

V. PROGRAMME OF ACTION: THE STRATEGY FOR ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE 21ST CENTURY

59. The *New Partnership for Africa's Development* differs in its approach and strategy from all previous plans and initiatives in support of Africa's development, although the problems to be addressed remain largely the same.
60. The *New Partnership for Africa's Development* is envisaged as a long-term vision of an African-owned and African-led development programme .
61. The Action Programme includes the top priorities structured in the same way as the strategy outlined and these priorities may be revised from time to time by the Heads of State Implementation Committee. The Programme covers what needs to be done in the short term, despite the wide scope of the actions to be taken.
62. Although long-term funding, is envisaged under the initiative, the projects can, however, be expedited to help eradicate poverty in Africa and place African countries, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development and thus halt the marginalisation of Africa in the globalisation process.
63. Although, there are other urgent priorities, those selected here would have a catalytic effect for intervention in other priority areas in the future.
64. While growth rates are important, they are not by themselves sufficient to enable African countries achieve the goal of poverty reduction. The challenge for Africa, therefore, is to develop the capacity to sustain growth at levels required to achieve poverty reduction and sustainable development. This, in turn depends on other factors such as infrastructure, capital accumulation, human capital, institutions, structural diversification, competitiveness, health and good stewardship of the environment.
65. The objective of the *New Partnership for Africa's Development* is to provide an impetus to Africa's development by bridging existing gaps in priority sectors to enable the continent catch up with developed parts of the world.
66. The new long-term vision will require massive and heavy investment to bridge existing gaps. The challenge ahead for Africa is to be able to raise the required funding under the best conditions possible. We therefore call on our development partners to assist in this endeavour.

67. Long-Term Objective

- To eradicate poverty in Africa and to place African countries, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development and thus halt the marginalisation of Africa in the globalisation process;
- To promote the role of women in all activities.

68. Goals

- To achieve and sustain an average gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of above 7 per cent per annum for the next 15 years;
- To ensure that the continent achieves the agreed International Development Goals (IDGs), which are:
 - To reduce the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by half between 1990 and 2015;
 - To enrol all children of school age in primary schools by 2015;
 - To make progress towards gender equality and empowering women by eliminating gender disparities in the enrolment in primary and secondary education by 2005;
 - To reduce infant and child mortality ratios by two-thirds between 1990 and 2015;
 - To reduce maternal mortality ratios by three-quarters between 1990 and 2015;
 - To provide access for all who need reproductive health services by 2015;
 - To implement national strategies for sustainable development by 2005, so as to reverse the loss of environmental resources by 2015.

69. The strategy has the following expected outcomes:

- Economic growth and development and increased employment;
- Reduction in poverty and inequality;
- Diversification of productive activities, enhanced international competitiveness and increased exports;
- Increased African integration.

70. Realising that unless something new and radical is done, Africa will not achieve the IDGs and the 7 per cent annual GDP growth rate, the African Heads of State propose the programme described below. The programme is anchored on key themes and is supported by detailed programmes of action.