

G8 Africa Personal Representatives' Joint Progress Report on the G8-Africa Partnership



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I. Introduction

The G8 have a long-standing commitment to Africa's development. This commitment has found its expression at the G8 Summit of Kananaskis in the G8 Africa Action Plan and at following summits. Together with our African partners, we have agreed on the aims, core principles and modes of our cooperation and have worked continuously in partnership to achieve our common goal of promoting African development. Since the summit of Kyusyuu-Okinawa, African leaders have been invited to G8 Summits in this joint spirit of partnership. This dialogue has been fostered and developed through the G8 Africa Personal Representatives.

In 2007, Africa is a priority on the agenda of the G8 Summit in Heiligendamm. This year also marks the halfway date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. The ambitious aims set forth by the Millennium Declaration require stronger efforts by all actors. As African governments continue the necessary reforms, development partners are working on the timely and coordi-

nated implementation of their commitments. Furthermore, issues highly relevant to Africa's development agenda are being discussed in several fora, such as the replenishment processes of the African Development Fund and the International Development Association, the negotiations of the Doha Trade Round, the replenishment meeting of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) process and the preparations for a Joint EU-Africa Strategy to be endorsed at the planned second EU-Africa Summit in late 2007.

This joint report reflects the views of the G8 Africa Personal Representatives (APRs) on the progress of the G8-Africa partnership and the contributions made by the G8. Like past progress reports in 2003 and 2005, it contributes to the mutual accountability of G8-Africa relations. It will assess progress made, outline the challenges ahead and identify the priority issues, where we need to make immediate progress.

II. The G8-Africa Partnership – Developments and Challenges

Africa has made significant economic and political progress since the early days of the G8-Africa partnership. Building on the new political momentum for reforms in Africa, many countries have experienced rapid and constructive political changes and economic growth. Africa has embraced important reforms to make the principles and aims of the African Union (AU) and its NEPAD program a reality for African people, although the pace and quality of development has varied across regions and countries. Continued support for African political and economic reforms and transparent results lies at the core of the G8-Africa partnership.

Development of Strong African Institutions

A new institutional landscape is emerging on the African continent, centring round the African Union, its NEPAD program, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and a strengthened African Development Bank (AfDB). New pillars are complementing the regional and pan-African governance architecture, like the Pan-African Parliament, the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). Coordinated and effective mandates, clear memberships and adequate capacities and financing are needed to ensure the effective operation of these institutions. The G8 strongly support African institutional development, recognising the still existing need for

harmonised funding to the African Union and its institutions. The progress and success of African institutions will crucially depend on sufficient organisational capacities, clear political priorities and member states' fulfilment of their financial obligations vis-à-vis these institutions.

New Actors

New actors have become increasingly involved in Africa. China, India and Brazil in particular have become active investors, lenders and development partners; China is now Africa's 3rd largest investor and trading partner. The engagement of more actors in and with Africa opens up new opportunities for Africa's integration into the world economy. The emergence of more options for cooperation underscores the need for all actors to agree and comply with established principles of cooperation, including aid, trade- and investment-related rules as well as labour, social and ecological standards. All development, trading and financing partners need to reinforce the principles of peace, democracy, good governance, human rights and sound economic management, on which sustainable development in Africa depends. Respecting African ownership, Africa's partners need to work in close alignment with African countries' priorities and give due consideration to debt sustainability. The G8 want to strengthen dialogue processes about standards and policies and promote a shared vision of development principles between Africa and all its partners. Fora like the Africa Partnership Forum and

the OECD/DAC could provide a good platform for the involvement of new actors.

Harmonisation and Alignment

To date, over 100 countries and multilateral or bilateral development agencies have signed up to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. It is now essential to implement concrete steps towards improved complementarity and division of labour to reduce the transaction costs of delivering and managing aid. This includes strengthening the alignment behind partner countries' strategies and enhanced coordination with respect to neglected sectors and countries that are aid orphans. In the context of scaling up aid to Africa, more coordinated technical assistance aligned with country priorities for capacity development, also to increase absorptive capacities is needed. Programme-based approaches, including joint financing mechanisms where feasible, and disbursement in a timely and predictable manner are also areas where concrete steps need to be taken. Furthermore, given increased attention to regional and Pan-African institutions, the reach of the Paris Agenda needs to be broadened and applied to these actors as well. The Paris Declaration Monitoring Survey indicates that G8 partners, aiming at full coordination with national and regional development policies, are starting to make progress, however much more is needed to meet the 2010 targets. Continuous monitoring, with wider participation by new actors and recipient countries,

should provide further momentum for the rapid implementation of the Paris Agenda.

Monitoring Progress

Mutual accountability and monitoring are essential elements of the G8-Africa partnership and global governance. Our partnership needs a relevant forum, where both Africa and G8/OECD countries are represented on a relevant level and that has tangible impact on politics. The Africa Partnership Forum represents a key opportunity for dialogue between African countries and development partners at a higher political level and a mechanism for monitoring progress. In order to make the most of the potential of the APF as an overarching framework for international dialogue on Africa's development, it is essential to further consider ways and options to integrate the priority issues and messages emerging from the APF meetings into the broader political processes of the G8 and other development partners as well as into processes on the African continent.

III. Promoting Good Governance

African countries are taking the lead in the promotion of democratic governance. Regional and Pan-African institutions have been important drivers behind the progress made so far. The G8 have focussed their support on capacity development and the implementation of reform programmes and action-oriented initiatives at the regional and national level.

African Peer Review Mechanism

Since its creation in 2002, the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) has emerged as a genuine African participatory self-monitoring mechanism for political, economic and corporate governance standards. The APRM process is an expression of the African reform spirit and mutual learning as well as an instrument for the promotion of governance reforms. As of June 2007, 26 countries have signed up to the APRM process. Three of these countries – Ghana, Kenya and Rwanda – have completed the process and presented progress reports to their peers. Reviews have been launched in a further 13 countries, including in Algeria and South Africa, who are expected to finish the process in 2007.

The G8 have endorsed the APRM process from the beginning and some G8 partners have provided assistance while recognising and supporting complete ownership by participating countries and that the APRM should be financed by African countries, where possible. G8 assistance to the review processes, facilitated by the APRM Secretariat, has been channelled through the APRM trust fund, operated by UNDP. Additionally, the G8 have assisted in-

dividual countries during their peer reviews and aim to support the reforms emerging from the APRM process.

While good progress has been made lately, only half of all African countries have signed up to the APRM. Wider participation across the African continent is necessary in order to continue the momentum of reform. The recent acceleration of the process is a positive sign, but there is a need for continuous exchange of experiences and learning to further facilitate and promote the process. However, the key to making the APRM an effective mechanism is for African countries to implement the APRM recommendations, ensuring coordination between existing development strategies and APRM results.

Steps forward:

- Continue support to the APRM process and work with African partners to facilitate and improve the financing mechanism for APRM support, including through an improved APRM trust fund
- Stronger support for African countries implementing reforms based on the results of the APRM, including through existing national funding mechanisms if possible
- Support African efforts to facilitate information exchange and peer learning so as to accelerate the APRM process

Democratisation

Democratic and accountable governance is gaining ground on the African continent. This is evidenced by the growing number of multi-party elections, more representative and effective legislatures, improved space for civil society and the adoption of policy milestones such as the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance in January 2007. G8 members have supported these processes at institutional and field level. This includes assistance to electoral observation missions, including the temporary deployment of an EU force (EUFOR) to support the United Nations Mission MONUC during the election period in the DR Congo. G8 members have increased their assistance to the AU and regional bodies with the aim of strengthening the capacities of legislative institutions. Work to support the advocacy and policy role of African civil society vis-à-vis governments is being stepped up. Further support for the African Union and its organs, in particular the Pan-African Parliament, will now be necessary in order to enable this institution to effectively provide the checks needed to balance executive power and promote democratic principles across the continent.

Steps forward

- Acknowledge and encourage African efforts to ratify and implement the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance without reservations
- Continue to support electoral observation missions, with an emphasis on building African capacity, including for civil society organisations and regional organisations and provide assistance to the full electoral cycle
- Further support Independent Public Institutions (such as Independent Electoral Bodies or Ombudsman offices) which promote and guarantee the democratisation process
- Endorse the African Court and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and support the work of national courts towards ending the culture of impunity across the African continent
- Support and assist the further consolidation of the Pan-African institutional landscape, in particular the African Union, including its Commission and the Pan-African Parliament
- Support African civil society in its efforts to engage in the policy process, including in dialogue with the African Union and its organs

Human Rights and Gender Equality

With the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, African states have defined the basis for the thorough protection of human rights. The first eleven judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights have been appointed as an initial step to make the court operational. Additionally, the empowerment of women, a primary objective for the AU and NEPAD, was enshrined in the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa, which entered into force in November 2005. To date, 42 African states have signed the protocol; 20 of them have ratified it.



IV. Supporting Peace and Security

African Peace and Security Architecture

As the UN Security Council recognised in March 2007, regional organisations, inter alia, the AU are playing an increasingly important role in the maintenance of international peace and security. There has been considerable progress with regard to the development of an African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). While the operationalisation of the African Standby Force (ASF) remains incomplete, African partners have been actively involved in several peace support operations. Currently, AU-led peace support operations are underway in Darfur/Sudan (AMIS) and most recently in Somalia (AMISOM), as authorised by the UN Security Council in February 2007.

These activities are complemented by progress in establishing the other pillars of the African Peace and Security Architecture. The Panel of the Wise was formally set up at the AU Summit in January 2007, and will begin its work in the next few months. G8 assistance for this genuinely African-led concept has allowed the AU to draw up a structure and plan of action. Progress is also being made on the road-map for strengthening the AU Continental Early Warning System.

In response to efforts by the AU, sub-regional economic organisations and individual countries, the G8 have focused their support on the development of the African Standby Force, in accordance with the Joint Africa/G8 Action Plan to enhance African capabilities to undertake peace operations, adopted in Evian in 2003, and the G8 Action Plan to strengthen the global capability for peace support operations, adopted at Sea Island in 2004. G8 partners are active in capacity development at the

AU, sub-regional and national levels. With the support of the G8 and other partners, the AU hosted two donor conferences in 2005 and a series of technical workshops, aimed at defining strategies and guidelines for the ASF in areas such as logistics, communications and the civilian components of peace support operations. The EU has set up the African Peace Facility, which has provided €300 million so far, mostly for ongoing operations of the AU and regional organisations, but also for long-term capacity development. Through the Global Peace Operations Initiative, the U.S. has nearly tripled the African Contingency Operations and Assistance (ACOTA) program to expand the number of African peacekeepers available for PSOs. G8 members have also made pledges to the UN Peace Building Fund launched in October 2006.

Nevertheless, progress in setting up the African Peace and Security Architecture has been somewhat slower than expected. With G8 assistance the first conceptual phase of ASF development has now been completed. After the AU endorsement of the road map for the next phase, the G8 are committed to continue support. If the ASF is to be operational by 2010, additional efforts and leadership are required, in some of the sub-regions as well as at the AU headquarters. Consultation and coordination processes should be improved in order to maximise the impact of partners' support.

Steps forward:

- Continue to provide support for the AU with regard to its peace and security agenda, including adequate assistance for ongoing operations and the Panel of the Wise
- Assist in developing long-term strategies, including exit strategies, and reliable funding



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