



AFRICA PROGRESS PANEL COMMUNIQUÉ

It is clear from developments in Africa that keeping commitments bears fruit. There are multiple examples of this, from improved governance to fighting corruption to advances in sectors such as education, healthcare and sanitation.

However, at the mid point of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), sub-Saharan Africa is the only region which, at current rates, will meet none of the MDG targets by 2015. In 2006, Africa's growth stood at 5.4%, despite a booming global economy - far short of the 7% annual growth that needs to be sustained to make substantial inroads into poverty reduction.

Our consensus is clear. Both Africa and its development partners must embrace the partnership that was adopted by the UN at the landmark summit in Monterrey in 2002. Leaders have made precise commitments in the G8, European Union (EU), African Union (AU) and UN contexts to place this partnership at the core of development co-operation. Statistics and figures about Africa are difficult to come by. It is nevertheless evident, as the Africa Progress Panel begins its work, that leaders in Africa and development partners have fallen well short on delivering their commitments.

The urgent need for leaders to build on what works and scale up efforts to keep commitments is therefore clear. There is appetite and opportunity for change in Africa. With strong commodity prices and foreign direct investment at an all-time high, Africa is a continent of enormous potential and opportunity. This opportunity must not be wasted. Urgent action to put existing commitments back on track is the way to seize the opportunity, rather than succumb to the challenges.

The backdrop of growing natural, economic and political challenges including widespread urbanisation and climate change, with its implications for disease, displacement, unemployment, food shortages and 'water conflicts', have the potential to aggravate already fragile situations in Africa and raise the stakes ever higher. Failing to rise to this challenge will result in deaths in Africa and growing instability, within the African continent and also further afield. In simple terms, in a globalised world, the stability and prosperity of the world is at risk when an entire continent is lagging behind. Africa needs either to be put on a sustainable trend of development or the entire human family is at risk. Global solidarity and the stake the world has in creating a well-governed, stable and prosperous Africa should compel political will to achieve the agreed goals.

Achieving the growth rates and productivity that will reduce poverty and deliver the MDGs requires focused action, rather than plans and good intentions. Undelivered commitments are creating a crisis of credibility. Leaders in both Africa and more broadly in the international community urgently need to prove they are serious about delivering on the commitments they have already made, in order to make the global development partnership work.

To date, the Panel has looked at initial findings drawn together by the Secretariat from a number of different sources to establish progress towards these commitments. Our task in the future will be to analyse these and other assessments further, particularly those from Africa itself, in order to establish our complete picture of priorities. However, it is already clear to the Panel from these preliminary baseline findings that there is just cause for concern. By engaging directly with decision-makers on the priority issues that can make a difference, the Africa Progress Panel will help leaders to do this.

BASELINE

GOOD GOVERNANCE

PROGRESS TO DATE

The creation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in 2001 held deep significance in establishing good governance at the heart of African partnership and development. African nations have made commitments to fighting corruption and strengthening accountability and transparency, in the Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption, the Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, and the principles of African Peer Review Mechanism. Twenty-six countries have signed up to the Africa Peer Review Mechanism and the country review process is underway in twelve. Ghana, Rwanda and Kenya have completed their reviews and agreed to recommended plans of action. Civil society examination of the APRM process in Rwanda found it to be open, participatory, transparent and accountable.

Africa's development partners have committed to good governance in their relations with African countries by fostering good governance through development assistance programmes, by enforcing the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions and by ratifying the UN Convention Against Corruption.

Fifteen resource-rich African countries have endorsed the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative which focuses on good governance in the resource sector. Twenty-three companies are also taking part in the initiative.

The World Bank's Worldwide Governance Indicators show that several countries in Africa have made substantial improvements on the dimensions of governance, including accountability, political stability, government effectiveness and rule of law. A number of significant transitional elections have been held in recent times, such as those in Liberia, Burundi and Sierra Leone. The wave of third- and fourth-generation elections indicates a continuing movement towards the consolidation of democratic institutions and processes. Rwanda leads the world with the highest number of women in parliament.

AREAS OF CONCERN

Africa's record in improving governance remains, at best, mixed. NEPAD is still frequently mentioned in political rhetoric but does not have sufficient capacity to play a central role in the real development policies of African countries and their international partners. The UN Economic Commission for Africa Governance Report of 2005 notes that 'much more has to be achieved before we can say that the capable state is the norm in Africa'.

In some countries, a culture of corruption is embedded. Large-scale corruption and bribery by foreign companies still distorts import and investment decisions, to the detriment of African people. The OECD and African Development Bank's African Economic Outlook 2005/6 notes that, while progress has been made on economic management, corruption remains prevalent.

Transparency International's monitoring of the implementation of anti-corruption conventions in Africa reveals that, in most countries, a comprehensive strategy to combat corruption and the real political will to reform are still lacking — an assessment backed by the persistently low scores of African countries in Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index.

The US has become only the fourth G8 member to ratify the UN Convention Against Corruption, alongside Russia, the UK and France.

THE WAY FORWARD

The key to good governance in Africa, as elsewhere, lies in establishing institutions of democratic governance and rule of law, including improving public financial management and strengthening government accountability vis-à-vis parliaments, the media and civil society.

- The African Peer Review Mechanism and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative must be supported, to ensure that they are strong enough to confront situations in which very poor governance undermines progress.
- Important conventions, including the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery, the UN Convention against Corruption and the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption, must be ratified, applied and enforced.
- New investors and traditional partners of Africa are encouraged to support the priorities of country-owned development strategies, including institutions of good governance, through their development assistance, investment and loans.

PEACE AND SECURITY

PROGRESS TO DATE

Important peace-keeping and peace-building institutions have been set up by NEPAD and the African Union, following a pledge in 2003 to create a Peace and Security Council, which includes an African Stand-by Force. These structures and capacities have helped support peace efforts in Burundi, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Central African Republic and Sierra Leone.

The G8 committed to support the Stand-by Force and, in 2004, launched the Sea Island Global Peace Operations Initiative. The Council on Foreign Relations reports that associated troop training targets are on track.

AREAS OF CONCERN

One-fifth of the African population, that is some 180 million people, live in conflict zones and, as at 1 January 2005, nearly five million people were forcibly displaced.

As demonstrated by the current problems in Darfur, African Union forces remain under great operational pressure and are under-resourced to secure peace in conflict zones which can stretch across hundreds of thousands of square miles.

There is widespread agreement that rapid response to emerging conflicts and crises is hampered by a lack of co-ordinated and flexible funding. In post-conflict situations, there is often a time and resource gap between international support for emergencies and longer term development assistance.

The Centre for African Policy & Peace Strategy points out that access to small arms continues to proliferate throughout Africa, even though only one African country manufactures them.

THE WAY FORWARD

- Supporting the capacity of the African Union, including its Stand-by Force, must be an international priority to invest in the future peace and security of Africa. This is now critical in Darfur.
- The continental and global response to emerging conflicts and post-conflict situations must be better co-ordinated and funded.
- Attention to peace-building must be matched with urgent action on small arms and, in particular, rapid progress on the international Arms Trade Treaty.

INVESTMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND TRADE

PROGRESS TO DATE

The 2007 World Bank/International Finance Corporation Doing Business report found that Africa has moved from last place to third in regional rankings for encouraging new enterprises, formal sector jobs and growth. NEPAD and the UN Economic Commission for Africa report that African Union efforts to support private sector development and improve Africa's capacity to trade have been promising.

In June 2006, an Investment Climate Facility was launched by African leaders with the support of the G8, with the aim of stimulating reform that will enable investment in Africa. Foreign Direct Investment into Africa doubled between 2004 and 2005 to an unprecedented US\$32 billion, with most of the increase going into the natural resource sectors, especially oil.

The Infrastructure Consortium for Africa was launched in 2005 and has secured funding decisions on eleven regional projects from NEPAD's Short Term Action Plan, worth US\$ 740 million.

AREAS OF CONCERN

Very little of Africa's growing Foreign Direct Investment is routed towards the continent's least developed countries.

Africa has the largest number of working poor in total employment of any region. 55% of people employed in sub-Saharan Africa do not earn enough to lift themselves and their families above the \$1 a day poverty line. Gender inequalities are slowing economic growth and hampering sustainable development in sub-Saharan Africa. There is no clear agenda to achieve the gender equality in the economic, social and political spheres that would help redress this.

Infrastructure is critically under-funded and total investment in African infrastructure is far short of the US\$22billion-a-year recommended by the World Bank. The Africa Partnership Forum found that efforts to accelerate progress in infrastructure development are being hampered by limitations in programme management, despite the growing levels of available funding.

Africa's overall share of world trade fell to some 2% in 2005, according to the World Trade Organisation. The African Union continues to express its profound disappointment at the limited progress in the Doha Development Round negotiations since 2005's Gleneagles G8.

THE WAY FORWARD

- If extreme poverty is to be halved by 2015, employment-centred growth strategies, which balance investment and growth with the imperatives of productive and remunerative job creation, are required. Microfinance to stimulate small-scale enterprise and employment, especially for women, should be scaled up as part of this.
- Progress in developing vital infrastructure must quicken, not only by increasing infrastructure funding but by addressing limitations in programme management.
- Some African governments now advocate implementing the Doha Development Agenda agreements reached for Least Developed Countries immediately, regardless of progress on negotiations in other areas.
- Outside Doha, Africa-only trade initiatives should be explored, to help African countries become more internationally competitive and build linkages between export sectors and domestic production capacity and skills.

A HEALTHY AND EDUCATED POPULATION

PROGRESS TO DATE

Commitments to as near as possible to universal access to HIV treatment have been made within the UN, the AU, the G8 and the EU contexts, and bilateral commitments to special initiatives, such as the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), have received strong backing. As a result, UNAIDS report that more than a million HIV-positive people in Africa now have access to life-extending anti-retroviral medication.

Vertical interventions, such as the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation, are helping to strengthen health systems, as well as prevent and treat disease.

The international commitment to the Education for All Fast Track Initiative has helped increase primary school completion rates in those African countries which have fulfilled their commitments to produce effective ten-year education plans.

AREAS OF CONCERN

In 2006, 25 million people in sub-Saharan Africa were living with HIV, 2.8 million adults and children became newly infected and 2.1 million people died. All these figures have worsened since 2004. Half a million people die from TB every year and the incidence of TB is growing at 1% each year. In many sub-Saharan countries, the majority of reported TB cases are women, reflecting the higher HIV infection rates.

Up to half a million babies die on the day they are born and 1.16 million babies die during the first 28 days of life each year. Malaria kills more African children than any other disease. 247,000 women die during or shortly after child birth in sub-Saharan Africa every year.

Basic health systems remain chronically short of capacity. This is being exacerbated by the 'brain drain' which sees professionally skilled Africans leaving the continent. The Africa Union has reported that only a small number of African countries have addressed health systems in their central development frameworks and most fall short of their public expenditure targets for health. Only 15 sub-Saharan African countries are on track to achieve the MDG target of halving the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water. Over a third of Africa's population lack adequate sanitation. Over 300 million Africans are killed or debilitated by waterborne diseases every year. The Africa Partnership Forum judged that little or no progress was being made on increasing food supply and reducing hunger in Africa.

UNESCO reports that one-third of all sub-Saharan African children of primary school age, some 38 million, are out of school. Many children orphaned by AIDS are out of school and a disproportionate number of girls are amongst those not completing primary school. Only one-third of sub-Saharan African countries met the goal of achieving gender equity in primary education and only one-sixth achieved it in secondary education.

Proven initiatives that scale up provision of education and health services face financing gaps. The Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and malaria needs US\$3 billion in 2007. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative has a funding gap of US\$ 575, which prevents it from eradicating the disease. The Education for All Fast Track Initiative currently faces a funding gap of US\$2.5 billion.

THE WAY FORWARD

- There is an urgent need for predictable finance, political leadership and comprehensive plans to underpin the building of health systems in Africa, tackle waterborne disease and increase agricultural productivity to reduce hunger and poverty.
- African governments which have not yet made long-term education plans now need to do so, with special attention to girls' education. Work must be intensified to develop an effective strategy for providing Africa with a network of first class universities and research centres, as well as reversing the 'brain drain'.
- Initiatives to tackle disease and scale up education must be fully funded.

PREDICTABLE AND SUBSTANTIAL FINANCING

PROGRESS TO DATE

Africa's international partners are delivering debt relief through 1996's Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and 2005's Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative. This has so far freed up US\$560 million of funds, which have been redirected into investment and social spending.

Progress has been made on the implementation of innovative sources of finance. The International Finance Facility for Immunisation bonds has raised US\$1 billion for immunisation, through the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation and supported by six donors. A French air ticket levy is expected to raise US\$250 million a year, and eight African and four developed countries have taken at least initial steps to introduce an aviation levy. An Advance Market Commitment programme for new vaccines was launched in Rome in February 2007 by ministers from five developed countries, Malawi and Ghana.

AREAS OF CONCERN

Whilst Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) has increased slightly since the G8 and the European Union's major commitments in 2005, it is clear that, at current rates of progress, governments will not meet their 2010 target to increase their annual assistance to Africa by US\$25 billion. The official ODA reporting body said to the World Bank and IMF Spring Meetings last week that 'aid will now have to increase very substantially in 2007 and 2008 if there is to be a realistic prospect of meeting 2010 targets'.

At the same time, some African governments are failing to meet agreed spending and planning targets.

THE WAY FORWARD

- Donors and countries benefiting from very high prices of commodities should be invited to increase and make more predictable their contributions to the development of Africa. G8 governments need to make urgent budget provisions of more than US\$5 billion every year, to find the US\$25 billion which they have pledged by 2010.
- Implementation of the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness must be accelerated, with particular priority given to providing the long-term, predictable assistance which enables African governments to plan and implement home-grown, long-term development strategies.