

# **African CSO's, Diaspora, and International CSO Statement at the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the Africa Partnership Forum (APF)**

**Presented by the Archbishop Njongo Ndungane  
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## **Proper Greetings and protocol**

- **Chancellor Germany**
- **President Liberia**
- **Prime minister of Denmark**
- **Foreign Affairs Minister Ghana**
- **Minister of Economic Affairs Germany**
- **CEO NEPAD Secretariat**
- **CEO OECD**
- **Other honorable guests**

It is my honor to stand before you today to present the views of civil society on the 6 thematic areas you have chosen as your agenda and the agenda for the G8.

As members of civil society we have met to deliberate on the issues before us, and have developed specific recommendations. We hope that you will not only listen to them, but that you will treat them with urgency, and act upon them.

Let me begin....

## Preamble:

We, the members of the African CSO's, Diaspora and international CSO participating in the APF/G8 dialogue have met in Johannesburg on the 18 and 19<sup>th</sup> April, in London on the 18 May, and in Berlin on the 20<sup>th</sup> May to deliberate and make inputs to the APF meeting, and the G8 Summit scheduled for Heilegnedamm, Germany in June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 2007.

We,

**Congratulate** the APF co-chairs and the G8 for putting Africa at the centre of their agenda for their deliberations;

**Note** all the commitments made by the G8 and the APF in support of the African regeneration agenda, from Kananaskis in 2002, to St. Petersburg in 2006;

**Recognize** the principles of Paris Declaration that effective aid must be harmonized to African led and owned development processes, governed by partnership between Africa and its development partners;

**Applaud** Germany for its readiness to support the Civil society process which has led to the development of the six thematic areas in Trade and Investment; Climate Change; HIV/Aids, TB and Malaria; Gender; Governance and the APRM; and Peace and Security during its Chair of the G8 and Presidency of the European Union.

**Commend** the APF for its historic decision to allow Civil Society to address this auspicious gathering in the above noted thematic areas.

**Implore** the APF to formally recognize and integrate CSO engagement as a part of all APF processes.

We, therefore, note the following:

- That the NEPAD/AU - G8/OECD partnership has contributed to positive changes taking place in Africa. However, the pace of Africa's transformation is slow, and most of the challenges that led to the creation of this partnership are still prevalent.
- That there is need to review progress and reinvigorate the APF by addressing factors that have so far undermined the full implementation of commitments made since Kananaskis.

- The need for alignment of the G8/OECD Agenda with that of NEPAD/AU, as initially envisioned.

Based on these observations, we call on the forthcoming APF and the G8 meetings to:

- Be guided, during their reflections, by the commitments made since Kananaskis, and to report on progress made thus far; and
- Re-dedicate themselves to support the full implementation of all the African and donor programmes that have so far been developed, including the African Action Plan developed by AU/NEPAD/RECs.
- Act with urgency, recognizing the impending deadline for the ODA and MDG commitments.

More specifically, we as African civil society and our partners, make the following concrete recommendations to the APF and G8 on each of six thematic areas, namely Trade and investment; Climate Change; HIV/Aids, Malaria and TB; Gender; Governance and Peace and Security.

## On Trade and Investment:

1. Past commitments must be urgently met, particularly:
  - To support the Investment Climate Facility (ICF) and the increase of funding for infrastructure to meet the required 22 billion target per annum to close the infrastructure gap,
  - To cancel outstanding debt for poor countries by 2008, and
  - To eliminate agricultural subsidies.
2. The G8 must ensure the successful conclusion of the Doha Round. Further, the G8 must ensure that the DOHA round is pro-development, and further negotiations must desist from undermining Africa's development.
3. Measures must be put in place to compensate countries that suffer losses as a result of trade liberalization, particularly development assistance in the form of capacity building to support the mainstreaming of trade into development strategies of African countries must be provided.
4. We note that the impact of the current EPA's is divisive for Africa, as they undermine Africa's regional integration efforts. We call for an urgent moratorium on the EPA's, pending a review to guarantee a fair EPA package for African countries, as well as monitoring and evaluation mechanisms put in place for their effectiveness.
5. The G8 must recognize the need to strengthen African markets by ensuring sustainable investment and by improving the supply

capacities of Africa to trade, through the support of infrastructural development, capacity building and market access for the poor.

## On Peace and Security:

1. The G8 Member States must adopt or support AU common positions on peace and security as their guide for their interaction with, and assistance to, Africa at continental, regional and national levels. Furthermore, the G8 must align international efforts for post-conflict reconstruction with African Benchmark standards that are long-term in nature.
2. We call upon all partners to recognize women's role in all aspects of peace, security, humanitarian and development initiatives, and further call on Africa and its development partners to support the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (1325), which addresses protection of women during armed conflict, and calls for an end to impunity for gender-based abuses during and after conflict, the integration of a gender perspective in peace-making and peace-keeping, and the participation of women in all levels of decision-making and issues related to prevention management and resolution of conflict.
3. Within the NEPAD framework and the G8 African Action Plan, African leaders and their development partners acknowledged that peace and security is a key condition for sustainable development, to ensure peaceful and secure environment in Africa. In line with this understanding, we recommend that:
  - Given the transformation and reconstruction agenda, G8 Member States must undertake to contribute resources for the Trust Fund for reconstruction and rehabilitation programs and ensure gender budgeting in reconstruction programmes and projects.
4. We call on the G8 and the APF to end the flow of illicit small arms and light weapons to conflict zones in Africa, and to ensure that all members of the international community are signatory to the International Arms Trade Treaty.
5. Furthermore, we call on the G8 to support and strengthen the AU peacekeeping forces and peace facilities by ensuring that financing is flexible and predictable, so that they can be responsive during armed conflict.

## On Good Governance/APRM:

We recognize that the APRM is an effective tool for African leaders to peer review each other, share best practice as well as experiences on advances in governance, socio-economic development and in building the capacity of African countries. It can, together with the other governance elements, accelerate the entrenchment of democratic culture in Africa, encouraging the rule of law and ensuring peace and stability. In view of this, we recommend that the G8 and APF:

1. Recommit to mutual accountability as a measure of good governance in line with the Paris Declaration, and to adopt a global peer review process.
2. To support Africa's efforts to combat corruption particularly through G8 Member States taking effective measures against their own citizens perpetrating corrupt acts in Africa, and committing human rights abuses.
3. To focus its support to Africa on the governance of the continent's natural resources given their increasing geo-strategic global significance and the ensuing "scramble" for Africa.
4. To reinvigorate support for capacity building for governance at national, regional and continental levels, particularly for the AU-NEPAD capacity building programme and mutual legal assistance to African countries, among others.
5. We call on African countries to re-dedicate themselves to the spirit of the APRM and ensure the full implementation of national plans of action.
6. We further call on African governments to ensure the effective involvement of CSO's as well as the Diaspora in the APRM process to ensure good governance.
7. We call on the G8 and APF to increase support for the APRM process particularly increase contribution to the APRM Trust Fund and encourage African countries to accede to this critical instrument.

## On Climate change:

We note that the G8 member states are causing the greatest damage to the environment, and that Africa, particularly its rural poor the majority of whom are women, will be hit the hardest by climate change – even though they create the least damage. We further note that climate change is caused by the unsustainable consumption of the world's

resources by the developed countries, who currently consume 80%. We therefore call on the G8 and the APF:

1. To ensure that the effects of climate change are urgently redressed by its member states, targeting those women and communities that are custodians and are closest to the environment.
2. We demand that the Western countries who cause the most environmental damage be responsible for mitigating against the impact of climate change and pay for the damage they cause.
3. The G8 and the APF must allocate adequate resources to the adaptation programmes and strategies to manage climate change in Africa, particularly targeting the agricultural production systems. Particularly support should be given to those countries that have developed National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA).
4. International and national governments must implement the Kyoto Protocol in order to reduce green house gas emission and aid must be given to vulnerable African countries to adapt to new climate conditions.
5. We call on the G8 to further support adequate access to energy for African countries. In particular, the APF should support the World Bank in the development of the African Clean Energy Investment Framework (CEIF), and ensure a priority focus on access to energy, emphasizing a mix of solutions and considering that biomass is still the main energy source for most Africans.

## **On HIV/AIDS, TB, and Malaria:**

We note that there is a genocide being created in the trade system of the world propelling the private sector to make profits and gains at the cost of the most vulnerable who are affected by HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria. We therefore call on the G8 and APF:

1. To immediately seize promoting practices that enable this injustice to continue, by ensuring that compulsory licensing is implemented, and the liberalization (or privatization) of services, e.g. health care, is halted, to afford access to health care for the poor.
2. To fulfill its promises to provide adequate financing for the fight against HIV, TB and Malaria, in a predictable and sustainable without way. The management of aid should be efficient, predictable and aligned to national priorities.
3. Recognizing that HIV/AIDS is a global crisis, we call on the G8 to deliver on the Gleneagles commitment for Universal Access and fast track

mechanisms for responding to HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria as agreed through the fast track initiative.

4. We further call on all partners to increase support and commitment to strengthening leadership and voices of women in HIV/AIDS, especially positive women networks and PLWHA, and accelerate ongoing efforts to put on the shelves microbicides which is the only female controlled method for HIV AIDS prevention.

## On Gender:

We recognize that there is need for efforts that build competencies at global and regional levels in Africa so that a greater understanding of what constitutes an enabling environment for gender equality is adhered to. We recommend the following as high priority gender areas that need the attention of the G8/APF:

1. Mainstream gender programming and budgeting as a priority under the Paris Declaration and the discourse of New Aid Modalities.
2. Supplement gender mainstreaming with specific targeted actions to empower women focusing Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) which is the basis and anchor of the African private sector.
3. Advance regional economic integration, particularly in agriculture, to fight poverty by focusing on policies that improve market access and therefore empower African women working at the continent's resource base.
4. Provide funding and political support for the implementation of gender specific actions in the Kananaskis Africa Action Plan with Germany taking leadership under its Presidency of the G8.

Your Excellencies let me once again thank you for the opportunity you have given civil society to stand before you today. We strongly believe that the journey towards Africa's growth and development must be characterized by an effective partnership between all relevant stakeholders. We applaud your decision to engage with civil society in this forum, and further wish you good luck and blessings in your deliberations.

Thank You.