

## COMMUNIQUE

1. The 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Africa Partnership Forum (APF) was held in Rome on 10 June 2009. The meeting was opened by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the government of Italy, and was addressed by the President of Togo, the Prime Minister of Somalia, Ministers from the governments of the Republic of the Congo, Italy, Japan and Portugal, the Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, the Commissioner for Economic Affairs of the African Union, and the CEO of the NEPAD Secretariat. The meeting discussed 4 issues : the response to the economic crisis as it affects Africa; peace and security and terrorism, and in particular the problems of drug trafficking and piracy; climate change; and the future of the APF as a forum for dialogue between Africa and its development partners. The conclusions of the Forum are being transmitted to wider political processes, including forthcoming meetings of the UN, G8 and African Union, and the preparations for the next G20 Summit, and the Copenhagen Conference on climate change.

2. The meeting recognised the severe impact of the economic and financial crisis on Africa, putting at risk the hard-won gains of recent years and progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It discussed Africa's concerns on the surveillance and regulation of financial systems, the governance of the international financial institutions, the need for fiscal stimulus, and trade issues. It welcomed the progress made in particular at the G20 Summit in April 2009 in addressing these concerns. It underlined the urgency of delivering on the agenda agreed by the G20, in particular:

- the allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs);
- the acceleration of additional quick-disbursing and flexible assistance from the IMF, World Bank and the African Development Bank;
- consultations on a possible general capital increase at the African Development Bank;
- the delivery of commitments on Official Development Assistance; and
- reaching an ambitious and balanced conclusion to the Doha Development Round.

It further emphasised the importance of:

- making additional resources available to the World Bank and the African Development Fund in order to ensure the continued availability of resources during the remaining two years of IDA 15 and ADF 11.

Additionally, it mandated the co-chairs of the Forum to feed its conclusions on these and other priorities into the G8 and G20 processes. It agreed to monitor progress again at its next meeting.

3. The meeting discussed the problems of drug trafficking in West Africa and piracy off the Horn of Africa. It recognised that these were both examples of the wider problem of international organised crime, facilitated by the supply of small arms, and that the effects crossed boundaries, affecting stability, peace and security, efforts to promote good governance, economic development, and human welfare. It recognised that the problems needed to be tackled at many different levels and called for:

- enhanced international co-operation on peace-keeping, the fight against terrorism, law enforcement and maritime security;

- enhanced support for the African Peace and Security Architecture;
- continued efforts to improve governance and state capacity;
- action to restrict opportunities for the laundering of criminal assets, which it noted would also help address the wider problem of illicit financial flows including stolen assets;
- further efforts to tackle the problem of demand for drugs, which it noted was a problem affecting both sides of the partnership; and
- support from both sides of the partnership for the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia.

4. The meeting recognised the severe impact of climate change on Africa and recognised that, like the economic crisis, this was a problem not of Africa's making. It reviewed the key issues affecting Africa under the 4 pillars of the Bali Action Plan adopted in 2007: mitigation, adaptation, technology development and transfer, and finance. It also discussed the importance of measures to support the sustainable management of forest resources in the Congo Basin. It called for:

- Africa's interests to be fully taken into account in the negotiations on a new post-2012 climate change agreement, leading to the next UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC) in Copenhagen;
- the issues of adaptation and mitigation to be given equal priority in the negotiations and tackled together;
- high priority to be given to the development of new climate change funding; and
- increased support from development partners for the Congo Basin Forest Fund.

Additionally, it mandated co-chairs to transmit its views to the next African Union and G8 Summits in July, and the UNFCCC negotiations. It accepted an invitation from the Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa to host an extraordinary session of the APF in Addis Ababa in September 2009, dedicated specifically to climate change.

5. The meeting discussed ways in which the APF could further improve its relevance and effectiveness as a forum for dialogue between Africa and its development partners. Both sides to the partnership reaffirmed the unique value which they attached to the APF as a forum for bringing together high level personal representatives of Heads of State and Government, or their equivalents, together with other stakeholders, to help prepare discussion by leaders on the key issues affecting development in Africa, and to monitor progress in particular on the delivery of commitments. They have agreed a set of proposals which will strengthen the links of the Forum to key regional and global processes, and its monitoring role. These are contained in the attached note.

6. The meeting expressed its appreciation to the government of Italy for hosting the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Forum and for the warm hospitality provided to all participants. The next meeting of the APF will be held in Africa in late Autumn 2009.

## ANNEX

# Reform of the Africa Partnership Forum

### Introduction

Members of the Africa Partnership Forum, have reviewed the role and functioning of the Forum in accordance with the mandate given by leaders. They have re-affirmed the importance and value of the APF as a unique Forum combining high level political representation and a broad range of stakeholders, and as a means of catalyzing and supporting action on both sides of the partnership in support of Africa's development. This paper sets out their joint conclusions and recommendations.

### Objectives and role of the Africa Partnership Forum (APF)

- (i) The objective of the Forum is to catalyze and support action on both sides of the partnership in support of Africa's development;
- (ii) The role of the Forum is to make recommendations to leaders on decisions which need to be taken in key regional and global processes, including the G8 and G20, the AU and the UN, in support of Africa's development. The themes of the Forum should be strongly aligned to the main themes of these regional and global processes;
- (iii) The Forum also has a key role to play in monitoring the delivery of commitments by both sides of the partnership;
- (iv) Both sides of the partnership reaffirm their willingness and determination to strengthen their dialogue in support of the common principles, priorities and objectives in particular those set out in the African Union's socio-economic programme, namely the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and the attainment in Africa of the Millennium Development Goals. Both sides of the partnership will reflect and consult further on the AU/NEPAD African Action Plan on the occasion of its presentation to the Forum.

### Level of Representation and participation at APF meetings

2. The APF is a unique mechanism combining high level political representation and a broad range of stakeholders:

- (v) The strengthened and active participation of Personal Representatives of Heads of State or Government, or their equivalents, from both sides, is essential to enable the Forum to play the role identified above;
- (vi) Other members of the Forum include Personal Representatives of the Heads of African continental and regional organizations, and relevant international development institutions;
- (vii) Civil society will continue to be represented at meetings of the Forum, and consideration will be given to the possible participation of the private sector;

- (viii) The possibility of broadening the APF to include the emerging economies will be evaluated on the basis of consensus from constituencies.

### **Nature and format of meetings**

3. Improvements to the way that meetings are organized and conducted will be introduced:

- (ix) There will continue to be two meetings of the APF a year, with the first of these in the calendar year focused primarily on the main political issues to be discussed in key regional and global processes, and the second focused primarily on the monitoring and evaluation of commitments;
- (x) The first meeting will be held at political level, with the participation of Personal Representatives of Heads of State or Government, or their equivalents, and of the Heads of African continental and regional organizations, and relevant international development institutions ;
- (xi) The second meeting will typically be monitoring in character. If there are cases where it is more effective for members of the Forum, to be represented at an appropriate senior level, those members of the Forum who choose to be represented at this level will nonetheless ensure that the conclusions are fed back into the political process;
- (xii) More effective ways of recording and disseminating the conclusions of meetings will be introduced, including through the adoption of a communiqué or joint conclusions based on a draft checklist of key action points prepared in advance and enriched by the discussion;
- (xiii) Possible additions to the main plenary format will be kept under review, including ad hoc working groups to examine issues in greater detail between plenary meetings, and break-out sessions during the plenary itself to discuss specific issues.

### **Strengthening the role of co-chairs**

4. The role of co-chairs will be strengthened to improving the effectiveness of the Forum. This is not limited to the chairing of sessions and reaching of conclusions.

- (xiv) There will be close consultation between co-chairs to identify the main strategic issues well in advance of plenary meetings, and to prepare and manage these meetings, with two preparatory co-chair meetings before each plenary meeting;
- (xv) The co-chairs will also play a strengthened role in advocacy and communication in between plenary meetings, including in ensuring that the joint conclusions of meetings are fed into the political process.

### **Secretariat arrangements**

5. Secretariat support will be provided jointly by the AU/NEPAD institutions on the African side, and a Support Unit on the G8/OECD side, with a sharing of responsibilities under the direction of co-chairs. Further consideration will be given to whether the Secretariats might be asked to prepare a concise annual report on APF issues and proposed courses of action.