricultural sector while at the same time ensuring that what is done today can be sustained tomorrow by farmers themselves.

The International Federation of African Producers (IFAP) from Zambia emphasized that smallholder farmers are the principal stakeholders in agriculture. Aside from the urgency of funds for the right mix of strategies to boost agriculture production, what is needed by farmers are strategic partnerships with farmers organizations who together with the government could develop national agricultural plans where reprioritization of resource allocation and monitoring and evaluation of government programs suited to farmers will be addressed. Current and succeeding government initiatives with the aim of empowering farmers in Africa must satisfy the question how these projects are farmer-centered and inclusive.

Belgium has participated in the discussion and raised the tradeoffs, with reference to donor countries, between emphasis and resource allocation to emergency needs vis-à-vis the long-term capacity requirements for Africa to feed itself. Despite the fact that a vast majority of food aid funding was in the past several years allocated for emergency and not for development, UN Agencies collectively agree that a simultaneous response to long-term development programs and emergencies must be considered and funded. Without the necessary political will to implement this, the food security situation will get worse with climate change and population growth.

Yara International noted that farmers, even the smallest shareholders are private entrepreneurs. The private sector is increasingly interested in becoming a partner in agriculture investments in Africa and is in a strong learning mode to create dynamism and a stable private sector base, to inject vitality and to adapt a market approach in agriculture. Agriculture was not profitable previously because of subsidies and other dumping practices that it was better to import products than produce in Africa. Now there are opportunities that require new mindset where agriculture can be profitable such as the establishment of agricultural growth corridors for improved transport linkages and border controls. This will strengthen the willingness of the private sector to become an active partner in finding solutions to Africa's food needs, from access to credit, weather insurance, and in partnerships in the value chain.

CGIAR noted its appreciation for the calls for action from all quarters and asked for specific commitments from all donors on the shape this action would take.

#### **4. Conclusions, Recommendations and Follow-up Actions**

The side event resulted in the following key recommendations and conclusions:

- Addressing the world food crisis requires a global and coordinated response that combines immediate- and short-term measures as well as longer-term solutions.
- High agriculture commodity prices gravely affect poor people who are often net buyers of food while also offering an opportunity to re-launch efforts to increase agricultural production and productivity;
- Smallholder farmers, which make up the majority of agricultural producers in Africa, need to be at the center of any initiatives to enhance agricultural production.
- The competitiveness of the agricultural sector needs to be improved by investing in smallholder farms; strengthening the capacity of producers and their organizations to participate in agricultural development programmes, especially by increasing the participation of women; and accelerating the process of regional integration.
- Action plans for increased food production require the introduction of Green Revolution technologies to enhance seed and fertilizer inputs, construct watering systems, improve infrastructure and market access, and provide smallholder farmers with access to credit. Because smallholder farmers cannot afford these technologies in many cases, domestic and external support will be required for their provision.
- Localized successes need to be replicated broadly to strengthen the agricultural sector as a whole across all regions.

- Significantly more public resources are needed to support the agriculture, food and nutrition sectors in light of the fact that agriculture's current share of total ODA stands at only 4 percent compared to 1980 when it stood at 20 percent.
- Collaborations with international institutions and donor countries for funding are necessary, but African countries may also search for new ways to build on the already substantial efforts they have made to mobilize internal resources.
- The private sector has also an important role to play in finding solutions to Africa's food needs.
- Governments, donors and international institutions also need to work with new actors such as AGRA, foundations and the private sector to mobilize financial and technical support.
- Strategic partnerships with farmers' organizations need to be developed to work with national authorities in the reprioritization of resource allocation and monitoring and evaluation of government programs.
- Agreement on the need in 2010 for a UN summit to review the Secretary-General's next comprehensive report on progress toward the MDGs.



## **High Level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs: State of Implementation of Various Commitments, Challenges and the Way Forward"**

**22 September 2008**

### **Summary Report**

#### **Side Events**

**Title: Africa's Vulnerability : The Energy Crises, Climate change and Environment**

**Date and Venue: 22 September 2008 –New York**

**Organizers: First lead agency: ECA**

**Co-sponsors: UNIDO, UNEP, FAO, UNHCR**

**Chair (s) : Mr Abdoulie Janneh, USG and Executive Secretary, ECA**

**Mr. Kandeh Yumkella,USG, Director-General, UNIDO and Chair ,UN Energy.**

### **1. Introduction (Background and Context)**

Despite the profusion of energy resources in the form of renewable energy like hydropower, geothermal, biomass/biofuels, solar as well as fossil fuel (petroleum, gas and coal), Africa has the lowest access to modern energy in the world. The acute energy crisis that severely affects the economies of the region results from a combination of factors such as widespread droughts, progressive degradation of hydropower dams and structural weaknesses of the energy sectors. As a major consequence, in recent years, frequent power cuts and unreliable electricity supply have cost the African economy an estimated 4% loss in annual GDP.

Although Africa contributes very little to global emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG), climate change has the unambiguous negative effects of constraining agricultural production and worsening food insecurity, increasing water stress and, through progressive reduction of water flows and depletion of biomass resources, increasing energy constraints. Fossil fuel emissions being a major cause of climate change, addressing Africa's long-term energy and development



needs should not proceed from the same unsustainable fossil-based energy regimes that powered the economic growth of today's industrialized nations.

Against this background, the meeting shed light on the current acute energy crisis in Africa while offering a discussion on its implications for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In this context, the meeting drew the attention to the complex nexus of interdependent process that links the energy challenges arising from climate change to those of water and food security. It further highlighted the growing consensus that the long term solution to Africa's energy crisis should follow a more sustainable approach, involving a combination of renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions, based on the region's vast and largely untapped renewable potentials.

## **2. Organization (Chair, Panelists, Presenters and Participants)**

The side event took place in Conference Room 9, from 3:00 to 5:30 pm on 22 September 2008. The event was co-chaired by Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, Executive Secretary of ECA and Mr. Kandeh Yumkella, Director-General of UNIDO and Chair of UN energy. Mr. Janneh, introduced the side-event with opening remarks and a brief presentation of the issues to be discussed by the panelists.

In addition to the introductory and substantive interventions by the two co-chairs, one from Mr. Janneh on "Africa's Current Energy Crisis" and the other from Mr. Yumkella, on "Enhancing Africa's Energy Security through Development and Diversification", presentations were made by Ms. Angela Cropper, UNEP Deputy Executive Director, on "Energy Security and Climate Change"; Ms. Annika Soder, Special Adviser to the Director General, FAO on "The Rise of Biofuels and Resulting Challenges" and Mr. Valentine Ndibalema, Senior Environmentalist and Adviser, UNHCR on "How to Ensure an Environment and Sustainable Energy Production and Consumption in Africa".

The presentations were followed by interactive discussions among the some 60 participants from governments, private sector, NGOs and civil society institutions, High Level policy makers, as well as representatives of United Nations Programmes and Funds.

## **3. Summary Discussions**

Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, USG and Executive Secretary, ECA, led the discussion on the causes and implications of the energy crisis for the achievement of the MDGs and sustainable growth in Africa. His presentation and the related discussions stressed that there are significant links between poverty and lack of energy, just as between climate change, energy and food security. Key features of Africa's vulnerability to both the energy crisis and climate change were highlighted. These include the region's warmer climate; heavy reliance on climate-sensitive sectors such as rain-fed agriculture, fisheries, natural resources and tourism; and weak adaptive capacity to respond adequately to climate change because of poor infrastructure, institutional and financial capacities. Major implications of the energy crisis for achieving the MDGs and sustainable development in Africa were underscored, with emphasis on poverty and hunger reduction, health, education and environmental sustainability. The presenter related the region's

energy crisis to critical structural causes that need to be addressed in tackling the challenge, including insufficient political commitment, under-investment, inadequate planning, managerial and technical capacities, and climate change. He concluded by referring to different initiatives and partnerships aiming at helping solve the energy crisis in Africa, including the Climate Information for Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa) Programme that ECA is implementing in partnership with the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank, and the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) being established by ECA.

Mr. Kandeh Yumkella, USG, Director-General, UNIDO and Chair, UN Energy, focused on the opportunities and challenges for investment in the energy sector for sustainable development in Africa. He proceeded from the view that energy is a major sector in the economy, which presents both opportunities and threats, as the combination of high oil prices, global food crisis and climate change clearly has huge economic impacts on Africa. He underlined that a major factor to take into account is the interconnection among issues of water, energy and climate change. In this regard, Africa's energy crisis should be addressed through both on-grid solutions for scaling up of electricity production and distribution system and off-grid solutions by developing considerable potential of renewable energy resources (solar, wind, biomass) to which communities can contribute themselves. Planning and implementing such solutions would require sound assessments of long-term energy demand, good policy frameworks and energy sector reforms, as well as appropriate technology, innovative financing mechanisms for increased access to funding to match the scale of the necessary investments. Energy waste should be reduced through increased environmental awareness for consumer behavior, appropriate business planning and financial incentives.

Ms. Angela Cropper, Deputy Executive Director, UNEP, led the discussion on options for mitigation of climate change and adaptation to climate change impacts within the attainment of energy security, increased energy access and eco-efficiency of the energy sector in Africa. She emphasized that Africa's vulnerability to climate change relates not only to multiple stresses, but also and most importantly to low adaptive capacity. In this regard, industrialized countries, as major contributors to climate change, should be urged to help Africa in its efforts at addressing energy crises associated with the negative impact of climate change on the continent's hydropower generation. This should be done also with a view to responding to the need for technological solutions for coping with future climate change challenges in the region. Major challenges in Africa include shifting away from inefficient biomass use and ensuring access to modern energy technologies and services in rural areas. Accordingly, key options to consider should focus on developing Africa's great renewable energy potential, improving energy efficiency, and devising appropriate financing mechanisms for climate change mitigation and adaptation actions.

Ms. Annika Soder, Special Adviser to the Director General, FAO discussed the opportunities and challenges that biofuel development presents for agriculture in developing countries. Proceeding from the fact that biomass constitutes the main source of energy for nearly 2 billion people, 1.6 of which do not have access to electricity, she underscored the opportunities that biofuel from agricultural and forest resources could offer for rural development in terms of access to affordable modern energy services, employment and additional household income. However, governments should help mitigate the threats that biofuel can pose through appropriate

safeguards that ensure rural people's welfare, rights and choices, as well as an appropriate balance between self-reliant food security on one hand and participation in the cash economy on the other. In addition, full exploitation of the opportunities that biofuels offer for developing countries calls for significant lowering of trade barriers (e.g. subsidies) in developed countries.

Mr. Valentine Ndibalema, Senior Environmentalist and Advisor, UNHCR, focused on domestic energy issues, with emphasis on environmental and sustainable energy production and consumption in Africa. He pointed out that population growth, increased consumption, poverty and unequal allocation of resources are major drivers for unsustainable energy use and environmental degradation in Africa. Efforts at improving energy availability, affordability and efficiency should be selective in adopting different strategies for different contexts and pay particular attention to engaging local communities, defining clear stakeholder roles and responsibilities, and building adequate human and institutional capacities. This point was illustrated by examples of concrete grassroots-level energy conservation/saving programmes and projects.

#### **4. Conclusions, Recommendations and Follow-up Actions**

Salient conclusions and recommendations of the side event were as follows.

Meaningful and sustainable solutions to Africa's energy crisis should rest on sound assessment of long-term energy demand, good policy frameworks and significant power sector reforms. They also call for innovative financing mechanisms to ensure adequate access to funding that is commensurate with the scale of the region's energy challenges.

Africa's energy crisis should be tackled with both on-grid and off-grid solutions. While the former require sizeable investments and a regional approach, the latter calls for developing the region's considerable renewable energy potential with direct participation of local communities. In this regard, Africa should take advantage of the opportunities that biofuel development offers, with governments facilitating public-private partnerships and enacting safeguards to mitigate possible threats of biofuel production for food security and the quality of the environment. Just as important, lowering trade barriers in developed country markets is a prerequisite for developing countries to benefit from biofuels.

Energy programmes and projects should mainstream environment and energy, engage local communities and relevant stakeholders, develop human and institutional capacities, and promote ownership with clear roles and responsibilities, with a view to ensuring sustainable domestic energy production and consumption in Africa.

Addressing the climate change challenges in the energy sector in Africa calls for appropriate technological solutions, improving energy efficiency, shifting from inefficient biomass use and improving access to modern energy technology and services in rural areas.

The discussion concluded by welcoming ECA's announcement of the following two major initiatives aimed at assisting African countries address the challenges of energy availability and access within the context of climate change:

- A comprehensive medium-term Climate Information for Development Africa (ClimDev-Africa) Programme that ECA is developing in partnership with the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank and the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), with a view to assist African Countries in identifying priorities and responses for managing climate risks and guiding the related investment process in climate-sensitive sectors such as energy, water resources and agriculture; and
- The establishment of an ECA-based African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) to help African countries mainstream climate change concerns into their development priorities and policy frameworks, mainly through relevant policy analysis, advocacy, capacity building, education programmes, technical assistance, knowledge sharing and peer learning.

## **Annexes**

**Annex 1: Programme**

**Annex 2: ECA's Executive Secretary Opening remarks and presentation**

**Annex 3: ECA Energy Crisis and Climate Change PPT**

**Annex 4: FAO The Rise of Biofuels and Resulting Challenges PPT**

**Annex 5: UNHCR How to Ensure an Environment and Sustainable Energy Production and Consumption in Africa" PPT**



## **High Level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs: State of Implementation of Various Commitments, Challenges and the Way Forward"**

22 September 2008

### **Summary Report Side Events**

**Title:** Migration, Population Displacement and Sustainable Development in Africa

**Date and Venue:** Conference Room C

**Organizers:** IOM, UNHCR

**Chair (s):** Mrs. Ndioro Ndiaye, Deputy Director-General, IOM

#### **1. Introduction (Background and Context)**

Population movements, be it in the form of migration, or in the form of forced displacement, has been a defining characteristic of much of Africa. Africa's population is one of the most mobile in the world, both within and outside the continent. Though population movement in Africa has occurred for well over 500 years with pastoralists and agriculturalists, more recently Africa's migration has taken on different characteristics. Whether it is in search of a better future or for the purpose of basic survival, population movement in Africa is increasingly responding to globalization with individuals moving beyond traditional countries of destination, including outside the continent itself. Many take to the high seas in an irregular way, some across the Mediterranean to countries in Europe and some, across the Gulf of Aden, to the Middle East, at times with disastrous consequences. Irrespective of the nature of the root causes, population movements within and out of Africa have implications for sustainable development of the continent. This panel discussion was organized to explore in greater depth the potential contribution of migrants to the development of their countries of origin and to identify how solutions for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees can be connected to sustainable development efforts in the many African countries that have been affected by conflict or natural disasters.

#### **2. Organization (Chair, Panelists, Presenters and Participants)**

The meeting was chaired by Mrs. Ndioro Ndiaye, IOM's Deputy Director-General. Panelists included H.E. Mr. Augustine P. Mahiga, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations speaking on "The perspective of the United Republic of Tanzania on migration, population displacement and sustainable development"; Mr. Stefano Manservigi, Director General for Development of the

European Commission speaking on “Migrants' contributions to development in the EU-Africa partnership: Challenges and way ahead”; Mr. Jeff Crisp, Head, Policy Development and Evaluation Service, UNHCR speaking on “Development, Displacement and Mobility in Africa” and Mr. Peter Van der Auweraert, Senior Legal Officer, Reparations Programmes, IOM speaking on “Development, Displacement and Access to Land and Property in Africa: the Need for an Integrated Approach”. Participants included representatives of Permanent Missions to the UN, UN Secretariat staff, agencies, funds and programmes, and representatives of NGOs and civil society.

### **3. Summary Discussions**

In defining Africa's development needs and the state of implementation of various commitments, their challenges and the way forward, population movements within and out of Africa, whether in the form of migration or in the form of forced displacement are a significant element that cannot be overlooked in the sustainable development of the continent. It is necessary then to explore how the movement of people brings both negative and positive impacts to the attainment of the MDGs and towards development in general. Migration itself should be seen as normal feature of development rather than as pathology and the Joint EU-AU Strategy provides a positive example of a collaborative partnership in the area of migration, mobility and employment that understands the natural intuition for people to move to maximize job opportunities. The Plan of Action of this Joint Strategy looks beyond just fighting irregular migration; it aims at ensuring that labour migration translates into concrete benefits for both countries of origin and destination. By way of filling gaps in several employment sectors, migration into Europe has contributed to European growth while for countries of origin development can be seen by Diaspora contributions through remittances, skills and experience transfer and through circular migration. The Joint Strategy is an example of the EU attempting to take decisions on migration at a regional rather than national level, engaging in a full collaborative partnership with the AU. Effective policy responses taking into consideration the perspectives of countries of origin and destination, as well as the perspectives of the migrants themselves are essential. To this end key policy measures should promote ethical recruitment to prevent exploitation; support circular migration as a tool to counter brain drain and encourage the movement of skilled personnel; and consider measures to facilitate the transfer of remittances. One such response is the upcoming launch of the Center for Migration Assistance in Bamako, established by the EU and Mali. This Center which will open in early October is meant to advise on legal migration channels and offer skills training in labour market demands in the EU. An African Remittance Institute will also be established by the EU & AU in 2009. The Institute will serve as a clearinghouse of remittances, challenging them towards investment and development opportunities in countries of origin. These approaches are examples of best harnessing migration's development potential for countries of origin.

However, when we discuss population movement within or out of Africa, we must also consider refugees and IDPs. Africa has more than a third of the world's refugees and half of the world's IDPs constituting eleven million people in Africa. With seventeen African states having over 50,000 refugees, eight out of twenty countries with the highest ration of refugees to local people are in Africa. Most of the recorded migration in Africa occurs within the region; out of a total of 14.5 million migrants originating in sub-Saharan Africa, 10 million migrants (or 69%) move within the region. This is a significant portion of Africa's population whose rights, needs and productive potential must be considered when discussing sustainable development in Africa. Refugees and IDPs have routinely been the domain of the humanitarian community leaving them outside of any development plans. The relationship between displacement and the right to development must be fully recognized, realizing that the MDGs cannot be achieved without

taking into consideration refugees and IDPs, and promote their safety and dignity. Violations of the rights of the displaced are numerous – such as the limitations to the freedom of movement, the lack of access to land and to the employment market as well as exposure to insecurity, exploitation and violence including sexual or gender-based violence; they hinder the displaced population's ability to ensure its livelihood and to meaningfully contribute to the development of the local community. Current programmes orientated towards long term assistance do not allow for the improvement of standards of living in areas of displacement but rather strain the limited capacity of governments in the region or increase competition over scarce resources including local resources. Refugees and IDPs living in particularly adverse circumstances may migrate irregularly facing devastating consequences and thus it is imperative to reinforce institutions of asylum and refugee protection. Instead, migration should be undertaken out of choice rather than of necessity and displaced populations should be given opportunities to boost the local economy and support national development. Population movements have also taken place in “reversed” fashion, such as the voluntary repatriation over the past years of large numbers of refugees back to their countries of origin with consequences for the sustainability of development in countries emerging from conflict. Capitalising on nation-building founded on rule of law, and lasting peace and security, is an important issue to be examined in the context of sustainable development. Increasing the participation of displaced people in the national reconstruction process upon return is possible for instance by ensuring that new skills which might have been acquired during the displacement period are put to use. In this light it appears crucial to foster greater international solidarity to tackle this global issue; encourage the inclusion of displacement zones into local and national development plans; support investments in education and training of displaced populations; and attack the root causes of displacement often deriving from flawed development policies. It has to finally be understood that short term security and long term development cannot be de-linked.

Internal migration in Africa does have an impact on national policies. Because of Africa's historical movements over the past several centuries, great ethnic and linguistic diversity can be seen since the creation of nation-states in Africa with international boundaries transecting ethnic groups who maintain a stronger linkage to each other rather than to the national government. Competitive modes of production between migrating pastoralists and agriculturalists caused clashes over local resources. Compounded by the adverse effects of climate change and the degradation of natural resources, this has raised serious challenges for governments on national policies concerning movement and production. Regional integration and cooperation offer opportunities for regularizing migration and allowing for the free movement of people. This would be an essential component of national and regional development policies. Rural to urban migration can see some of its root causes in inadequate policies of poor investment in rural agriculture. The situation may be exacerbated by urban areas which are not prepared for this rural-urban migration, fostering instability and leading to migration to other African countries. Thus adequate social and economic policies on rural development are needed to make even international migration more manageable. Domestic politics and economic policies also impact refugees and their potential contribution towards local development. Local politicians may manipulate the public's perception of refugees, either as competitors for local resources and a strain on the local economy or as vital contributors to local development who should be offered citizenship. But in examples given, refugees have proved to be resourceful if given the opportunity to produce and contribute to local development.

In many African countries, disputes and competition over fertile land and natural resources lie at the basis of armed conflict and displacement. This has been the case in contexts where either fertile or usable land was scarce (a situation often exacerbated by an inequitable distribution of the scarce land) or land contains important and potentially lucrative natural resources. In other

cases, armed conflict and internal displacement have themselves caused serious disputes over land and natural resources to arise. The flight of thousands of people from their homes and land give others, who themselves may well have been forcibly displaced from their homes and land, the opportunity to settle in the places that were hastily abandoned because of violence or threat thereof, thus laying the foundations for renewed conflict and strife when the displaced start returning home. In both situations, durable resolution of forced displacement and the sustainable development of the country require addressing and resolving those disputes in a manner that fosters peace and prosperity for the population as a whole. Tackling these two issues together is an urgent task for national and international policy makers alike. Compounded to this, land and property rights often immediately change after a conflict ends when new elites use the opportunity to expand or consolidate their hold over land and resources. As livelihoods depend on subsistence agriculture in many parts of Africa, inequitable distribution of arable land and property needs to be addressed in order to promote sustainable development and to avoid conflict. This is particularly necessary in post-conflict situations to ease existing tensions and focus efforts on poverty eradication. In worse cases, not addressing them can re-ignite conflicts. Durable solutions to displacement must be addressed once violence or unrest ends. Policies of restitution and compensation can also be instrumental to offset human rights violations perpetuated against the displaced populations. Rural development should be encouraged and could benefit from financial and human investments from the diaspora community. Diversifying economic prospects with a view to lessen dependence on land to sustain livelihoods will also be critical. Fostering economic development in the host community and the region of origin will ensure that returns as well as settlements of displaced population in concerned areas are sustainable and devoid of conflicts.

#### **4. Conclusions, Recommendations and Follow-up Actions**

Human beings are an important resource of Africa. Their migration or displacement may have negative consequences for the countries concerned, but as an important resource, the positive outcomes of such movements could be exploited to bring long term benefits for Africa. In searching for innovative ways to overcome the many challenges faced in sustainable development in Africa, it is important to explore the potential contribution of those who migrate or who are displaced, to the development of their countries of origin and their countries of destination. It is also a challenge to harness the positive effects of durable solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons so that their integration or reintegration can help contribute to sustainable development in Africa. Inequitable distribution of arable land and property needs to be addressed in order to promote sustainable development and to avoid conflict. This is particularly necessary in post-conflict situations to ease existing tensions and focus efforts on poverty eradication.. In this regard, must ensure these concerns are integrated into local, national and regional development strategies.

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#### **Annexes: Programme, Opening/Closing Statements and Presentations**





## High Level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs: State of Implementation of Various Commitments, Challenges and the Way Forward'

22 September 2008

### Summary Report Side Events

**Title:** The MDG Africa Steering Group and the Gleneagles Scenario Approach to Scaling Up ODA

**Date and Venue:** Monday 22 September, Conference Room 8, Basement Level 1  
UN General Assembly Building

**Organizers:** UNDP, with the Republic of Bénin, the Republic of Rwanda, the EC, IMF, World Bank, the Africa Progress Panel, the Earth Institute and Oxfam

**Chair(s):** Moderator: Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, UN Special Advisor on the MDGs  
Keynote speaker: Hon. Mrs. Rosemary Museminali, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Rwanda  
Keynote speaker: Hon. Mr. Roger Dovonou, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Bénin  
Keynote speaker: Mr. Dieudonné Dahoun, Director of Development Policy, Ministry of Development, Bénin  
Host: Mr. Moustapha Soumaré, Acting UNDP Asst. Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau of Africa  
Focal points: Boubou Camara and Brett House, UNDP

### 1. Introduction (Background and Context)

**Incomplete fulfillment of donor commitments to scale up ODA has become a limiting constraint on the MDGs and the MDG Africa Steering Group has proposed the Gleneagles Scenarios as means of resolving this impasse.** In 2005, the G8 committed at its Gleneagles Summit to more than double official development assistance (ODA) to Africa with an additional US\$25 billion per annum (in 2004 real terms) by 2010. At end-2007, OECD/DAC figures indicate that only about one-third of this increase in ODA has been programmed. In the context of strong macroeconomic fundamentals, including substantial mobilization of domestic resources; improved governance; well-designed and consultative Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs); and an international consensus behind key priorities for poverty reduction, the lack of adequate external financing appears to be the key constraint on the achievement of the MDGs in Africa—a constraint that must be resolved.

**The 2005 Gleneagles commitment to more than double annual ODA to Africa translates into flows in 2010 of about US\$85 per capita per year in 2004 terms, or about US\$105 per capita in nominal 2007 terms.** The 2005 Gleneagles G8 Summit committed to increase ODA to Africa by US\$25 billion in 2004 dollars by 2010 (to total some US\$62 billion at average 2007 prices and exchange rates), and global

ODA by US\$50 billion in 2004 dollars over the same period.<sup>1</sup> These annual flows translate into US\$85 per capita in real terms or US\$105 per capita in 2007 nominal terms.<sup>2</sup> For the purposes of this exercise and to maintain the most conservative stance possible, the lower US\$85 per capita target is used as the target for the Gleneagles Scenarios in deference to the fact that paragraph 27 of the Gleneagles communiqué does not *explicitly* lay out the commitment to scale up ODA in real terms (though the commitment cannot be understood otherwise).

**At present, the OECD/DAC estimates that only about a third of the planned scaling up under the Gleneagles commitment has been programmed.** The world is seriously off-track in its efforts to meet this commitment by 2010 despite the reaffirmation of this commitment at the 2008 G8 Hokkaido summit. ODA remains unpredictable from year to year, which seriously impedes the multi-year planning needed to build the health, education and social systems necessary to achieve the MDGs. Urgent action is necessary.

**The Gleneagles Scenarios posits a situation in which donors actually follow through on their commitments and considers the implications at the country level of scaled-up development expenditure.** The Scenarios consist of three major components:

- *Review of a country's medium-term expenditure framework (MTEF)* to 2010 to identify the annual profile of current and anticipated spending in MDG-related sectors and the extent to which domestic and external financing covers these needs. Where detailed data are not available, AfDB, IMF, World Bank, and UN Country Teams have worked with Governments to prepare estimates and projections;
- *A possible profile for scaling up country-level ODA to Gleneagles levels by 2010*, accompanied by an alternative 'Gleneagles' MTEF, tied to specific projects and programmes, drawn from the existing PRSP or national development strategy, and linked to clear expectations about the likely results of additional spending; and
- *An IMF-endorsed macroeconomic analysis of the scaled-up MTEF* to ensure that the additional financing can be absorbed and spent in a manner consistent with macroeconomic stability, growth and poverty reduction. These analyses are in-line with the assessments of alternative scaling-up scenarios called for by the IMF Independent Evaluation Office and endorsed by the IMF Executive Board in 2007.

**Panelists and participants in the side event were unanimous in their call for donors to meet their ODA commitments to Africa.** This side event reviewed the MDG Africa Steering Group's recommendations for accelerated sector-by-sector achievement of the MDGs in Africa and the Steering Group's work on Gleneagles Scenarios to help facilitate scaled-up ODA to Africa in support of the implementation of these recommendations. It also considered bilateral initiatives to make ODA more predictable and effective, as well as perspectives from civil society.

## **2. Organization (Chair, Panelists, Presenters and Participants)**

### **Opening remarks:**

Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

### **Keynote speakers:**

Hon. Mrs. Rosemary Museminali, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Rwanda

Hon. Mr. Roger Dovonou, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Bénin

Mr. Dieudonné Dahoun, Director of Development Policy, Ministry of Development, Bénin

### **Panelists and discussants:**

Rt. Hon. Lord Mark Malloch Brown, Min. of State for Africa, Asia and UN, United Kingdom

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<sup>1</sup> 'G8 Gleneagles 2005 Communiqué—Africa', G8 (2005), para. 27.

<sup>2</sup> Per capita numbers are relevant here since they allow us to relate ODA flows to specific basic interventions needed across an entire populace to achieve the MDGs.

Dr. Donald Kaberuka, President, African Development Bank  
Dr. Obiageli Ezekwesili, Vice-President, Africa Region, World Bank  
Mr. Bernard Petit, Deputy Director General, Development Directorate, European Commission  
Dr. Calvin McDonald, Division Chief, African Department, IMF  
Mr. Bob Geldof, Africa Progress Panel  
Mr. Takumo Yamada, Advocacy Manager, Oxfam

**Moderator:**

Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, UN Special Advisor on the MDGs

**Participants (not exhaustive):**

Amb. Cheick Sidi Diarra, Special Advisor on Africa, United Nations  
Amb. Olukorede Willoughby, Acting Executive Head and Deputy Chief Executive, NEPAD Secretariat  
Amb. Patrick Hayford, Director, Office of the Special Advisor on Africa, United Nations  
Delegates of Member States  
Senior management and staff of UN and other multilateral institutions, agencies, programmes, funds and associations.  
Representatives of civil society organizations

**3. Summary Discussions**

Asha-Rose Migiro, UN Deputy Secretary-General, underscored that the MDG Africa Steering Group's recommendations and the Gleneagles Scenarios are practical, evidence-based open-source frameworks that need to be adopted, financed and implemented expeditiously.

Jeffrey Sachs, UN Secretary-General's Special Advisor on the MDGs, urged the G8 to fulfill their pledge of more than doubling aid for Africa in real terms by 2010, suggesting that although the funds needed exist and are well within existing budgets and aid commitments, the political will to provide them is lacking.

Obiageli Ezekwesili, Vice-President, Africa Region, World Bank, said the Gleneagles scenarios underpin country ownership by identifying programmes in current Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers that have not been fully financed, or could be scaled up with additional financing.

Moustapha Soumaré, Acting UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau of Africa, and host of the event, said the MDG Africa Steering and Working Groups have been instrumental in identifying what needs to be done to achieve the MDGs in Africa, he noted that UNDP's contribution to their work through the provision of a secretariat, and he explained that UNDP is scaling up its efforts to build implementation capacity in Africa.

The keynote speakers from Bénin and Rwanda, in reviewing their work on Gleneagles Scenarios, outlined the progress that can be achieved with adequate financial and technical support from the international community and highlighted the severe financing constraints that they face in their pursuit of the MDGs.

Roger Dovonou, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Bénin, thanked UNDP for the partnership forged with the Béninois Government during the preparation of Bénin's Gleneagles Scenario and underscored his government's determination to do its part to meet the MDGs. He invited Mr. Dahoun to present the key elements of Bénin's Gleneagles Scenario.

Dieudonné Dahoun, Director of Development Policy, Ministry of Development, presented the initial findings of Bénin's Gleneagles Scenario, calling for ODA to be increased so that critical unfinanced projects and programmes can be implemented.

Rosemary Museminali, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Rwanda, noted that while the country is unlikely to achieve the targets for eradicating extreme poverty and hunger or maternal mortality, all other targets are attainable. She explained that Rwanda had recently eliminated the gender disparity in government. She explained that after having gone through the HIPC completion point, the country is bound by strict debt-sustainability criteria that prevent it from borrowing needed funds to achieve the MDGs. These constraints must be relaxed if donors do not provide grants.

Calvin McDonald, Division Chief, African Department, International Monetary Fund (IMF), highlighted the IMF's assessment of the macroeconomic implications of scaled-up aid to Bénin, Niger, and Togo, and said the effects of increased ODA could be managed and would have a positive impact on GDP growth. He called for more ODA to be delivered as grants.

Lord Mark Malloch Brown, Minister of State for Africa, Asia & UN, UK, said the meeting's "call to arms" is vital for reminding people of their international commitments made at Gleneagles. He underscored the need to bring new participants into the discussions on ODA.

Takumo Yamada, Policy Director, Oxfam, highlighted the need for donors to provide long-term, predictable aid, and said there needs to be clear timetables for delivery on existing commitments before the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, in Doha, Qatar, in November 2008.

Bernard Petit, European Commission, called for implementation of the EC's MDG Contract that includes a six-year budget commitment to ensure predictable financing. He welcomed the Gleneagles Scenario's focus on identifying and building absorptive capacity so that aid can be spent effectively.

Mr. Bob Geldof, Africa Progress Panel, said people must consider a situation in which the G8 may not meet its Gleneagles commitments, and that this provides the impetus for new actors to step in, such as Brazil, China, the Middle East and Gulf States.

Donald Kaberuka, African Development Bank, told the meeting that he hoped the financial crisis does not lead to a reduced effort for the developing countries. The ODA commitments are modest and realistic. They need to be fulfilled

The MDG Africa Steering Group has estimated that achievement of the MDGs in Africa will require US\$72 billion per year in external financing. This is a significant amount, but it is inline with existing commitments and aid flows. If one combines the Gleneagles commitment for Africa, valued at a total US\$62 billion in 2007 terms, plus existing ODA flows from non-OECD/DAC donors and private foundations, Africa's MDG external financing needs are covered. And for perspective, US\$72 billion looks affordable when compared with expenditures in other sectors. For perspective, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) estimates that the world spent US\$1.2 trillion on its militaries in 2006. OECD governments spent an estimated US\$267 billion on agricultural subsidies last year. Finally, Wall Street bonuses totaled more than US\$33 billion in 2007.

#### **4. Conclusions, Recommendations and Follow-up Actions**

- The side event's speakers made clear that external financing is the limiting factor on achievement of the MDGs in Africa and sought commitments to implement the recommendations of the MDG Africa Steering Group's recommendations.
- Participants called for work on the Gleneagles Scenarios to be extended to any country that requests it in order to mobilize resources at the country level. Gleneagles Scenarios were recognized as a useful contribution to donor roundtables and consultative group meetings.
- Panelists also emphasized that ODA commitments should be treated as binding contracts since the unpredictable delivery of aid creates major problems for African governments.
- The macroeconomic implications of increased ODA flows can be managed, but that to ensure debt sustainability is maintained, the bulk of ODA flows should be provided as grants.
- In a similar vein, it was noted that the financing needs of countries that have passed through the HIPC completion point—as well as countries that were not included in the HIPC Initiative—need to be addressed. Despite strong macroeconomic performance and exemplary World Bank Country Policy and Institutional Assessments (CPIA) that permit some of the highest possible debt ceilings, some countries have found that their hands are bound from borrowing adequately to finance attainment of the MDGs.
- Consistent with the design of the Gleneagles Scenarios, Africa's development partners can usefully put an emphasis on practical efforts to build absorptive capacity through support for project development, procurement and human-resource management.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Annexes: Programme, Keynote presentations by Bénin and Rwanda**



**High Level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs: State of Implementation of Various Commitments, Challenges and the Way Forward"  
22 September 2008**

**Summary Report  
Side Events**

**Title: Africa Women's Forum**

**Date and Venue: September 22, 2008, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m., Conference Room 3**

**Organizers (LEAD): UNIFEM**

**Chair (s): Joanne Sandler, Deputy Executive Director – Programs, UNIFEM HQ  
Ms. Rachel Mayanja, Special Advisor of Secretary-General on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women**

**1. Introduction:**

Many African women and their communities are worse off today than they were a decade ago — in spite of the Beijing Platform for Action and subsequent inter-governmental commitments made at international conferences or ratifications of United Nations and African Union conventions and declarations by Member States. Serious and persistent obstacles such as chronic poverty, the continued inter-generational cycle of violence and abusive practices, the lack of equal access to health, especially reproductive health services and HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment, education, training and employment, as well as the impact of armed conflict and natural disasters continue to undermine the advancement of women and their participation in decision-making processes.

While political commitment towards gender equality and women's empowerment is high in Africa, with the adoption of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) on the Rights of Women in Africa and the Heads of State's Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, a recent UN ECA report found that the performance of African governments is poor when it comes to the implementation of these commitments.

The Africa Women's Forum - featuring distinguished and accomplished panelists who represent important benchmarks for gender equality was organized (i) to reaffirm commitments that have been made to women's rights and to urge members of the international community – Member States, donor countries, regional institutions, the private sector and civil society actors –to prioritize actions and resources for meeting those commitments; (ii) to highlight Africa's implementation and accountability crisis toward gender equality commitments and women's human rights; (iii) to propose a set of actionable recommendations to accelerate implementation of and strengthen accountability for gender equality and women's human rights. At the mid-point

in the global effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, the accelerated implementation of commitments made to women's human rights and gender equality must be a cornerstone of the process towards eradicating poverty and achieving sound, transparent governance and sustainable development.

## **2. Organization:**

The Africa Women's Forum (AWF) represents an inter-agency effort led and coordinated by UNIFEM that included UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNV, OSAA, ECA, the African Union and was co-hosted by the Governments of Liberia, Rwanda and Iceland, as well as the European Commission and the African Union.

The AWF was co-chaired by UNIFEM and the Office of the Special Advisor of the Secretary General and moderated by Honorable Gertrude Mongella, President of the Pan-African Parliament. Panelists represented government ministers, commissioners of regional institutions (EC and the AU Commissions), the private sector and civil society:

- H.E. Ms. Vabah Gayflor, Minister of Gender and Development, Liberia;
- H.E. Ms Rosemary Museminali, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Rwanda;
- H.E. Ms. Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighborhood Policy, European Commission;
- H.E. Ms. Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Iceland;
- H.E. Ms. Nilcea Freire, Head of the Special Secretariat for Women's Policies of the Presidency of the Republic, Brazil;
- Ms. Carin Taylor Senior Manager Organizational Effectiveness, CISCO Systems;
- Dr. Codou Diaw Executive Director, Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE);
- Ms. Kafui Kuwonu, Program Officer, Women in Law and Development WiLDAF.

Each Panelist was asked to focus their remarks on the following questions:

1. What needs to be done to ensure that other countries and organizations can achieve what Rwanda and Liberia have achieved? What are the critical ingredients that women need to demand from Government as a norm?
2. What concrete strategies and reforms are most urgently needed to address the gender gap in leadership in Africa?
3. Between Ghana and the road to Doha, what strategies need to be put in place to ensure that Governments' resources address the glaring gender gaps in health, insecure livelihoods, pervasive violence against women, and education? How do we ensure that regional commitments – like the commitment in the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa to establish an African Bank for Women – are met?

### **3. Summary Discussions**

Each speaker emphasized that gender equality and women's empowerment are key drivers for reducing poverty, building food security, reducing maternal mortality, safeguarding the environment and enhancing the effectiveness of aid as well as a critical means of achieving the MDGs. Today, the international community and African governments suffer from a severe crisis of implementation of commitments to African Women, having established few concrete measures, or sufficiently undertaken public sector reform and allocated adequate resources to implement their commitments on education for girls in post primary education; reproductive and maternal health, governance and participation.

#### **Brief Background:**

Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, MDG 1, means addressing food security. Women contribute between 60 to 80 per cent of the labour for agricultural production. Yet, the inputs needed to improve women's contributions to food security remain in short supply. In sub-Saharan Africa, the lack of universal access to water means that women spend 40 billion hours a year collecting water, the equivalent of a year's worth of labour by the entire workforce of France. In conflict areas, women's roles in collecting water and fuel are a primary factor in their vulnerability to rape and sexual violence. And women's land rights remain elusive in too many countries.

Slow progress for too many women on Goals 2, 3 and 5 of the MDGs also calls the level of commitment to gender equality into question. While we know that post-primary education has the greatest impact on women's empowerment, only 23% of girls in sub-Saharan Africa enroll in secondary schools. Maternal mortality is the most off track of the MDGs with the current rate of progress less than one-fifth of what is needed to achieve the target. Of the more than 500,000 women dying in childbirth, more than half of them are in Africa. We know what is needed to change these numbers, but donors and governments continue to fail to prioritize action and investments. In sub-Saharan Africa, 60% of adults living with HIV in 2007 were women, up from 54% in 1990. Imagine how many lives could have been saved if the warnings of women's human rights advocates in the 1990s had been taken seriously by decision-makers.

These deficits can undermine the impressive gains made so far by countries such as Rwanda and Liberia in the area of increased women's political participation. The proportion of seats held by women in lower houses of national parliaments has doubled, from 9.1% in 2000 to 17.3% in 2008, still too slow but advancing. Rwanda has now become the first country in the world where women outnumber men in the legislature: 57% of Rwanda's parliamentarians are women. In 2006, Liberia elected its first female President (and only female head of state in Africa). The political will that has been shown in introducing positive action measures is yielding results. And while there remains much to be done, there is momentum in efforts to strengthen leadership for women's rights and gender equality.

Other **common or important messages** that have been distilled from the discussions include:

- Without the empowerment of women, Africa will not reach the level of development needed nor achieve the MDG goals by 2015.
- In an effort to rebuild more stable and equitable societies, the post-conflict period presents a unique opportunity to review and revise a country's legal



system, laws and regulations to ensure the centrality of women in political and economic governance structures as the case of Liberia and Rwanda underscore. It is also an opportunity to create and evolve a new political culture where women have greater decision-making roles and authority.

- Women's needs must be addressed through holistic, cross-sectoral programming to ensure that women from all sectors of life are able to participate.
- Women at all levels must keep gender at the forefront of the discussions. There is a need for women to participate fully in political processes, especially peace processes if sustainable peace or development is to be achieved.
- Partnerships between the international community and African governments and institutions, including civil society, are critical for creating synergy in their work in support of gender equality and women's human rights and achieving greater impact. Together their complementary roles can be harnessed to move gender equality forward in national plans, policies and programmes.
- The private sector can play an important role to enhance women's economic security and empowerment by training and equipping women and young girls with the necessary skills to compete in today's global economy.
- Education is critical to wider processes for GE and women's human rights and should also be viewed a means to developing other sectors such as health, economic opportunities, women's political participation.
- Donors recognize that in addition to increased ODA, attention must be paid to its quality and predictability. The European Commission, with the UK and the Netherlands, is spearheading new methodologies of aid management. The EC has committed to disbursing 50% of its assistance direct to host government national budgets on the basis of agreed national strategies, with expenditure frameworks and progress benchmarking.
- Improving and strengthening national statistical systems is necessary to ensure that gender is properly reflected in aid programmes that run in accordance with the Paris Declaration of Aid Effectiveness. ("EC/UN Partnership for Gender Equality in Development and Peace")

All the distinguished panelists unanimously stressed the importance for governments to open up the *space for political engagement of women* that will allow for the expression of their voices and leadership in the formulation of policy and programmes at national and regional levels.

4.

## **Conclusions, Recommendations and Follow-up Actions**

To accelerate the achievement of MDGs in Africa, panelists proposed nine actionable recommendations for African Governments, including one for the international community as whole:

- i. Strengthen commitments to implement gender equality and women's empowerment through strengthening mandates, incentives and resources for delivering on the commitments to women's rights;
- ii. Increase resources for gender equality outcomes, especially in the framework of the modalities of financing development in Africa; allocate significant resources to strengthen African Women's organizations;
- iii. Take concrete measures to enhance women's political participation and increase their transformative leadership in achieving sustainable development and the MDGs. This will ensure Government accountability to women's needs;
- iv. Ensure that Direct Budget Support adequately addresses gender equality outcomes by using gender responsive budgeting to allocate and monitor budgets.
- v. Leverage girls' education as a transformative force for addressing the complex barriers to women's empowerment, and widen the scope of MDG 2 to ensure quality, equity, inclusion, and transition to higher levels of education. It is critical to guarantee gender parity in enrollment, retention and successful completion at all levels, and women and girls' access to technical, vocational and literacy training.
- vi. Guarantee women's equal right to life and good health through ensuring universal access to reproductive health, accelerating implementation of existing policies and legislation that reduce women and girls' greater vulnerability to HIV and AIDS, and repealing discriminatory HIV/Aids laws.
- vii. Guarantee women's access to and control over productive assets such as land, adopt specific legislation for protecting women's inheritance rights to land and land-based resources, and promote women's entrepreneurship.
- viii. Enable women in conflict and post-conflict societies to be engaged in peace-processes and reconstruction efforts in line with UN Resolution 1325, as effective change agents in the development process.
- ix. Governments, the United Nations, civil society organizations and the private sector should make concerted efforts to build on and accelerate progress in advancing gender in all the MDGs, and document lessons learnt through better reporting on implementation of gender related conventions. In this regard, civil society organizations and women's networks should be strengthened to hold Government accountable and make meaningful contribution to key policy arenas.

**Annex I: Press Release**

**Annex II: Final Programme**

**Annex III: Biographies of Speakers**

## Annex I: Press Release

# Empowering Women Central to Africa's Progress

Women's forum to highlight urgent needs at the UN High Level Meeting on Africa's development needs

**For immediate release**

**Date: 19 September 2008**

### Media Inquiries:

Oisika Chakrabarti, UNIFEM, Tel: +1. 212.906.6506, [oisika.chakrabarti@unifem.org](mailto:oisika.chakrabarti@unifem.org)

Rosemary Musumba, UNFPA, Tel: +1. 212 297 5021, [musumba@unfpa.org](mailto:musumba@unfpa.org)

Shimali Senanayake, UNICEF, Tel: +1. 212.326.7162, [ssenanayake@unicef.org](mailto:ssenanayake@unicef.org)

New York— Many African women and their communities are worse off today than they were a decade ago -- in spite of the Beijing Platform of Action and subsequent inter-governmental commitments made at international conferences or ratifications of United Nations and African Union conventions and declarations by Member States. For millions of African women, hunger, violence, exclusion and discrimination are their everyday realities.

As world leaders meet to take stock of the progress in Africa on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, gender experts will convene the Africa Women's Forum to address the achievements that have been made and the challenges that remain for the continent's women. Governments and donors will be urged to prioritize women's empowerment and gender equality to ensure real progress in Africa. At the mid-point in the global effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015 —an internationally agreed set of eight goals responding to the world's main development challenges—gender experts urge that the accelerated implementation of commitments made to women's human rights and gender equality be a cornerstone of the process towards eradicating poverty and achieving sound, transparent governance and sustainable development.

While African governments score high in terms of ratifying and developing policies, performance is weak when it comes to their implementation, as a recent UNECA report evaluating government performance vis-à-vis their commitments to gender equality and women's human rights found. Serious and persistent obstacles such as chronic poverty, continued inter-generational cycle of violence and abusive practices, the lack of equal access to health, especially reproductive health services and HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment, education, training and employment, as well as the impact of armed conflict and natural disasters continue to undermine the advancement of women and their participation in decision-making processes.

The Africa Women's Forum will address the health and empowerment of African women, including improved access to reproductive health and focus on maternal health-- MDG 5-- which is the least likely of the MDGs to be achieved. Maternal mortality remains unacceptably high across much of the developing world, with one woman dying every minute (more than 500,000 per year) from complications of pregnancy and childbirth and slightly more than half of the deaths occurring in Sub-Saharan Africa. Similarly, gender inequality is a key driver of the AIDS epidemic, increasing the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV infection, and intensifying the burden of care in families and communities affected by AIDS on women and girls - often at the expense of their economic and educational opportunities. African women represent the largest demographic segment affected by HIV/AIDS constituting 58% of the 25 million Africans infected by the disease.

African women have not realized meaningful gains from the sustained growth of their national economies in recent years. Deregulation and privatization, labor migration patterns, and resulting changes in family structures have further marginalized women. Today, they are the backbone of the informal economy, especially in the agricultural sector. . They lack access to productive resources, including credit, land, and technical and support services. Where African countries have made remarkable strides is in increased women's political participation resulting from government quotas or reserving seats for women in national and local, legislative bodies. The share of parliamentary seats held by women increased from 7% in 1990 to 17% in 2007, in line with the global average. Rwanda now ranks first among all countries of the world in terms of the number of women elected to parliament, and where women outnumber men in parliament, as provisional election results indicate.

Representatives of Member States, donor countries, regional institutions, private sector and civil society groups attending the Africa Women's Forum will call upon Governments and other power-holders to translate their commitments to action.

### **DETAILS OF AFRICA WOMEN'S FORUM**

Date and Time: 22 September 2008, 3.00- 6.00 p.m.

Venue: Conference Room 3, UN Secretariat

Speakers: Ms. Vabah Gayflor, Minister of Gender of Liberia; Ms. Rosemary Museminali, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Rwanda; Ms. Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Commissioner of External Relations, European Commission; Ms. Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir, Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Iceland; Ms. Nilcea Freire, Secretaria Especial de Políticas para as Mulheres da Presidencia da Republica Federativa do Brasil; Ms. Litha Musyimi-Ogana, Director of Women and Gender Directorate, African Commission; and Ms. Carin Taylor, Senior Manager Organizational Effectiveness, CISCO Systems among others.

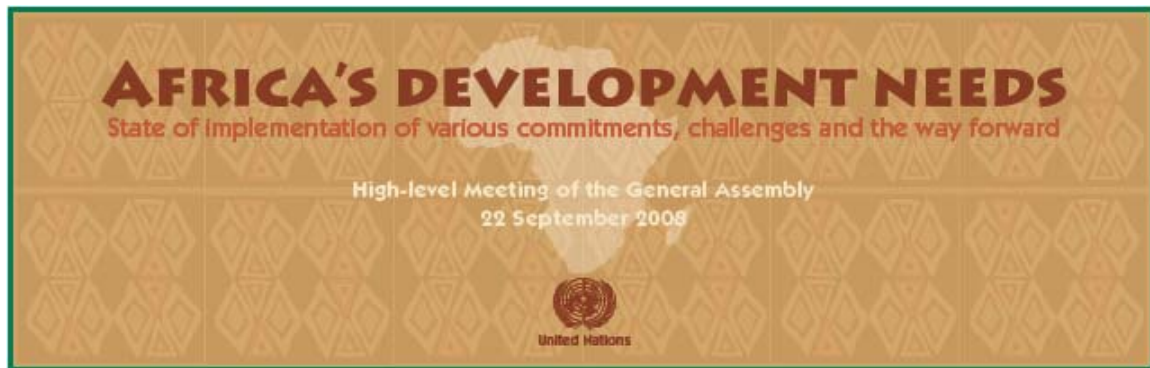
Lead Agency: UNIFEM

Sponsors/Co-Sponsors: OSAA, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNV, ITC, UNECA, AU

Co-hosts: Permanent Missions of Liberia, Rwanda, Iceland and the African Union and European Commission

*(The Forum will be open to the media)*

## Annex II: Final Programme



### Side Event: Africa Women's Forum

## Accelerating Implementation of Commitments to Gender equality & Women Human Rights

### Programme

**Time:** 3:00 – 6:00 PM

**Venue:** Conference Room 3, UN Secretariat

**The objective of the Africa Women's Forum is three-fold:**

- To take stock of achievements in the implementation of international, regional and national commitments to gender equality and women's human rights.
- To identify the challenges faced by Member States in implementing these commitments
- To make concrete, actionable recommendations to accelerate progress for the achievement of gender equality and women's human rights.

**3:00 – 3:10 PM Welcome & Introduction**

**Co-Chairs:** Ms. Rachel Mayanja, Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women; and

Ms. Joanne Sandler, Deputy Executive Director - Programs, UNIFEM

**3:10 – 3:20 PM Opening Remarks and Introduction to Speakers**

**Moderator:** Honorable Gertrude Mongella, President, Pan-African Parliament

**3:20 – 4:20 PM Panel Presentations**

**H.E. Ms. Vabah Gayflor, Minister of Gender and Development of Liberia**

“Women's transformative leadership: Successes and Challenges”

**H.E. Ms. Rosemary Museminali, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Rwanda**

“Lessons of Women’s Political Participation and Governance”

**Ms. Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Commissioner for External Relations, European Commission**

“EC-UN Partnership: Accelerating implementation of commitments to gender equality”

**H.E. Ms. Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir, Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Iceland**

Donor Country Perspective

**H.E. Ms. Nilcea Freire, Secretaria Especial de Políticas para as Mulheres da Presidencia da Republica Federativa do Brasil**

South-South Cooperation

**4:20 – 4:35**

**Summary by Moderator  
With opportunity for Q&A before resuming panel presentations**

**4:40 – 5:10 PM Continuation of Panel Presentations**

**Ms. Carin Taylor, Senior Manager Organizational Effectiveness, CISCO Systems**

“Role of private sector for accelerating economic security and rights for women”

**Dr. Codou Diaw, Executive Director, Forum for African Women Educationalists**

“Cross-Sectoral Dimension for the Empowerment of Women”

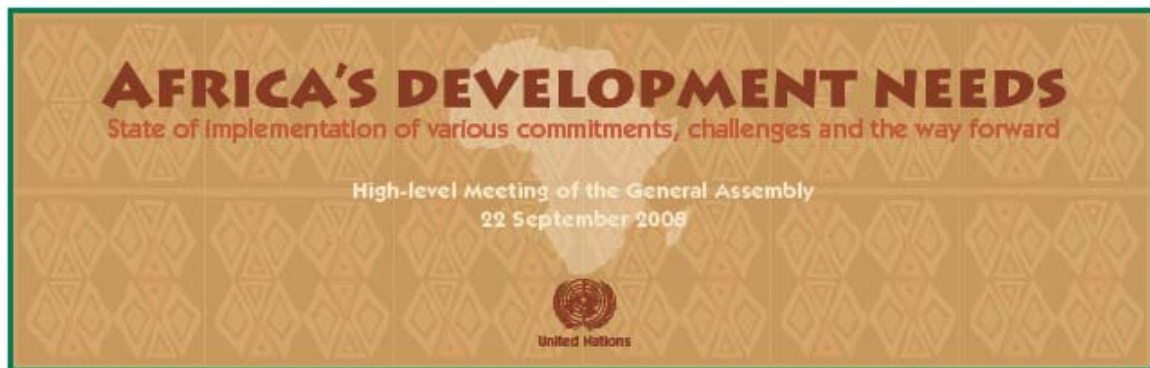
**Ms. Kafui Kuwonu, Program Manager, West Africa, Women in the Law and Development**

“Financial Dimensions of Governance”

**5:10 – 5:45**

**Discussion, Summary and Closing by Moderator**

## Annex III: Speaker Bios



### Side Event: Africa Women's Forum

Accelerating Implementation of Commitments to Gender equality  
& Women Human Rights

#### Biographies of Speakers

#### **Honorable Gertrude Mongella (Moderator)** **President, Pan-African Parliament**

In March 2004 Gertrude Mongella was chosen to be the first President of the Pan-African Parliament. Known as Mama Beijing, Ms. Mongella served as Chairperson of the Fourth UN World Conference on Women in Beijing. After being appointed Minister of State for Women's Affairs, she became Minister of Lands, Natural Resources and Tourism from 1985 to 1987 and for the following four years, worked at the Tanzanian President's Office as Minister Without Portfolio. She has represented Tanzania in numerous conferences dedicated to women's rights and the environment during the 1980s and early 1990s, being appointed vice-chair of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievement on the UN Decade for Women, performing similar duties for the UN before her appointment to Beijing in 1995.

In 1998, she was invited to return to Beijing by the women of China to speak about women's rights and since then took up several advisory positions at the United Nations. Her constant emphasis on debate and dialogue and the need to have clear principles was exemplified in her statement at the African Women's Forum at which she stated: "You have to be clear what you want and what you stand for. You must stand for principle. Principle will never let you down...You have to be able to choose what are the principles worth dying for".

#### **H.E. Ms. Vabah Kazaku Gayflor** **Minister of Gender and Development, Liberia.**

As minister of Gender and Development, Ms. Vabah Gayflor facilitates and supervises the formulation of national policies and the development of programs to ensure a government-wide mainstreaming of gender, with particular emphasis on the advancement of women and development of children. As part of her mandate, she fosters alliances among women's groups through meetings, programs, and skills-building workshops. Ms. Gayflor works through the Results-Focused Transition Framework Implementation and Monitoring Committee to oversee the inclusion of women within the transitional process in Liberia. She also lobbies the



government to support police and security assistance. As chief of section of the Women and Children's Affairs Coordination Unit of the Liberia's Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs, Ms. Gayflor helped develop gender-based poverty alleviation and governance programs, coordinate the activities of women's NGOs, and facilitate the mainstreaming of women and children's issues. She also served as domestic assistant counterpart to the chief technical advisor on the Government of Liberia to projects organized by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Development Programme for Women (UNIFEM). In this capacity, she participated in the UNDP and UNIFEM sponsored Socio-Economic Gender Analysis and Strategic Planning Workshop. Ms. Gayflor holds a master's degree in women, gender, and development.

**H.E. Ms. Rosemary Museminali  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Rwanda.**

In March 2008, Ms. Museminali was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda after having served three years as Minister of State for foreign affairs in charge of Cooperation. In the post-Genocide period, Ms. Museminali worked as head of Department for Social Services developing, implementing and co-coordinating programmes to support vulnerable groups of people -- refugees, internally displaced, widows, orphans, aged, disabled, and the poor. She also served as the Secretary General for National Red Cross Society of Rwanda. Between 2000-2005, she was Rwanda's Ambassador to the Court of St. James in the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, and the Scandinavian countries.

Ms. Museminali has actively participated in national and international fora such as the 1995 Beijing Conference on Women Development in China, in OAU Social affairs and Labour commissions, International Red Cross, Red Crescent conferences, conferences for children in difficult circumstances. She has also served on various boards such as National Fund for Survivors of Genocide of Rwanda and as a trustee of Rwanda Rural rehabilitation initiative.

**Ms. Benita Ferrero-Waldner  
Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighborhood Policy, European Commission.**

Ms. Ferrero-Waldner has served as the European commissioner for external relations and European neighbourhood policy since 2004. As commissioner, Ms Ferrero-Waldner co-ordinates the external relations activities of the European Commission, acting as its interface with the EU's general affairs and external relations council. She also ensures that the Commission has a clear identity and a coherent approach in its external activities. Ms Ferrero-Waldner was born in 1948 in Salzburg, Austria, and received her doctorate in law from the University of Salzburg. Prior to her current position, Ms Ferrero-Waldner served as Austria's federal minister for foreign affairs and state secretary of foreign affairs. Between 1993 and 1995 she served as deputy chief of protocol at the federal ministry for foreign affairs, then chief of protocol at the executive office of the secretary general, United Nations secretariat, New York. Ms Ferrero-Waldner has held a number of positions in Austrian embassies, including first secretary in the Austrian embassy in Dakar, Senegal, and counsellor for economic affairs at the Austrian embassy in Paris. Before entering the diplomatic service, Ms Ferrero-Waldner worked in the private sector and held a number of management positions in Europe and the United States.

**H.E. Ms. Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir**  
**Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Iceland.**

Ms. Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir became Iceland's Minister for Foreign Affairs on May 24th 2007 after forming a new coalition government in Iceland with the participation of the Social Democratic Alliance, the party which she leads, and the Independence Party led by Prime Minister Geir H. Haarde. Minister Gísladóttir was a founding member of the Women's Party ("Kvennalistinn") in 1982 and represented the party in Reykjavik's City Council from 1982 to 1988. Minister Gísladóttir was MP for the Women's Party from 1991 to 1994, when she was elected Mayor of Iceland's capital, Reykjavík. She was re-elected as Mayor twice in 1998 and 2002.

A founding member of the Social Democratic Alliance in 2000 (when the Women's Party formally merged with the SDA), she became an MP for the party in 2005 and was elected leader of the SDA in a party-wide vote that same year. The Social Democratic Alliance is now the second largest political party in Iceland and a member of SAMAK, a forum for social democrats in the Nordic countries.

She has chaired numerous committees and boards on a wide range of issues. She sat on the Board of the Central Bank of Iceland 2003-2005. As an MP she was especially involved in environmental and European issues (EFTA and EEA). Nominated in 1991 to the Icelandic Literature Prize for a biographical work *Pegar sálin fer á kreik* about the women's pioneer Sigurveig Gudmundsdóttir, she has also been editor of *Vera*, a feminist journal.

**H.E. Ms. Nilcea Freire**  
**Head of the Special Secretariat for Women's Policies of the Presidency of the Republic, Brazil**

Ms. Nilcea Freire was appointed Minister in January 2004 and has since actively spearheaded various activities in gender mainstreaming in Brazil including: the convening of the "Women's Year in Brazil"; organizing the First National Conference of Policies for Women; establishing the "National Plan of Policies for Women"; and revising national laws on domestic violence against women.

She holds other public responsibilities that include the President of the Inter-American Women Committee as well as the President of the National Council of Women Rights. Ms. Freire is a member of ECLAC (Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean) roundtable. Prior to her ministerial appointment, Ms. Freire has had a long standing career as a physician and also as an academic, including her service as Director of the State University of Rio de Janeiro from 2000 to 2003, and Vice-Director from 1996 to 1999.

**Ms. Carin Taylor**  
**Senior Manager Organizational Effectiveness, CISCO Systems.**

Ms. Carin Taylor, a 14 year veteran at Cisco Systems, is the Senior Manager of Global Inclusion and Diversity. Carin has an extensive background in Global Operations Management including focuses in Customer Service, Finance, Sales, and Human Resources. Her experience includes a 5 year assignment in Australia, and extensive travel to many countries in both Asia and Europe. Carin is a diversity champion dedicated to evolving Cisco's Inclusion and Diversity strategy including efforts for increasing the empowerment and leadership of women and underrepresented minorities. Carin's current role includes developing and overseeing over 45

Employee Resource Groups focused on development, recruitment, and business partnerships. Carin is also responsible for creating, planning, and executing strategic programs to support Inclusion and Diversity. Carin is a coach, consultant, and advocate for Inclusion and Diversity both inside Cisco Systems and within the community. In her spare time, Carin enjoys spending time with her family, and playing competitive sports.

**Dr. Codou Diaw**

**Executive Director, Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE)**

Dr. Diaw is Executive Director of FAWE, a pan-African NGO engaged in the promotion of gender equality in education in sub-Saharan Africa. Formerly Deputy Program Director for Education at the Japan International Cooperation Agency's regional bureau in Dakar, she also worked as a consultant with the UNESCO-BREDA, the World Bank in Washington DC, and organizations such as Femmes Africa Solidarité in Geneva. Dr. Diaw has contributed to publications such as African Education; Sociological Perspectives and the Language, Literacy and Culture Review. She has also presented her work at several education conferences. In 2003, Dr. Diaw received a Woodrow Wilson Dissertation Fellowship in Women's Studies for "Original and significant research on Women's issues that crosses disciplinary, regional and cultural boundaries." Dr. Diaw is currently a member of the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) and of Sister Mentors. She is also a volunteer for organizations such as the World YWCA and International Conference Volunteers (ICV).

**Ms. Kafui Kuwonu**

**Program Officer, Women in Law and Development (WiLDAF)**

As Program Officer of the West Africa Sub-Regional office, Ms. Kuwonu oversees programs in eight countries – Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea-Conakry, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, and Togo – and develops and promotes strategies that link law and development for the emergence of a culture for the exercise and respect of women's rights in Africa. She is presently implementing an EU-funded project - Good Governance and Women's Participation in West Africa - that is building capacities of women in urban and rural areas to influence decisions, policies and programmes implemented by local and national authorities for a better consideration of the basic human rights of women and gender equity. WiLDAF is the only pan-African regional network dedicated to the promotion of women's rights as an integral part of development at local, national and regional levels.

**Ms. Rachel Mayanja (Co-Chair)**

**Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women, United Nations.**

Since 2004, Ms. Rachel Mayanja has served as the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women. She is a long-serving career international civil servant with vast experience in normative, policy and operational work of the United Nations, including peace-building, peace-keeping and inter-agency collaboration.

Ms. Mayanja's career with the UN started in the Women's Division shortly after the first World Conference in Mexico in the midst of sensitization of the world to women's right to equality, development and peace. As Secretary to the drafting committee of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, she was actively involved in the establishment of this landmark legal instrument.

Ms. Mayanja actively participated in peace-building and peace-keeping missions and therefore possesses an understanding of the suffering created by conflicts and the challenges facing the UN in such situations. This first hand knowledge is essential in her role as the Secretary-General's Special Adviser, especially in the area of women, peace and security. Ms Mayanja, a national of Uganda, obtained a law degree from Makerere University, as well as a Master's Degree in Law from the Harvard University Law School. She has three children.

**Ms. Joanne Sandler (Co-Chair)**  
**Deputy Executive Director of Programs, UNIFEM**

Ms. Sandler guides UNIFEM's efforts to implement rights-based, results-based programmes in support of women's empowerment and rights in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. She has worked with international organizations and women's groups worldwide for the past 25 years, with a focus on organizational development, strategic planning and economic justice. She has also served on the Board of Directors of a number of international and domestic organizations, including the Association for Women's Rights in Development, Gender at Work, and Women Make Movies.







## High Level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs: State of Implementation of Various Commitments, Challenges and the Way Forward"

22 September 2008

### Summary Report Side Events

**Title:** "CRIME AS AN IMPEDIMENT TO SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA: BEST PRACTICES AND INSTITUTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES"

**Date and Venue:** 22 September 2008, 8:00-9:45am, IPI, Trygve Lie Center for Peace, Security & Development, 777 United Nations Plaza, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor (corner of 44<sup>th</sup> Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue)

**Organizers:** United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Peace Institute (IPI)

**Chair (s):** Mr. Antonio Maria Costa, Under-Secretary General, Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, H.E. Mr. Terje Rød-Larsen, President, International Peace Institute

#### 1. Introduction (Background and Context)

Local and transnational crime in Africa represent both the causes and the consequences of violence, corruption and poor governance. High levels of income inequality, a high share of youth in population, high rates of urbanization, low levels of criminal justice resources, firearms proliferation, wars and civil conflicts as well as weak controls over criminal activities leave Africa vulnerable to organized crime, drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings, money laundering and corruption. Crime, in a broad sense, inhibits development in Africa by destroying human and social capital, drives away business and investments, and undermines the ability of the State to promote development.

As United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan asserted in his March 2005 report, In larger freedom: "...we will not enjoy development without security, we will not enjoy security without development, and we will not enjoy either without respect for human rights. Unless all these causes are advanced, none will succeed." Speakers on the panel highlighted the fact that in a number of African countries, drugs, crime and corruption are undermining development efforts, and presented some solutions to these challenges.

#### 2. Organization (Chair, Paneists, Presenters and Participants)

Co-Chairs: Mr. Antonio Maria Costa, Under-Secretary General, Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime  
H.E. Mr. Terje Rød-Larsen, President, International Peace Institute

Speaker 1: Ambassador Amina Ali, Permanent Representative of the African Union Mission to the United States of America, Washington D.C.

Speaker 2: Ambassador Said Djinnit, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for West Africa

Discussant: Mr. Patrick Hayford, Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, United Nations

### **3. Summary Discussions**

#### Removing crime as an impediment to security and development in Africa

In his opening remarks Mr. Antonio Maria Costa, highlighted main findings of a recent UNODC report entitled “Cocaine Trafficking in West Africa: The threat to stability and development (with special reference to Guinea-Bissau)” (December 2007) which indicates that West Africa is under attack by narco-traffickers from Andean countries exploring new transit routes to Europe. The street value of this cocaine – worth almost \$2 billion in Europe – exceeds the national incomes of many of these poor countries, like Guinea Bissau. As a result, these states – already at the bottom of the human development index – are becoming even less developed and unstable.

This pattern is observed elsewhere. In countries ravaged by crime and corruption, and where governments can not live up their side of the social contract (where they can not deliver their core functions), the poor suffer the most, and the services provided to them get delayed, or never arrive. This most vulnerable group on the planet – what Paul Collier calls the “bottom billion” – has no access to justice, health and education and faces rising food prices. They are also most often the victims of crime.

Mr. Costa then elaborated on the causes of vulnerability of the African continent. UNODC studies have identified a number of social factors as causes of this vulnerability: income inequality; youth unemployment; rapid urbanization; corruption; lack of access to justice; proliferation of firearms. Unfortunately, these factors – not unique to Africa – are prevalent in many parts of the continent. Combined with political instability and conflict, vulnerability to crime increases. As a result, for instance, West Africa is under attack from cocaine traffickers; natural resources like diamonds and timber are exploited by criminal groups in the heart of Africa; failing neighbourhoods of some major African cities are overrun by criminal gangs; and terrorists and criminal groups link up in parts of the Horn of Africa and the Sahel.

#### African Union’s response to the problem

Ambassador Amina Ali also echoed the concern that in a number of African countries, drugs, crime and corruption are undermining development efforts. Crime, in a broad sense, inhibits development in Africa by destroying human and social capital, drives away business and investments, and undermines the ability of the State to promote development. Sustainable development cannot be achieved without addressing the negative influences caused by these criminal activities.

The need for a comprehensive approach to the problems of drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism as impediments to development in Africa is fully recognized by the African Union in the AU’s 2007-2012 Plan of Action on drug control and crime prevention. The Plan of Action was endorsed by the African Union Conference of Ministers for Drug Control and Crime Prevention in Dec 2007 in Addis Ababa, and one month later was adopted by the AU Heads of State Summit.



The approach of the plan is to integrate within national legal and institutional frameworks, drug control issues together with crime prevention policies. In addition to the emphasis put on a political commitment, the Plan of Action is intended to be an operationally-oriented strategic reference or framework for coordination and harmonization of related policies and programmes on the Continent.

The primary goal of this Plan of Action is to reverse the current trends of drug abuse and trafficking, organized crime, corruption, terrorism and related challenges to socio-economic development and human security and to achieve tangible improvement in the social and personal well-being of the people of Africa and their communities. The seven key priority areas of this Plan of Action are as follows:

- 1) Effective continental, regional and national policy formulation and coordination in the domains of drug control and crime prevention;
- 2) Enhancing collaboration, shared responsibility and harmonized action to address drug trafficking, organized crime, corruption, terrorism, small arms related violence and crimes within the community;
- 3) Building institutional capacity for the law enforcement, criminal justice and forensic service systems on drug control and crime prevention;
- 4) Mainstreaming drug and crime concerns into development strategies;
- 5) Regional and National capacity building and training to enhance prevention and care of substance abuse and related HIV and AIDS;
- 6) Enhancing understanding of the dynamics of drugs and crime for policy -making purposes;
- 7) Broad based responsibility for the promotion of sport and culture in the service of social development to combat drugs and crime.

African nations, development professionals, aid agencies, and business need to engage in an ongoing dialogue around the ways crime may be impacting progress in Africa. In the end, creating crime awareness in development planning is primarily about shifting mindsets. It is a matter of breaking through the artificial barriers that conceptually separate economic development from other aspects of life. By recognising that freedom from crime is important, and that crime is a contributing factor to poverty, a whole cluster of mutually reinforcing “unfreedoms” can be addressed at once.

### Focus on West Africa

Ambassador Said Djinnit focused his presentation on drug and crime issues in the West African region and elaborated on the devastating effects of these problems in the poorest region of the poorest continent. Through illustrative examples (e.g., recent events in Guinea Bissau) he demonstrated links between social and economic crisis, security and drug problems and drug and corruption in that region. He listed drug trafficking, human trafficking, corruption illegal migrants, internet fraud and contraband and counterfeit goods as major crime challenges in the region. But there have been positive developments in the region and coordinated action is being taken to curb cross-border organized crime in West Africa.

### African solutions and international assistance

Mr. Patrick Hayford joined other speakers in deploring the tragic impact of crime and drug trafficking in Africa. After referring to the low contribution of Africa to international trade, Mr. Hayford noted that unfortunately globalization has succeeded in area of crime in Africa. He highlighted the importance of NEPAD and AU Plan of Action and commitments at highest levels in Africa to accept responsibility and address the current situation, and referred to the role of

international community (including through United Nations system and UNODC as well as Interpol) in partnering with Africa to tackle problems of drugs and crime.

The successful and sustained implementation and monitoring of this Plan of Action requires broad partnerships at Member State, Sub-Regional, Regional, Continental, and International level. In particular, each Member State is encouraged to forge and sustain partnerships with the Media, and Civil Society Organizations such as non-Governmental Organizations, Faith-based Organizations and Community Based Organizations, and the private sector. Recent international events have demonstrated that no part of the world is safe if any part of the world is neglected. Cooperation in developing Africa is thus in our collective self-interest. Ultimately, the security and prosperity of the world is contingent on Africa becoming a safer place.

Mr. Hayford finished his comments on a positive note by referring to examples of successful African role models (e.g. Nelson Mandela and Wangari Muta Maathai) in addressing African challenges.

During questions and answers period participants elaborated on different types of crime and drug issues in the region as well as role of different international and regional bodies, including regional initiatives by Interpol.

#### **4. Conclusions, Recommendations and Follow-up Actions**

Speakers drew on their experiences at regional (African Union) and sub-regional (focusing on Western Africa) levels to present examples of the negative impact of crime on development and initiatives to tackle the problem.

The panel was unanimous that sustainable development cannot be achieved without addressing the negative influences caused by these criminal activities. In order to promote sustainable development and human security, and achieve tangible improvements, it is essential to mainstream crime prevention and drug control, and more broadly, rule of law assistance, into African development strategies. It is therefore important to focus, not just on the delivery of aid designed to provide infrastructure to Africa, i.e., hospitals, schools, factories, roads dams, and the like, but also on support for undertakings that aim to eliminate crime and corruption across the continent.

There are a number of possible low-cost ways that crime can be addressed as part of the development process. Making crime prevention part of development planning is a matter of sensitization to issues that might be otherwise overlooked. On a practical level, this can manifest itself in several ways:

- By generating knowledge as a first step – Only when crime data are seen as development indicators will the consolidation of knowledge in this area become a priority; tailoring interventions to African conditions requires a detailed understanding of the nature of crime on the continent.
- By helping governments deliver security, efficiency and integrity – African countries have demonstrated the will to adhere to international standards in the fight against drug trafficking, organized crime, and corruption, but need further international assistance in translating policy into effective interventions.
- By breaking the crime/conflict continuum – If criminal and political violence lie along a continuum, crime and conflict prevention should be integrated; the establishment of the rule of law and efforts to promote post-conflict recovery should be complimentary to one another.

- By including crime prevention in grassroots interventions – Nearly every form of development work is impacted by crime and can be adapted to address it.
- By making corporate business part of the solution – While international business has exacerbated the plight of the African people, the potential for partnership in this area is immense.

Participants expressed hope that discussions in the HLM on Africa's Development Needs reinvigorate and strengthen the global partnership for Africa, mobilizing the human, financial and technological resources required to address the vicious circle of crime and under-development in the continent. The rule of law has to be regarded not only as an end in itself, but as a means for promoting security and unleashing development.

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**Annexes: Concept Note, Opening Statement by Mr. Costa**

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**High Level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs: State of  
Implementation of Various Commitments, Challenges and the Way  
Forward"  
22 September 2008**

**Summary Report  
Side Events**

**Title: The Governance Challenge in Africa**

**Date and Venue: 22 September 2008, Conference Room 8, UN Secretariat**

**Organizers: UNOSAA, UNU, UN-HABITAT, IPU, UNODC, UNIFEM**

**Co-Chairs: Mrs. Julia Joiner Commissioner for Political Affairs, African Union  
Commission.**

**Mr. Anders Johnsson, Secretary-General, Inter-Parliamentary Union**

**KeyNote Speaker on Governance and Leadership in Africa: Dr James C. Jonah,  
Former UN Under-Secretary-General Political Affairs and Former Minister of  
Finance, Sierra Leone**

**Democratic Governance: State and Non-State Capacity**

**Presenter: H.E. Mr. Ken Lipenga, Minister of Economic Development and Planning,  
Government of Malawi;**

**Discussant: Prof Mathews Chikaonda, Group Chief Executive of Press Corporation  
and former Minister of Finance and Governor of the Central Bank of Malawi**

**Equality, Opportunity and the Rule of Law – Access to Justice and Human rights and  
the Right to Development**

**Presenter: Mr. John Githongo, Vice President for International Policy and Advocacy,  
World Vision International**

**Discussant: Prof. Haroub Othman, Professor in Development Studies, University of  
Dar-Es-Salaam; and Chairman of the Zanzibar Legal Services Center, Tanzania**

**Governance Initiatives in Africa: Impact of APRM (African Peer Review  
Mechanism) – Lessons Learned**

**Presenter: Mrs. Marie Angeliqve Savané, Member of the APRM Panel**

**Discussant: Prof. S. K. B. Asante, Member of the National APRM Governing Council,  
Ghana**

## **1. Summary of Discussions, Conclusions, Recommendations and Follow-up Actions**

The Co-Chair, Mrs Joiner opened the meeting by observing that Governance challenges are not unique to Africa and this compels us to recognise that conceptions and practices of governance are evolving in many different ways across the globe.

Mr Cheick Diarra the Special Advisor on Africa and Dr Jean-Marc Coicaud Director United Nations University delivered Opening statements reiterating the fact that good governance and development reinforce each other and good governance is therefore essential for durable peace and sustainable development, which are among the critical challenges facing many countries on the African continent. Dr. Coicaud mentioned that Africa remains the focus for United Nations University's research and capacity building efforts

A keynote address on "Governance and Leadership" in Africa by Dr. Jonah, presented a comparison between the 19<sup>th</sup> century European theories, evolution of governance and highlighted the plight of Africa which is going through similar processes and drew a distinction of government structures which again evolved from the traditional society to a rational society. The challenge is how can African democratic institutions work and how can we promote effective leadership. The issue of accountability and authority was raised and how leadership can be accountable to the people. A quotation on leadership was made by Mrs. Joiner from the recent comments by **H.E President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua of Nigeria** who stated that **"the opportunity to lead in whatever capacity on its own does not confer leadership; instead, leadership is earned after the discharge of the responsibility honestly, sacrificially, and to the best of one's ability. Only then can those beneficiaries of the service selflessly rendered recognise such a person as a leader"**. President Yar'Adua's comments were made in the context of calling for a campaign on building an appropriate leadership culture in Nigeria.

The issues of Democratic Governance from a state and non-state capacity perspective were raised. Democracy is about sustainable development and needs to be seen as part of the process in which people work towards improving their lives. Such a process does, in many respects, require that increased attention is given on governance engagements and the manner in which people are enabled to exercise their rights and participate in the governance process. Issues pertaining to emergence of corruption in Africa were also raised. The biggest challenges in Africa remain the challenge of capacity. It is imperative that there is recognition that governance is not just about the choices that Africans make, but also about their own capacity to make those choice happen, and translate into action. Naturally, with ownership, there comes responsibility. In this context when there are failures, the cost of such failures is experienced by Africans. Africa needs to be given an opportunity to demonstrate that positive change driven from within the Continent is possible.

Presentation and discussion on Equality, Opportunity and the Rule of Law-Access to Justice, Human Rights and the Right to Development” observed that at independence almost all the African countries had written constitutions which embodied a Bill of Rights and a multi-party democracy. The first victim of independence constitutions was democracy itself and the rights of the people. The Independence Constitution, whether modeled along Westminster or Gaullist lines, was abrogated. In its place there came a constitutional model that vested enormous powers and institutional resources in the Executive. The checks and balances powers of Parliament and the Judiciary were curtailed, and the restraint bodies were marginalized. In many African countries the establishment of one-party system or the imposition of military rule led to the eradication not only of political dissention but the shutting down of organizations of civil society. All political activities had to be conducted under the auspices of the ruling parties. People’s initiatives and enthusiasm were crushed. The concept of party supremacy prevailed. Thus a democratic culture of tolerance of different views was not allowed to flourish.

The panelists also highlighted the fact that human rights are a bastion of any constitutional order and the heart of any democratic society. Their protection and promotion in a society is what propels a society to have a harmonious development. These sentiments are also expressed in the Constitutive Act of the African Union. All the African countries have in their constitutions the provisions on the fundamental freedom and rights.

The judiciary is not only one of the three pillars of a modern state but also an important instrument in the protection and enforcement of human rights. In many African states the courts are playing an important role in the promotion of human rights but they are very much congested. Moreover, human rights abuses and violations of children’s and women’s rights are very much in the increase all over Africa

The APRM presentation emphasised that that implementation has been mixed and recognised that the challenges are more complex and require considerable levels of patience and perseverance. It was observed by the panellists that even though they was skeptical on the outcome of the process initially, they recognized the overall success of the initiative and concluded that after all, a political dialogue was possible in Africa. Setbacks related to the process were identified which included, the slow pace of the whole process mainly due to inadequate capacities.

The governance and democracy journey in Africa requires innovation in approach, in this context it is imperative to forge more dialogue in order for the process to move forward. While some solutions have been initiated in Africa, like the Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and the APRM process, it is evident that neither Africa nor its global partners necessarily have all of the answers.

Mr Johnsson made closing remarks by congratulating Rwanda for being the first country in the world to have voted the highest number of women parliamentarians - results of the just ended elections reflected an increased number of women representation - 56% of all Members of Parliament in Rwanda were women. He thanked all the panellists and participants for a very lively, open and substantive discussion on the topic of governance.

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**High Level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs: "State of Implementation of Various Commitments, Challenges and the Way Forward"  
22 September 2008**

**Side-event:** African Private Sector Initiative: Strengthening Competitiveness in a Global Context

**Date and Venue:** 22 September 2008, Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium, UN Building

**Organizers:** International Trade Centre (ITC), World Bank and UN Global Compact

**Chair (s)/Moderator: Moderator:** Mr. Simon Hobbs (CNBC)

**Key Agency Leaders:**

Mrs. Patricia Francis (Executive Director, ITC)

Mrs. Obiageli Katryn Ezekwesili (Vice President – Africa - World Bank Group)

Mr. George Kell (Executive Director - UN Global Compact)

**1. The Objectives**

1.1 The International Trade Centre (ITC), in collaboration with the World Bank and the UN Global Compact, convened this side-event in support of the High-Level Meeting (HLM) on Africa's Development Needs and Challenges. The three agencies brought together Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of leading private sector organizations from both Africa and developed countries, representatives of Regional Economic Communities (COMESA, ECOWAS and ECCAS) and government officials.

1.2 The acceleration of globalization during the last 20 years, driven by technological innovation, falling transport and telecommunication costs and market access liberalization, has resulted in the geographic segmentation of production processes and the rise of global value chains. This profound global restructuring of production has increased pressure on providers of goods and service to constantly innovate and adapt to changes in international trade requirements. In this regard producers in Sub-Saharan Africa have to some extent demonstrated their ability to take advantage of market-opening opportunities such as provided by the African Growth & Opportunity Act (AGOA), under which the garment industry was able to expand its exports to the US market four-fold from \$350 million in 2001 to \$1.3 billion by 2007. The main challenge for providers of goods and service is to maintain the sustainability of this growth, for which progress in achieving stronger integration into regional and global value chains becomes a prerequisite. In the context of Africa's private sector, this presents both challenges and opportunities and in order to achieve full participation in the global economy there is a huge demand for strengthening Africa's private sector, in particular the small and medium sized enterprises.

## 2.1 Major issues raised in the meeting

The delegates discussed the challenges facing Africa's private sector as they strive to achieve competitiveness in the global value chains. These challenges included strategies on how best to channel investment into promising industries, and also, more importantly, the need for creating market linkages between Africa's producers and the MNC operating in global markets. Thus both panellists and discussants deliberated on the following issues:

- The important and future role to be played by the private sector in linking the poor to global markets within the framework of MDGs 1, 3, 7 and 8. Examples were highlighted, show-casing how financial organizations in Nigeria and other countries are fostering both economic and human development by improving SME access to business finance;
- Institutional as well as organizational challenges faced by Africa's private sector in bringing together governments and development partners to design policies that create favourable business environments within which both local and international businesses can better compete within and outside Africa;
- Importance of harmonised technical assistance projects by UN and non-UN agencies in a way that will encourage sector specific initiatives, which if strategically delivered will boost specialisation and competitiveness of products and services within those sectors. This should be aimed at developing effective/ efficient business partnership for linking African companies and to their counterparts in the developed countries; and
- The urgent need for advancing corporate citizenship in Africa, through encouraging procurement contracts that ensure that trade also works for the poor and that the export trade generated has impact for good.

## 2. Summary of Discussions

2.1 The three (3) agencies (ITC, WB and GC) provided an outline of the importance of strengthening of private sector competitiveness in Africa, covering both public and private sector challenges that need to be urgently addressed by Africa for the Africans. Governments were called upon to:

- a) Accelerate introduction of reforms in support of international and local investment promotion as part of private sector regulatory support,
- b) Engage the private sector through consultative mechanisms, and
- c) Negotiating with developed government counterparts to achieve a better international trade regime.

2.2 The agenda for developing the private sector in Africa was viewed from the two dimensions: building of entrepreneurship and achievement of Africa's trade competitiveness. Developing the private sector involves, on the one hand, building the necessary pillars of entrepreneurship: which include, principally, a level playing field, access to financing and access to skills and knowledge. These, in turn rest on a foundation of additional prerequisites, such as the rule of law, physical and social infrastructure and a sound macro environment. Thus for the private sector, the agencies challenged both the public and private sector to:

- (i) Define how best to develop sustainable linkages between multinational companies and domestic firms, and at the same time nurturing smaller enterprises;
- (ii) Consider setting standards for achieving sustainable business partnerships, with a sharp focus on corporate governance; and



- (iii) Engage in skills-building activities, especially for assisting small and micro enterprises in order for them to improve their trade-related vocational training and skill levels.

2.3 The RECs responded by encouraging the business community to link-up their future business development and investment promotion strategies to the on-going regional integration programmes. The CEOs from various industries echoed the same views and asking Africa's business leaders to plan for long-term business partnerships with the outside world. The ITC Executive Director emphasised the need for balanced business linkages that should ensure international trade creates "export impact for good" and that this should constitute a key focus in the future role of the private sector. The World Bank re-emphasised the need for reforms that would unlock investment into key development sectors in Africa, and in this regard, the UN Global Compact challenged businesses to take corporate responsibility as core values of their international business networks. Increasingly good corporate governance now also implies a commitment to the concept of corporate citizenship and the adoption of universal principles, such as those embodied in the "UN Global Compact".

2.4 Participants agreed that for the future both African businesses and their governments should focus on:

- (i) Strengthening business environment through simplification of regulations
- (ii) Strengthening trade facilitation institutions and creating competitive supply chains
- (iii) Reforming financial instruments and leverage access to capital for marginalized groups such as businesswomen
- (iv) Developing human skills and increased knowledge in information systems
- (v) Building networks and linkages across the services and product sectors
- (vi) Improving corporate governance
- (vii) Improving market access through regional and multilateral trade agreements
- (viii) Integrating Africa's private sectors into global value chains.

### 3. Way Forward

- In recognition of the Paris Declaration, the agencies shall join hands and assist Africa's business community and governments to more effectively develop Africa's private sector towards building competitiveness in their international supply chains, using both local and international investments.
- Trade-related technical assistance projects will be directed towards harnessing local and international best practice that Africa's SMES can adopt, develop and implement in their reach for global markets.
- The event's conclusions and recommendations will be integrated in the ongoing ITC programmes, including the newly established Programme for Building African Capacity for Trade (PACT II). PACT II is a five-year, CND\$20 million programme supported by government of Canada, and the ITC is assisting Africa's major three RECs (ECOWAS, COMESA and ECCASS) to boost intra-regional trade in Africa. This programme is designed to enhance the capacity of the concerned RECs to champion trade development, by supporting regional networks for policy dialogue, builds sector-specific export competitiveness including market linkages, and promotion of women entrepreneurs. This requires development partnership and coordinates with regional economic blocs (COMESA, ECOWAS, ECCAS). In this vein the African Union's Private Sector Forum initiative serves as another good initiative for strengthening Africa's private sector.





## **High Level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs: State of Implementation of Various Commitments, Challenges and the Way Forward"**

22 September 2008

### **Brief Report Side Events**

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Microcredit, Microfinance, Inclusive Finance: Building on Success for Innovative Solutions for Poverty Eradication in Africa</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>22 September 2008, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium</b>
<b>Organizers:</b>	<b>Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UN United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) UN Advisors Group on Inclusive Financial Sectors</b>
<b>Chair (s):</b>	<b>H.E. Mr. Bert Koenders, Minister of Development Cooperation, the Netherlands Mr. David Morrison, Executive Secretary, UNCDF</b>

A side event on “Microcredit, Microfinance, Inclusive Finance: Building on Success for Innovative Solutions for Poverty Eradication in Africa” was held on 22 September 2008 at UN Headquarters, New York City as a part of the Sixty Second Session of the UN General Assembly's High-Level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs.

The side event took place from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m at the Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium. About 100 representatives from member countries, private sector, civil society, UN system and other international organisations participated in the side event. The list of participants is included as Annex A. The panel discussion was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Bert Koenders, Minister of Development Cooperation, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Mr. David Morrison, Executive Secretary, United Nations Capital Development Fund. Panelist members included HRH Princess Maxima of the Netherlands, Dr. James Mwangi, Managing Director and Chief Executive, Equity Bank, Kenya, and Mr. Donald Kaberuka, President of the African Development Bank, and Mr. Jonathan Morduch, Professor of Public Policy and Economics, New York University.

HRH Princess Máxima, Dr. Mwangi, and Mr. Morduch are three of twenty-five Advisors who make up the UN Advisors Group on Inclusive Financial Sectors, a group of financial experts tasked by the United Nations with identifying the key issues that limit access to financial services for the world's poor and developing practical strategies to remove barriers to access.

The panel discussion focused on the importance of a **strong financial sector** in **reducing poverty** and recommended innovative solutions to remove the obstacles preventing the poorest populations in Africa from access to financial services. There is a tremendous demand worldwide for financial services among the poor and it is hoped that by showcasing success stories—such as those in Africa—inclusive finance as a global development priority and an important tool for poverty alleviation, will be elevated to the next level. Only 4% of the sub-Saharan African population has bank accounts and only 1% of Africans has a loan or credit facility with a formal financing institution. Thus a significant number of people in Africa remain “un-banked” and do not have access to bank accounts and other financial services which are enjoyed by people worldwide. The impact of such “financial exclusion” is very harmful; it implies that a significant segment of the population is being denied the allocation of resources and denied the ability to build capital assets and to generate income.

Given the current economic crisis impacting the commercial banking sector, the importance of creating **enabling environments** to address the challenges of building inclusive financial sectors was highlighted by the group. In this regard, the UN Advisors Group on Inclusive Financial Sectors has worked with governments, regulators, development partners, and private sector companies to identify the key issues limiting access to financial products and services and to outline concrete steps that can be taken to remove these constraints and embrace new opportunities that will ultimately result in increased access to financial products and services by all segments of the population. To address these issues, the UN Advisors Group on Inclusive Financial Sectors has developed important targeted recommendations to each of these stakeholders describing the actions they should undertake and the role they play in building strong financial sectors.

The experiences of Equity Bank, a Kenyan microfinance institution that is leading the development of innovative products, were highlighted in detail. Within ten years, Equity Bank has become the home to greater than 50% of all bank accounts in Kenya and has had remarkable success in rolling out savings and agricultural lending products that are innovative.

For Africa, increasing access to financial products and services is especially important to **revolutionize and create innovations in agricultural productivity**. Despite its huge potential, Africa suffers from low productivity in agricultural production. In an environment of rising food costs, increased access to financial services helps to allocate financial resources and can transform small-scale commercial farmers that lack the resources to increase agricultural production. Food security has been a major challenge in Africa, making it difficult for people to manage unexpected risks.

Designing and promoting innovative products that serve the needs of poor and low-income segments of the population was also emphasized by the panel. It was agreed that **savings**, in particular, plays a critical role in expanding access to financial services. Despite the importance of savings, only 20% of the population today has a formal savings account. Although savings has not received the same attention and resources as micro-credit, it is equally important, if not more. However, more data and research to understand the precise impact of savings programs still needs to be gathered. But anecdotal evidence in a few countries demonstrates that when people have access to savings, they take advantage of this resource and use their savings wisely.

Those with access to savings accounts through banks save three times as much as those with informal savings accounts.

For Africa, savings is also very important in building and strengthening a credit culture. A huge number of Africans are saving, but they are doing so through risky investments (e.g. in the form of livestock and grain) or through informal mechanisms. People need to be able to save in a secure and accessible way. Especially in these times of global financial crises, a special focus on savings-based programs and savings institutions is critical moving forward. Debt instruments are not optimum vehicles for everyone and savings provides a debt-free way for one to build assets, to buffer against unexpected risks, and to strengthen their financial management skills.

The significant role of **remittances** as one of the most important sources of development finance was also emphasized. International remittances, whereby migrants transfer funds to their home countries, constitute the second largest financial inflow to many developing countries, exceeding international aid. Many of these funds are going to poor people, who would otherwise be considered “unbankable”. The importance of remittances to a country’s economy can be demonstrated through the example of Ghana, where remittances exceeds the total value of exports and foreign aid. We need to better understand how to leverage remittances so that people can utilize these funds for productive and useful purposes, such as school fees.

Examples of **innovations in technology** that increase access to financial products and services were also presented. Many of these innovations are already facilitating the provision of financial services to difficult to reach clients by reducing costs, increasing efficiencies, and helping microfinance institutions achieve scale. Examples of innovations in technology that have lowered transaction costs and made it easier to reach the poor include the use of mobile phones to bank the poor (e.g. M-PESA partnerships with Vodafone, Faulu-Kenya and CBA in Kenya) and the use of ATMs and Point-of-Sale Networks that increase financial institution outreach without the costs of opening an expensive branch network (e.g. Uganda Microfinance Ltd).

On the supply-side, the importance of financial services providers to be **transparent** about the costs of their financial products and services and to disclose all these costs to their clients was highlighted. Moreover, promoting **financial literacy programs**, can help financial service providers to educate their customers by providing them with the ability to make informed decisions and take appropriate actions on matters affecting their financial wealth and well-being. Ensuring that these two components are in place will help to ensure that provision to a broad range of financial products and services will have their desired affect and assist the recipients of these services to built capital, better manage their risks, and eventually pave their own paths out of poverty.

The panel concluded with recommendations of the agenda forward by the development partners. It was argued that additional focus on the following issues is needed:

- How the **private sector** can **support market infrastructure**, especially with respect to strengthening mobile banking networks, to solve the “last mile” problem.
- Creative ways to carry forward **advocacy and policy dialogue**.

- Innovative solutions to **build capacity** within institutions, such as through distance-learning courses.
- Development of **new products**, such as remittances and micro-insurance, that serve the needs of poor and low-income people and micro and small entrepreneurs.
- Usage of unique and creative **partnerships** as distribution channels to promote these new products.

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**High Level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs: State of  
Implementation of Various Commitments, Challenges and the Way  
Forward"  
22 September 2008**

**Summary Report  
Side Events**

**Title: Youth: Development and Employment**

**Date and Venue: Conference Room 7**

**Organizers: UNFPA, IOM, UN-OSAA, UN-DESA, ILO, UNV, UNESCO and UNOSDP**

**Chair: Ms. Purnima Mane, Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA (Moderator)**

**Panellists: Hon. Mr. L. E. S. Kadam'manja, Minister of Youth Development and Sport of Malawi; H.E. Mr. Olivier Belle, Deputy Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations; Ms. Onyeka Obasi, President, Friends of Africa International; Mr. Nouréini Tidjani-Serpos, Assistant Director-General, Africa, UNESCO; Ms. Ndioro Ndiaye, Deputy Director-General, IOM (Rapporteur)**

**Summary Discussions**

The issue of youth development and employment is increasingly urgent across the African continent as increasingly, governments recognize that African youth have the potential to contribute to peace, political stability and sustainable development to their continent. However, despite being the fastest growing labour force in the world, African youth are disproportionately marginalized. Youth in Sub-Saharan Africa face a particular lack of opportunities in health, employment and education sectors, compounded by the consequences of armed conflict, and often turn to migration as a coping mechanism. The lack of opportunities is particularly severe for young girls.

Opening the discussion, **Ms. Purnima Mane, Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA (Moderator)**, highlighted the continued marginalization of the youth. This is exacerbated by low enrolment rates and high drop-out rates in schools. Young people face serious health problems, including rising HIV infection rates, which are increasing at a faster pace than treatment can be scaled up. Women's HIV infection rate is twice that of men. Armed conflict also has serious consequences for the youth, promoting their alienation and hampering their ability to participate in development. It is essential to ensure that the

youth of Sub-Saharan Africa take their development into their own hands. The African Youth Charter is a vital component in this regard.

**Hon. Mr. L. E. S. Kadam'manja, Minister of Youth Development and Sport of Malawi** highlighted the need to protect the health of Africa's youth and ensure sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention among them. He pointed that 52 per cent of the population lived below the poverty line. Youth in Africa are affected by unemployment, early pregnancy, and HIV, among other things. In Malawi, 60 per cent of adolescent girls aged less than 19 years get pregnant. With regard to HIV, six per cent of young people aged 20-24 are infected. A large proportion of those infected are female.

The government has prepared a policy document on young people which addresses unemployment, youth economic empowerment, health and youth participation. UNFPA played a critical role in developing that Youth Policy. The country also has a plan of action for scaling up adolescent sexual and reproductive health through funds received from the Global Fund. Efforts are also being undertaken to develop standards for the provision of youth friendly services. The country's poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP) has ensured the adequate inclusion of young people, who are defined as those aged 10 to 24 years. As a result, investments in vocational and technical as well as other employable skills will be included in the PRSP.

**Mr. Olivier Belle, Deputy Representative of Belgium to the UN and President of the Commission on the Status of Women** noted that the youth are the key agents for future economic development. Their development begins with education, particularly at the primary level. The government of Belgium is considering the adoption of a Belgian strategy on primary education for Africa.

It is essential to promote equality, but if it is not implemented, the concept is not very useful. There are many people that do not benefit from access to equality: adolescent girls, HIV infected adolescents, children in conflict and children from minorities. There is also need to focus on efficiency. Mr. Belle also posed several questions regarding the issue of appropriate education policy: What is a good return for education?; Is education a good machine for the economy?; and, Is it enough? He further stressed that equal access to education for boys and girls is very important as is access to quality education

Turning specifically to the issue of gender, he asserted that the MDGs will not be reach without investment in women. Implementation is a key factor in this regard. The Commission on the Status of Women has always requests national governments to implement its recommendations. In relation to education for women, it is a fact that women tend to drop out from high school more than men. Governments must, therefore, implement better policies at the national level and must take the gender dimension into account in planning. It is also necessary to eliminate discrimination in training for employment and the development of skills. Policies must ensure that girls have the opportunity to enter the job market. In Belgium gender inequalities in the work force is also a problem. It is harder for women to reach equality with men. Real change will not



arrive with new policies alone, there needs to be a change in mentalities. Girls need to be empowered and it is essential to ensure more gender sensitive policies in education and employment.

**Ms. Onyeka Obasi, President, Friends of Africa International**, said that without absolute and genuine institutionalized engagement of young people in development alternatives, regional and national initiatives and strategies geared towards poverty and its related consequences in Africa will not succeed. The African Youth Charter represents a major milestone for the cause of African youth and there is need for countries to ensure its signatures and ratification in order to move forward with its implementation as an integral part of improving the lives of young Africans. The charter could be used as a reference document in the formulation of national youth policies across Africa and beyond.

Consistent with the African Youth Charter, Friends of Africa International convened the first annual Pan African Youth Leadership Forum in Accra in 2007 to give young people a voice and equip them with the right skills and knowledge base in order to effectively and meaningfully participate in development alternatives in Africa.

**Mr. Nouréini Tidjani-Serpos, Assistant Director-General, Africa, UNESCO** said that UNESCO maintains strong partnerships with youth via different structures, such as its associated schools programme and UNESCO Clubs. It gives Africa and gender priority with specific interventions for Youth in its medium-term Strategy (2008-2013). UNESCO is preparing to launch an Action Plan for Youth Empowerment in Africa (2008-2012). Through its National Commissions, it contributes to the dissemination of the African Youth Charter. Joint action among agencies, programmes of the United Nations, the African Union, regional economic communities, national authorities and the civil society, is the key to achieving true partnership and dealing with major challenges facing African youth. For that, UNESCO's interdisciplinary action is well placed in terms of availability of knowledge and expertise for the reinforcement of capacities of the African youth.

For quality education and training programmes for youth for the elimination of illiteracy, in particular among girls and young women in accordance with the Dakar Action plan, it is necessary to develop an education based on the values of tolerance, respect for human rights, intercultural dialogue and on the culture of peace. It is also necessary to integrate African cultural values in school programmes, so as to ensure that they form part of the education of young people. For youth to play their roles as future pillars of regional integration in Africa, youth associations should be reinforced and the creation of consolidated regional and sub-regional networks supported. Teaching and rendering of the general history of Africa should also be made accessible to the youth in order to raise pan-African consciousness.

**In the discussion that followed**, participants highlighted the ways in which young people's participation in Africa's development can be enhanced, including through the provision of opportunities for internship both at the country level and across boundaries.

The representative of UN Volunteers pointed out that volunteering is one of the main channels for youth participation and can be very successful in enhancing employability. To address volunteerism strategically in national policies and programmes, lessons learned from past experience need to be kept in mind. A representative of the Global Youth Action Network (GYAN) advocated for more publicized and improved access to youth programmes, as well as access to information and communication technologies for the youth. Junior Achievement stressed the role that entrepreneurial training can play in empowering young people.

**Mrs. Ndioro Ndiaye, Deputy Director-General IOM and Rapporteur, summarized the key messages from panelists and discussion as follows:**

- Focus on young people should be as a matter of rights and demographics as the future of Africa is in their hands. Africa has vast human resources that can be harnessed for Africa's socio-economic development however they face a number of challenges including poverty, lack of education or employment opportunities, as well as access to necessary health services including those for HIV/AIDS.
- As a coping mechanism to a number of these challenges, African youth have sought migration either within or out of Africa. Though migration can have negative impacts, especially when undertaken through irregular channels, governments in Africa are beginning to acknowledge migration's link to development and poverty reduction. If managed well, African youth can tap into migration's development impact through remittances and transfer of knowledge and expertise through circular migration or diasporas.
- One of the challenges of Africa's development agenda has been in implementation and operationalization that invites youth participation. Implementation capacity, both in terms of human and financial resources, is a necessary element for achieving Africa's development goals.
- Achieving gender equality means a focus on adolescent girls' education and employment with policies that stress equality in access and quality of education.
- The African Youth Charter should be the basis for advancing the rights of young people to education, decent work, HIV prevention, sexual and reproductive health services, and empowerment for the participation of young people.
- Invest in education and focus on the cultural values of Africa in the context of achieving human rights. Develop curriculum on history.
- Youth employment should be included at the heart of macro economic policies as well as national development agendas, including PRSPs, MDGs and the UNDAF. There should also be investment in programmes that provide social protection. Tax policy, inflation and prices are all linked to decent work opportunities.
- It is critical to have an inter-sectoral approach with involvement of ministers responsible for education, health, employment, youth and sport, and women.
- Tap into the entrepreneurship of young people, their dynamism, but also look at skills that will make them better as entrepreneurs, parents, spouses and workers.
- A strong knowledge and information base as well as networks is key to comprehensive policy intervention, on the ground action, and the promotion and protection of the rights and welfare of youth.





## **High Level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs: State of Implementation of Various Commitments, Challenges and the Way Forward"**

22 September 2008

### **Summary Report Side Events**

**Title: "Accelerating Poverty Reduction and Economic Growth: Transforming African Countries into Tiger Economies"**

**Date and Venue: 22 September 2008. Delegates Dining Room 5,6,7,8.**

**Organizers: UNIDO, AGRA and UNCTAD**

**Chair: Mr. Kandeh K. Yumkella, Director-General, UNIDO**

#### **1. Introduction**

The side event, which was co-hosted by UNIDO, AGRA and UNCTAD, had as its theme "Accelerating Poverty Reduction and Economic Growth: Transforming African Economies into Tiger Economies".

Half of the global population is still living in abject poverty and Africa remains particularly afflicted: Many of its people exist without adequate food, shelter, health, education or influence on decisions that affect their lives, and the Millennium Development Goal of halving the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 2015 may not be met by many countries in sub-Saharan Africa. This trend is reinforced by civil unrest and war in some parts of the Continent, leading to the continued existence of failed and fragile states in what Paul Collier has coined the "bottom billion".

Meanwhile the developed world moves on, drawing ever more closely together in global economic integration, rapid technological advance and increased prosperity. The stereotype of "Africa" in this global picture appears sidelined – or worse – a vast Continent largely reliant on foreign aid for many of its basic needs while not being able to translate its own rich natural resources, markets and people into sustainable economic growth.

However, a second look at the realities of the Continent reveals another truth: World Bank estimates show a sharp acceleration in economic growth, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. The average growth rate has increased from 5.7 percent in 2006 to 6.1 percent in 2007 – the region's fastest growth in more than three decades. Throughout the Continent burgeoning economic activity is flourishing: entrepreneurs developing and producing goods, trading with others, and

setting in motion whole chains of industry. These are the green shoots, which – if encouraged by partners in international development – will transform Africa.

### **Main issues and challenges**

Industry plays a pivotal role in this transformation process by reducing poverty, modernizing societies and bringing economic prosperity. All the developed countries and the newly industrialized nations of Asia, without exception, have used industry and the private sector as the main vehicles for achieving economic growth and wealth creation for their populations. Clearly, Africa can do the same. The challenge is to bring about the full participation of African entrepreneurs in the global economy by promoting small and medium-sized enterprises and thus creating the “missing middle” between a few state-owned enterprises on the one hand and the myriad of micro-businesses in the informal sector on the other hand. In particular, this calls for diversifying production, developing products up the value chain, ensuring that these goods can be traded internationally and fairly, engaging transnational corporations, and encouraging them to link up to local business. Linking agriculture to other economic sectors, including through increased agricultural productivity, rural industrialization and the expansion of agricultural markets is, crucial.

A further challenge is the “greening” of economic growth. Africa can become a true world leader in de-linking industrial growth from environmental degradation by building upon clean production and developing its own environmental services industry. It is clear that African countries, first and foremost, need access to energy for economic development. It is also evident that the climate change agenda must be reconciled with the development agenda so as to be credible and realistic. But there is no doubt that opportunities abound for the Continent to fulfill its potential in using wind-, solar-, bio-, and small hydro-energy. Such sustainable industrial growth generates employment and encourages the development of new skills and attitudes. It acts as a catalyst in the adoption of new and improved technologies and helps to drive innovation.

So far, however, Africa does not have a vibrant private sector to provide employment opportunities for its teeming populations to create the individual and societal wealth that meets basic needs and beyond. Pockets of success exist, but this must be brought together into a cohesive whole through well-designed and implemented industrial policies: East Asia already demonstrated how properly developed policy can change societies and lives for the better. Today there is a real opportunity to reinforce dynamic sources of growth through appropriate policy advice to governments and assistance in building up well-functioning, inclusive markets and effective support institutions.

## **2. Organization**

The side event, which was co-hosted by UNIDO, AGRA and UNCTAD, had as its theme “**Accelerating Poverty Reduction and Economic Growth: Transforming African Economies into Tiger Economies**”. The event was chaired by Mr. Kandeh Yumkella, Director-General of UNIDO. Opening remarks were given by Ms. Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General, UN. The panelists were:

- Mr. Namanga Ngongi, President of AGRA;
- Mr. Stefano Manservigi, Directory-General of Development Cooperation, EC;
- Ms. Patricia Francis, Executive Director, ITC;
- Mr. Charles Gore, Special Coordinator for Africa, UNCTAD;

- Mr. Cheick Diarra, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative, UN-OHRLLS.

Around 80 participants from member state delegations, the UN system, the private sector and civil society actively contributed to the discussions.

### **3. Summary of Discussions**

Following opening remarks by the Director-General of UNIDO aimed at setting the context for the discussions, the Deputy Secretary-General highlighted the challenges ahead as well as some of the reasons for optimism. These included evidence of the “green shoots” of growth in Africa and of the existence of talent, creativity, ambition and dynamism throughout the continent. As a result growth rates in sub-Saharan Africa of about 6 percent per annum had been achieved in recent years. Challenges such as increasing foreign direct investment and the importance of reaching agreement over trade were also mentioned.

The panelists highlighted the examples of so-called Tiger Economies both those in Europe such as Ireland and those in Asia. In the case of Ireland, a number of factors have been used to explain its rapid economic growth, although there is no consensus over which factors were the most important. The factors included low corporate taxes, relatively low wages, high FDI and EU membership. In the case of FDI, it was clear that the fact that the Irish workforce was one of the best educated in Europe by the 1990s, was a major attraction to potential investors. In the case of EU membership, Ireland had paid in some 10 billion Euro between 1973 and 2001, yet received some 43 billion Euro. The large Irish community in the US was also suggested as one of the reasons why Ireland was able to attract US investment. This could perhaps be replicated in Africa which already has large communities in the US and elsewhere.

In the case of Asia, panelists highlighted how many Asian economies had established not just a foothold, but a presence on the ladder of development. The strategy of the Asian Tigers to develop human capital, in particular in science and technology, was a factor that Africa could emulate. The correct application of monetary and fiscal policy signals to domestic and foreign investors was also seen as crucial, including in order to stimulate domestic savings. Increasing the tax base and making tax collection more efficient were important, as were improvements in the financial sector. But ultimately increasing domestic resource mobilization would depend on reducing risks and increasing profitability of investments.

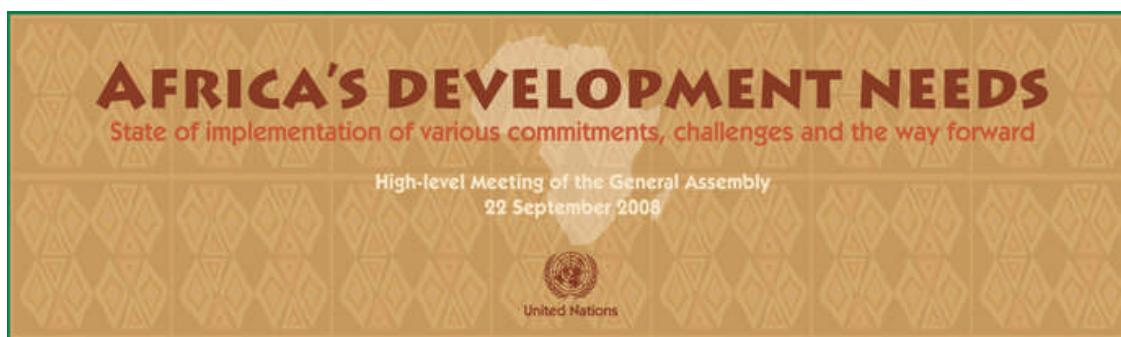
The challenge of creating productive employment in Africa – particularly given the rapidly growing workforce - was emphasized by several speakers and echoed by other participants. Increasing numbers are leaving the rural areas without enough industrialization occurring in the urban areas to absorb them. African economies need to move from commodity-led growth to catch-up growth, as the Asian Tigers had done before them. Several speakers stressed the need for significant investment in youth and in women’s empowerment and development, not least as some 70% of the poor are women.

The panelists and participants also highlighted the importance of the agricultural sector, including the need to increase investments in agro-industry and in technology to reduce post-harvest losses. Increasing the value-added of agricultural products would contribute to a shift away from purely commodity based exports. The scaling up ODA and rebalancing the sectoral allocation of aid so that a greater share went to productive sectors, such as agriculture could contribute to these objectives.

The role of the state was also discussed during the meeting. Setting the right macro-economic environment was widely seen as key – without an enabling environment it would be impossible to increase investment significantly. The potential of regional integration for accessing the global economy and reducing transaction costs was also highlighted by some.

The challenge of providing clean energy supplies that would support sustainable economic growth was also discussed during the side event. It was now generally accepted that reliable energy supplies were a prerequisite for economic growth – yet huge numbers of African were unlikely to have access to modern energy supplies in the near future. Increased efforts needed to be made to ensure that energy supplies were available to meet to the basic needs of the poor and to power the industries of the future.

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## **Accelerating Poverty Reduction and Economic Growth “Transforming African Countries into Tiger Economies”**

- 12:00 – 12:10 Welcome remarks – Mr. Kandeh Yumkella, Director-General, UNIDO
- 12:10-12:20 Opening remarks by the Deputy Secretary-General
- 12:30-13:30 Statements by:
- Mr. Namanga Ngongi, President, AGRA
- Mr. Stefano Manservigi, DG, Development Cooperation,  
European Commission
- Ms. Patricia Francis, Executive Director, ITC
- Mr. Charles Gore, Special Coordinator, UNCTAD
- Concluding remarks:
- Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra, Under-Secretary-General and  
High Representative, UN-OHRLLS
- 13:30-14:00 Comments and observations from the floor
- 14:00-14:45 Lunch hosted by the Director-General, UNIDO