

## **SPEECH OF PRESIDENT ABDELAZIZ BOUTEFLIKA ON THE OCCASION OF THE 9<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE AFRICAN PARTNERSHIP FORUM**

The President of the Republic of Algeria, Mr. Abdelaziz BOUTEFLIKA made a speech on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November on the occasion of the 9<sup>th</sup> session of the Forum for Partnership with Africa. Following is the full text of this speech:

Excellency President of the Federal Republic of Germany,  
Your Highnesses,  
Ministers and Personal Representatives of the Heads of States and Governments,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to bid you welcome amongst us and assure you that my country shall spare no effort to contribute to the full success of your meeting.

We are especially honoured of the presence among us of His Excellency Horst Köhler, President of the Federal Republic of Germany;

His participation to this opening ceremony is a strong signal of the importance attached by Germany and the G8, which his country currently chairs, to this forum and to its crucial role in furthering the partnership between Africa and the developed countries.

We are aware, Mister President, of the personal interest that you have for Africa and its future. Your initiative, "Partnership with Africa" is a testimony to this commitment and has bolstered the efforts displayed to this very end at bilateral and multilateral levels.

As you have pointed out on several occasions, "Africa is a continent with a future". This conviction is also our conviction. The prosperity of Africa also means the prosperity of its partners. It is in this spirit that we conceive of our relationship with the G8 countries, a relationship we wish to be of mutual benefit, one that fully breaks away with the logic of subservience that prevailed in the past.

As we have often reiterated, through the principles and objectives of NEPAD, the development of the continent in priority challenges the Africans themselves. This development should meet the actual expectations of African people and can be achieved only with their active participation. It rests first and foremost on the mobilization and valorization of the natural resources available to this continent.

The accompanying of such efforts by the development partners and the international community in general of course remains a prerequisite that may not be shirked. For this accompanying to be really effective, it should be focused round priorities defined by the Africans themselves.

Within the framework of this Forum for Partnership with Africa, the premier objective should remain striving towards a better pairing of our efforts so that the dynamics of dialogue, cooperation in solidarity, and mutually profitable partnership put in motion since Kananaskis fully meets our hopes and expectations.

The present gathering will be able to valorize the important progress achieved along such lines. Moreover, it shall not fail to find out the ways and means required to consolidate such advancement. It is pointless to emphasize the magnitude of the challenges to be addressed as Africa, in the current circumstances, will probably be the only continent that will fail to meet the Millennium objectives set for 2015. It is yet time to act, to act promptly, to act in unison.

This is the message that we have retained from the Heiligendamm G8 Summit.

This message should inspire and guide your discussions.

Mister President,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The African countries are all engaged in huge reform programs. Though a positive assessment of the first outcomes of such reforms can be made, there is little doubt that the results still fall short of the mark.

Thus, in the economic sphere, the creditable economic growth rates achieved by a great number of African countries have not been matched by a significant reduction of poverty. In matters of health, education, employment, housing, and gratification of the vital needs of populations, challenges remain substantial, and in need to be addressed urgently.

The processes involved in recasting and streamlining the institutions in charge of development have shown the long path still left ahead of us before we enjoy institutions that have the capacity efficiently to meet the quantitative and qualitative requirements of our societies and of our economies. These processes have brought to the fore the crucial import of the governance issue as part of the manifold dynamics relating to the transformation of societies. Governance, good governance, in fact constitutes the core lever and the main engine for development.

This is the reason why we are henceforth addressing governance with unflinching care for governance. This is also the reason why we have proposed that the leading theme of this our meeting of today be that of governance as it relates to development.

Obviously, success in the development process is conditional on improving and enshrining sustained integration of the rules and standards of good governance into all the areas of activity. Our efforts to this end are geared especially towards transparency in the management of public finance, towards the creation of an institutional environment that constitutes an incentive for national and international investments, and also towards combating the terrible plague of corruption.

Combating corruption has in particular become one of our major concerns. More than in anywhere else, each act of corruption taking place on our continent has dire consequences on socio-economic development.

Eradicating this phenomenon requires the effective mobilization and active commitment of all the African countries, and yet also the effective mobilization and active commitment of all their development partners;

The initiatives adopted in this regard by OECD and the World Bank are indeed praiseworthy, but their scope is still limited. Yet, the fostering of governance in Africa may not be reduced to the sole combating of corruption, nor be the sole motivation for such combating.

Mister President,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The establishing of the African Peer Review Mechanism is a response to such concerns; This mechanism expresses a will to go beyond and break away with those approaches to, and methods for, governance, whose limits have been demonstrated, approaches and methods that have not enabled the continent to score progress. Over half of the member countries of

the African Union have already accessed the Mechanism; meanwhile, the review processes are taking place in a growing number of countries.

The effort displayed through the African peer Review Mechanism is to be seen as part of a global approach striving to generate a culture of transparency and to instal institutions whose role is to reduce the areas of armed conflicts, to broaden the loci where peace and stability prevail, to foster constitutional legitimacy and people representation, to establish and enshrine democratic governance systems based on broad participation, and to encourage regional and continental integration processes .

Algeria has fully endorsed this logic of African renewal. We have indeed committed deep reforms geared towards a sustainable enshrinement of democracy, of the rule of law, of political pluralism, of freedom of expression, of the protection and fostering of human rights, of equal opportunity, and of social justice.

These reforms have been applied to all the strategic areas of our society's life.

The policy of civil concord and national reconciliation endorsed by referendum by the Algerian people, has brought about a restoration of peace and stability and made it possible to channel the whole nation's efforts and resources towards a new take off of the country's socio-economic development.

Today, Algeria is a huge institutional, economic, social, and cultural work site, moved as it is by a staunch determination to mobilize all its resources and devote them towards calling into play such instruments as may enable the country to be attuned to the requirements of modernity;

We are nurturing the same ambition for our continent, a continent whose development and prosperity remain our constant concern and the object of all our endeavours.

I wish full success to your works and thank you for your kind attention.