

**DRAFT REPORT OF THE 4TH MEETING OF THE AFRICA PARTNERSHIP
FORUM HELD ON 9-10 APRIL 2005, IN ABUJA, NIGERIA**

INTRODUCTION

1. The 4th Meeting of the Africa Partnership Forum was held on 9-10 April 2005 at the NICON Hilton Hotel, Abuja, Nigeria. The meeting was co-chaired by the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Nigeria, and the NEPAD secretariat. Participants from Africa included the Personal Representatives of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC), Heads or representatives of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the Representative of the African Development Bank (ADB). Development partners were represented by the Personal Representatives of the Heads of State and Government of G8 Members, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development [OECD] countries, the United Nations (UN), the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), World Bank [WB], the International Monetary Fund [IMF], the World Trade Organization [WTO] and the OECD. The full list of participants is attached for reference.

WELCOME ADDRESS

2. Ambassador O. Esan, Deputy Chief of Staff to President Obasanjo, officially opened the meeting with a message from President Olusegun Obasanjo GCFR, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chairperson of the NEPAD HSGIC. In his message, President Obasanjo extended a warm welcome to all delegates and noted the importance of the meeting in the light of the upcoming meetings of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee in Egypt, the G8 Summit at Gleneagles in July and the UN Summit on the Review of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in September 2005. Lauding the achievements of the APF he noted that this meeting presents an opportunity to assess the effectiveness of the principles of partnership and mutual accountability, given the considerable developmental challenges which Africa faces. Referring to progress in the Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), and citing the recently released Commission for Africa Report, President Obasanjo called on world leaders to concretely assist Africa to meet the MDGs. He further emphasized that partnership is based on mutual accountability and clearly defined obligations. In this regard, he expressed concern about the unfulfilled pledges made to Africa by its development partners in the past.

G8 AFRICA ACTION PLAN/COMMISSION FOR AFRICA REPORT

3. Speaking on behalf of the UK , Mr. Graham Stegmann, indicated that Africa and climate change would be the key priorities of the upcoming G8 Summit in Gleneagles. It was also pointed out that Africa would form the core of the MDGs review. Regarding the Commission for Africa Report, it was emphasised that the CFA intended to build on the work of NEPAD, particularly given the convergence of views between the CFA, Africa Action Plan and NEPAD. He emphasized that the APF could serve as a suitable forum to advise the G8 Summit in Gleneagles and ensure that concrete actions are taken. However, he further stressed that to ensure success African ownership and leadership of the process remains vital.
4. The meeting was also informed that the UK Prime Minister maintained an optimistic outlook for the G8 Summit in Gleneagles and expected a positive reaction from the G8 member states. He also informed that the Africa Personal Representatives would be submitting a report on progress made up to Gleneagles as requested by the last G8 Summit. He also set out key issues for the meeting to consider, including – did we share the same objectives; what could we do together to speed up progress; what are African priorities?
5. Describing the process leading up to the publication of the CFA report, which was characterized by extensive consultations within Africa, Mr. Michel Camdessus, a CFA Commissioner, informed that the main objective of the CFA report was to seize the opportunity to give Africa a BIG PUSH out of the poverty trap. He also stressed that it is the intention of the CFA to strengthen partnership with NEPAD. Accordingly, he pointed out that the CFA recognizes that Africa needs action now to change the direction of current efforts to assist the continent in overcoming its problems.
6. He further expressed the CFA's satisfaction with the progress made in Africa in creating the necessary conditions for sustainable development, such as the initiatives to restore peace and security in conflict ridden areas of the continent as well as the APRM processes. In this regard, he lauded the pro-active approach adopted by the continent in resolving the myriads of problems that characterized the continent in the past.
7. He also pointed out that the CFA considered the APRM to be a precious instrument and as a result the CFA would prioritise cooperation with the APRM.
8. In addition he also called for:
 - i. The doubling of funding for Africa;
 - ii. The need to take advantage of the IFF and identify additional innovative sources of financing;

- iii. The need for serious consideration of concrete measures to deal with the question of debt, including 100% debt reduction;
 - iv. The need for increased focus and assistance to countries emerging from conflict;
 - v. Increased representation of Africa within multilateral institutions;
 - vi. Improved action on issues related to HIV/AIDS, education and sanitation;
9. Responding to the presentations made by the G8 and CFA, Prof. Nkuhlu concurred with the position on the linkages between the AAP, CFA, MDGs and NEPAD.
 10. He further noted that the G8 AAP was a product of a request by NEPAD and a commitment by Africa's leadership to take the continent forward, and the CFA was a response to the experience of the NEPAD-G8/OECD partnership.
 11. However, he also noted that despite increased evidence of political commitments in Africa, progress in translating agreed commitments into concrete action remained unsatisfactory. As a way forward, he called for the determination of clear and specific commitments to achieve agreed objectives as well as the need for improved action from the international community. He also emphasised the need for increased, unearmarked, predictable, harmonised funding.
 12. Prof. Nkuhlu also informed the meeting that the NEPAD Secretariat was preparing comments on the CFA Reports and the G8 AAP.
 13. He further pointed out that while considerable progress had been made in the areas of harmonization of support and regional integration, the inverse was the reality with regards to WTO and debt. He emphasized that these failures called for the development of new mechanisms to address the impasse.
 14. Recognising the need for enhancing Africa's capacity to manage funds, he noted that measures to the effect were being carried out by NEPAD. To demonstrate the continent's determination, he highlighted various capacity building initiatives within the AU, Regional Economic Communities and other African institutions and called for increased resource flows into the African continent to address these constraints. In his view these could be addressed through the doubling of aid and additional work towards achieving the 0,7%.
 15. Concern was also expressed about the inadequacies of integrated health systems. Addressing these concerns through the Global Health Fund was deemed as important in order to assist Africa to deal effectively with diseases that are ravaging the continent and undermine the development process.

16. With regards to infrastructure, he noted the CFA's commitment of US\$ 10 billion for infrastructure and called for synergy in the number of international initiatives on water.
17. Furthermore, he highlighted that while clear commitment existed throughout the continent to deal with the issues related with agriculture and food security, there was need for pooling of resources to ensure better coordination and synergy. This he remarked would require a step change as well as the development of mechanisms to monitor and measure progress.
18. The meeting welcomed the CFA report, and supported its analysis. The main objective of the partnership was to accelerate the implementation of NEPAD and that there was strong emphasis on the importance of NEPAD as the framework for donor support. This, participants agreed, would allow for better coordination and prioritization.
19. There was a strong call for enhancing the capacity of RECs and Africa in general, particularly in the area of human resources. African representatives generally supported the CFA Report's call for more resources; and requested more information, including in the Africa Action Plan, on timeframe and attributable actions.
20. There was also a strong consensus on the importance of the private sector's role in enhancing and implementing NEPAD's goals, with calls from Mozambique, the UN, Japan, Italy, Algeria, Belgium. The Netherlands called for more focus on civil society, as well as on the private sector.
21. The EU Commission informed of its intention to give special attention to Africa as well as an increase ODA.
22. Furthermore, the EU stressed that additional focus would be given on issues of governance, particularly in support of the APRM, peace and security as well as infrastructure development and integration.
23. Participants also stressed the need to focus on increased aid flows, harmonization of donor policies, trade, human development and the creation of a viable monitoring mechanism for implementation. African representatives felt that not enough progress had been made on infrastructure, agriculture, health (both combating HIV and building health systems) and education. They also called for better coordination amongst development partners, towards NEPAD and country priorities.

24.

25. Japan called for the promotion and strengthening of cooperative relationship between the private sectors in Africa and Asia. It was agreed that this partnership should be extended to other regions of the world.
26. The need for improved intra-Africa trade was also seen as a priority. In this regard, the meeting called for the removal of internal trade barriers.
27. There was a call for leaders to commit their governments to an ambitious outcome at the WTO meeting in December 2005, including the development of performance benchmarks to measure and evaluate progress in fulfilling commitments on all sides.
28. It was recommended that African Heads of State and Government must seize every opportunity to raise these priority issues, including at the next Asia/Africa Jakarta meeting and the G8 Gleneagles Summit.

NEPAD PROGRESS REPORT

29. The focus of the NEPAD Progress Report revolved around issues related to the implementation of CAADP, STAP and e-Schools.
30. The meeting was informed of progress made in sensitizing the regions for the implementation of CAADP. The report further expressed the appreciation of NEPAD Secretariat for the support of development partners in the execution of these projects. It was also brought to the attention of participants that a continental conference was being planned for May 2005 in Accra, Ghana. This conference would allow for the harmonization of programmes and define a way forward. An outcome of the Ghana conference would be the development of a fully costed program.
31. The UNECA expressed its willingness to work with the NEPAD Secretariat and availed its regional offices for this purposes. Similarly, UNECA also indicated that the same would apply to the ICT sector.
32. The meeting was also informed of the rolling out of the e-Schools and the optic fibre cables. These projects are being implemented through a Private-Public Partnership.
33. In addition to the written report the NEPAD secretariat noted that even though progress with the implementation of APRM was a bit slow, it was nevertheless good in terms of quality. So far Ghana and Rwanda have completed the assessment phase and are in the process of putting in place a plan of action to implement corrective measures. In this regard

the meeting called for increased support for countries emerging from the APRM process in order to allow for the effective implementation of the plan of action. Furthermore the report indicated that work is also being undertaken in Kenya and Mauritius.

34. Ghana reported that the APR process had gone extremely well and that valuable lessons were learnt. However, it noted that there was a need to ensure the implementation of all recommendations emanating from the report.
35. The meeting noted that the APRM process contributed to the rising expectations of local population with regards to delivery of NEPAD programmes. It pointed out that failure to do so could lead to friction and disillusionment.
36. The meeting also noted that there was great support internationally for the APRM. It further recommended that a more detailed report should be submitted at the next meeting by a representative of the APRM Panel.
37. NEPAD also informed the meeting that preparations were underway for discussions of the CFA, G8 Gleneagles Summit and the UN MDGs Review in September. Africa's position relating to these issues will be shared with partners as the process unfolds. This will also include Africa's position on financing.
38. NEPAD further informed the meeting that it was working with the Africa Capacity Building Foundation to strengthen RECs. In this regard the NEPAD Secretariat emphasized the need for increased support for trans-boundary infrastructure projects and noted that the lack of funding remained a major constraint to project implementation.
39. There was a call for partners to commit financial resources to facilitate the implementation of national development plans to achieve MDGs.
40. This was complimented by calls for increased domestic resources mobilization, including providing support to assist African countries to increase and improve revenue generating capacity and ability.
41. The NEPAD Secretariat remarked that domestic funding could be enhanced through the following actions: developing capital markets in Africa, Government Pension Funds and improving taxation systems. The APRM process also seeks to enhance this capacity.
42. The meeting also agreed that additional work needed to be done to address the problem of youth unemployment. In this regard, NEPAD indicated that a study is being conducted and that the issue was discussed at a ministerial conference.

43. Actions going forward included focusing attention on resourcing the APRM (including through the APRM trust fund) and on follow-up to APRM reports; on infrastructure, to chart a way forward in the run up to the G8 summit; on agriculture, a costed plan of action and an assessment of the lead donor idea, as a mechanism to energise partnership, is needed after the CAADP meeting in Ghana in May.

PEACE & SECURITY

44. The meeting was briefed by the AU representative on the meeting held on the 4 April 2005, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia between the G8 and other major donors, the African Union and representatives from the RECs as well as peace and security institutions. He also provided a brief overview of the African peace and security architecture
45. The APF meeting agreed that considerable progress has been achieved in setting up the African peace and security architecture and recognized that concrete steps have been taken to prevent and resolve conflicts. Partners indicated that peace and security remained a key priority.
46. Participants noted that more progress could have been made if there had been more concrete actions on previous decisions. For example, there are gaps in funding Disarmament, Demobilisation and Re-integration; Post Conflict Reconstruction as well as Security Sector Reform. The partners needed to identify ways and means to assist Africa to fill these gaps.
47. The meeting also agreed on the need to strengthen the African Union's capacity to better manage, resolve and prevent conflicts in the continent. It was noted that the recent successes of the AU in Darfur and elsewhere may worsen the current capacity constraints but the partners reaffirmed their commitment to help overcome these short-term constraints through strategic intervention. The EU Peace Facility is to be accessed to provide support in some of these areas.
48. EU representatives also informed the meeting of their continued commitment to step up engagement in the peace and security arena, particularly by providing technical assistance in Security Sector Reform, training in logistics and military supply as well as supporting police operations such as the one being rolled in the DRC.
49. The meeting also acknowledged and expressed appreciation for the AU's willingness to step up its presence in the Eastern DRC as well as its operations in Somalia.

50. The meeting identified the urgent need for the establishment of a continental wide early warning system.
51. The OECD also informed the meeting on the states-forum on fragile states sponsored by the World Bank, UN and other agencies. It also called on the establishment of a system to track aid for fragile states. In this regard there was a proposal for the establishment of a Contingency Fund for Post Conflict countries as well as for countries affected by the volatility of international prices.
52. It was also recommended that the AU should find ways to cooperate with the envisaged Peace Building Commission.
53. Actions going forward included returning to discussion on Peace and Security, including at the MRS; finding resources to fill gaps in post-conflict reconstruction (DDR, SSR).

MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND THE FUTURE ROLE OF THE APF

54. Representatives of the OECD and ECA introduced their joint report on Development Effectiveness in Africa. This report will guide the process of Mutual Review between Africa and its development partners. They emphasized the synergy between the Mutual Review and the APRM process.
55. The report underlines the need for a large increase of aid to Africa to honor the commitments made in Monterrey and to make the realization of the MDG's in Africa possible. African governments will have to scale up human and institutional capacities to successfully absorb these expanded resource flows. The recent Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness was mentioned as an important contribution to address the challenges of scaling up aid to Africa.
56. The APF welcomed the Mutual Review Report and the joint effort by the two secretariats. It was noted that the Report offered an important, but not exclusive, contribution to the work on mutual accountability both in APF itself and in other appropriate fora. It was suggested to involve the NEPAD secretariat closely in future work in order to ensure political input and coordination with the APRM process.

57. Under the same agenda point the co-chairman from the Netherlands presented a discussion paper on the role of the APF within the emerging structure of mutual accountability. He emphasized that APF integrates both the developmental and the political aspects of the relationship between NEPAD and its partners. For its central agenda setting function a regular monitoring based on mutual accountability is indispensable. This monitoring should be supported by solid analytical work and empirical evidence.
58. The representative from the Netherlands pointed to a number of suggestions in the paper relating to a more effective mode of operation of future meetings in order to bring more focus to the monitoring role of APF. These suggestions related a.o. to the role of the co-chairs, interaction between meetings, concentrating on selective action points and intensifying cooperation between secretariats of OECD, NEPAD and ECA.
59. The meeting agreed that the APF is a valuable forum to enhance mutual accountability, and that its added value was in taking forward NEPAD objectives based on high-level, political dialogue. There was broad support for the notion that agenda setting and monitoring should form the main basis of the APF. The suggestions from the Netherlands to improve the monitoring function of APF were welcomed as a good basis for the evolving APF dialogue. Other suggestions included the limiting of the number of topics, making better use of existing material, strengthening the mandate of the two chairmen, increasing the level of representation to ministerial level once a year.
60. The meeting recommended that the APF should monitor commitments made as well as take steps to implement commitments with the view to identifying political solutions to such constraints.
61. It was agreed that the next APF (October 2005) should provide a clear mandate to OECD/ECA/AU/NEPAD to provide appropriate information for monitoring performance, to be discussed at the April 2006 meeting of the APF.
62. The partners agreed on the need for a mutual monitoring process with clearly defined benchmarks to measure progress.
63. Participants agreed that the APF could be strengthened through high-level representation as well as better preparations for meetings and more follow-up on issues in between meetings.

64. It was also recommended that the APF should continue to have two co-chairs, one African and one from the development partners. It was agreed that Nigeria and the UK should chair the next APF meeting in October

65. It was also agreed that the APF should meet twice a year, preferably in April and in October.

NEXT APF MEETING

The next meeting of the APF will be held in London on 4-5 October 2005.

Abuja on this 10th day of April 2005
