

MEMBERSHIP

The Africa Partnership Forum (APF) is comprised of Personal Representatives of:

- Heads of State or Government of the members of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD);
- The Chairperson of the African Union Commission;
- Heads of the eight African Union recognized regional economic communities;
- Head of the African Development Bank;
- Heads of State or Government of Africa's principal industrialized-country development partners;
- The President of the European Commission;
- Heads of selected international institutions, including the United Nations and its United Nations Development Programme and Economic Commission for Africa, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the World Trade Organization, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Personal Representatives are expected to be appointed by -- and to report directly to -- their Heads of State or Government, or Heads of Institution.

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Africa Partnership Forum



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BACKGROUND

The Africa Partnership Forum (APF) was established in November 2003 following the Evian G8 Summit as a way of broadening the existing dialogue between the G8 and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to include other African institutions, and Africa's major bilateral and multilateral development partners.

The APF has become a key forum at a senior political level for discussing and monitoring policy issues, priorities and commitments in support of Africa's development. Its members – Africa, G8, OECD and other development partners – all work together as equals in the Forum, and ensure linkages and coherence with other international fora.

The APF meets twice a year and is co-chaired by two representatives from Africa and two from OECD member countries. One meeting is held in Africa and the other is hosted by the G8 presidency. The first focuses on monitoring progress, and the second on policy concerns and priorities.

MEETINGS

At its 6th meeting in Maputo, Mozambique, in May 2006, the APF looked in detail at three issues key to Africa's development: infrastructure, HIV/AIDS, and agriculture.

At its 7th meeting in Moscow, Russia, in October 2006, the Forum reviewed progress in each of these areas. It identified successes, bottlenecks, and next steps. The Forum also discussed a range of further issues including: the Africa Action Plan, energy poverty, infectious diseases, market access, and resources for development.

The APF's 8th meeting in Berlin, Germany was held in May 2007, two weeks before the G8 Heiligendamm Summit. It agreed a set of recommendations on investment, peace and security, gender and climate change – that will feed into upcoming international summits.

The 9th meeting in Algiers, Algeria on 12-13 November 2007 focused on governance, financing for development, trade issues and monitoring of progress on agriculture, infrastructure and investment.

The 10th APF will be held in Tokyo, Japan on 7-8 April 2008.



H.E. Horst Köhler, President of the Federal Republic of Germany, and H.E. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, at the opening of the 9th meeting of the Africa Partnership Forum, in Algiers, Algeria on 12-13 November 2007. Copyright: Yahia/Liberte

KEY MESSAGES FROM THE 8TH APF:

✔ IT IS NOW TIME TO INVEST IN AFRICA

Africa is one of the fastest-growing and fastest-reforming continents in the world. Increased investment – both domestic and foreign – will enable Africa to boost growth rates even further, thus accelerating progress towards poverty reduction.

✔ PEACE AND SECURITY IS ESSENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT

Firm leadership is being taken by Africa itself, and the number of conflicts has dropped dramatically. But more still needs to be done -- both to provide sufficient predictable funding for Africa's peacekeeping operations and to tackle wider issues such as the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, and in resources used to fund conflict.

✔ IT IS TIME TO DELIVER FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Africa's growth and development agenda can only succeed if the continent is able to draw on all its resources and talents. Discrimination must be eliminated, and equal rights promoted, in Africa as well as globally, so that women are able to participate fully in all aspects of economic, social, and political life.

✔ CLIMATE CHANGE IS A MAJOR THREAT TO DEVELOPMENT

including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Africa. Africa is the continent which contributes least to this problem, and yet which is most vulnerable to its effects. More needs to be done both to reduce future emission levels, and to help Africa adapt to climate change impacts – including drought, desertification and flooding.

KEY MESSAGES FROM THE 9TH APF:

✔ AFRICA HAS MADE IMPRESSIVE PROGRESS IN PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE, especially since the launching of NEPAD and the African Peer Review Mechanism. This has resulted in more democratic elections, reduced conflict, increased respect for human rights, and enhanced service delivery.

✔ THOUGH IMPORTANT CHALLENGES REMAIN. The key areas identified were the implementation of the APRM, the further strengthening of Africa's peacekeeping capacity, and the implementation by Africa and development partners of commitments on issues ranging from gender equality to combating corruption.

✔ DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS HAVE RESPONDED TO AFRICA'S EFFORTS including through significant increases in development assistance and debt relief, accompanied by increases in private capital flows. Real progress has been made: economic growth has accelerated, and the proportion of people living on less than \$1 a day has fallen.

✔ BUT MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE BY BOTH SIDES OF THE PARTNERSHIP. Africa needs to maintain progress on domestic resource mobilisation, and continue efforts to prioritise supply-side competitiveness, and the development of infrastructure and agriculture. Development partners need in particular to deliver on their commitments to increase development assistance. Climate change has also now emerged as a key issue, affecting the prospects for continued economic growth and poverty reduction.