



7th Meeting of the Africa  
Partnership Forum  
Moscow, Russia  
26-27 October 2006

## Press Release

### Africa, G8 and OECD identify action needed to accelerate development in Africa

*Moscow, 27 October 2006* – Over 100 representatives from Africa, G8 and OECD countries and key international organisations met this week in Moscow to identify action needed on critical issues affecting development in Africa – infrastructure, HIV/AIDS and agriculture – and looked in detail at ways to accelerate progress on tackling energy poverty and infectious diseases, two of the key themes from the St. Petersburg G8 Summit in July.

Russian President Mr. Vladimir Putin congratulated the Africa Partnership Forum for having become “a significant framework for dialogue among the representatives of African countries and their major partners where they can jointly discuss the strategy of achieving the UN Millennium Development goals on the continent.” In a message delivered to the meeting by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Alexander Saltanov, President Putin added, “I am convinced that consistent implementation of the decisions adopted during the G8 Summit in the sphere of energy security, education and fight against infectious diseases fully meets the long-term interests of African peoples.”

Having addressed the meeting, Mr. Sergey Lavrov, Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs underlined that the Forum has a special role to play as a mechanism of interregional dialogue and interaction contributing to the promotion of principles of broad multilateral cooperation. He also stressed that the APF is a unique instrument that brings together the efforts made by both African states and external partners.

APF representatives welcomed recent progress in Africa on infrastructure and HIV/AIDS, but called for more intensive efforts on agriculture. They also took stock of progress in increasing finance for development in Africa – including aid, private investment and domestic revenue. Finally, they identified critical bottlenecks and next steps for action in each of these areas, as well as on energy and infectious diseases.

“It is only by having an affordable and accessible source of energy that African countries will be able to ensure industrialisation, competitiveness of their products and the modernisation that Africa needs to join the new world order,” said Mr. Jean Delphin Mavinga-Bata, Chairperson of the Steering Committee of NEPAD and co-Chairperson of the APF. “Africa must also reinforce efforts to rid the continent of disease, which has devastating consequences on both living conditions and perspectives for development.”

The next meeting of the Africa Partnership Forum will be held in Germany in May 2007.

*The Africa Partnership Forum (APF) was established in November 2003 in the wake of the Evian Summit as a unique way of broadening the existing high-level G8/NEPAD dialogue to encompass Africa’s major bilateral and multilateral development partners. It is composed of personal representatives of the heads of state of both African Union, G8 and OECD countries. For more information about the Africa Partnership Forum, the progress reports or to receive the final communiqué from the Moscow meeting, please contact APF Communications Manager, Ms. Vanessa Vallée (Vanessa.VALLEE@oecd.org) at +33 1 45 24 94 67 or + 33 6 85 12 82 61.*