



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

Agenda Notes

1. Members of the Forum may find it useful to have the following brief notes on the agenda, to be read in conjunction with the more detailed papers which follow.

2. Following introductions on the first day, the first substantive agenda item will be progress reports on infrastructure, HIV/AIDs and agriculture, following up the discussions on each of these subjects at Maputo. The cover note [APF/MOS-2006/06] explains the approach the APF Support Unit has taken in drafting each of these progress reports [APF/MOS-2006/07 to 09]. The Support Unit has tried to keep the papers as practical as possible, focussing on an overall assessment of progress, and within this on successes, bottlenecks and next steps. We have also attempted to design a clear and accessible format, adopting a ‘traffic light’ system of scoring progress against a limited number of key issues. We have consulted closely with others, in particular the NEPAD Secretariat, and are very grateful for the help we have received. The responsibility for errors and omissions rests, nonetheless, fully with the Support Unit. With that caveat, the overall judgement is that there has been significant progress under both infrastructure and HIV/AIDs, although more remains to be done. The Support Unit has found it more difficult to identify comparable progress under agriculture, and we have therefore given this an overall score of ‘red’ – in effect a “wake-up call”. The meeting might like to consider:

- Is this overall judgement across the three areas broadly right?
- If it is, how can we now give fresh momentum to agriculture?
- What do we need to do to make sure that African countries and development partners maintain momentum on infrastructure and HIV/AIDs?
- Finally, is the reporting format – which has been designed specifically for the APF – a useful one?

3. The next agenda item is G8 Summit Outcomes [APF/MOS-2006/10]. This will be an opportunity to inform the full membership of the Forum about the key themes and conclusions of the G8 St Petersburg Summit in July. This will help set the context for the more detailed discussions later in the meeting on energy and infectious diseases. The document contains relevant extracts from the St Petersburg papers and conclusions.

APF/MOS-2006/05

4. Following lunch, there will be a presentation by the NEPAD Secretariat on the Africa Action Plan. This will be circulated separately as APF/MOS-2006/11.

5. The final agenda item for Day I is energy poverty [APF/MOS-2006/12], following up discussions earlier in 2006 among African Ministers, in the G8 and elsewhere. The paper assesses the importance of this issue to the achievement of the MDGs, reviews existing statements and commitments, and attempts to identify the main successes, key bottlenecks and next steps, together with responsibilities and suggested indicators (which are summarised in Table 6.1 at the end of the paper). It thus attempts the same practically focussed approach as taken in the progress reports on infrastructure, HIV/AIDs and agriculture, although it does not, at this point, attempt to score progress. It finds that Africa is not only lagging behind in terms of energy consumption per capita, but also that this will keep declining in the near future if production capacity is not significantly developed. It concludes that African governments and the international community should focus particularly on improving financial viability in the sector through investing in infrastructure and expanding energy markets. To achieve this, governments will need to improve regulatory frameworks and regional co-operation in order to generate increased investment from development partners, the private sector and domestic sources. The meeting might like to consider:

- Is the assessment in the paper correct?
- Does Table 7.1 provide the right monitoring framework?
- What can be done to inject new momentum in order to accelerate progress?

6. The first agenda item for Day II is infectious diseases [APF/MOS-2006/13], again following up discussions among African Ministers, in the G8 and elsewhere. The structure of this paper mirrors that of the paper on energy poverty. The paper assesses the importance of this issue, reviews existing statements and commitments, and attempts to identify the main successes, key bottlenecks, next steps, and responsibilities, together with suggested indicators (all of which is again summarised in Table 5.1 at the end of the paper). The paper finds that the 'vertical' approach typically followed by many international initiatives does not allow health systems to cope with a wide range of diseases, some of which are clearly receiving insufficient attention. The main challenge is to try to link up domestic efforts and international programmes in ways that reinforce the institutional capacity of health systems to cope with infectious diseases across the board. The meeting might like to consider:

- Is the assessment in the paper correct?
- Does Table 4.1 provide the right monitoring framework?
- What can be done to inject new momentum in order to accelerate progress?

7. The second agenda item on Day II is market access. A note on this is being drafted by the NEPAD Secretariat, and will be circulated separately as APF/MOS-2006/14. Members of the Forum will note that the issue of market access for agricultural exports for Africa is also one of the indicators used in the progress report on agriculture (along with the issue of export subsidies).

8. The third agenda item on Day II is resources for development in Africa [APF/MOS-2006/15]. This is designed, firstly, to brief members of the Forum on total aid flows, taking into account recent survey data; and secondly, to put these in the context of other financial resources available for development, including international private capital flows, debt relief, domestic revenue and remittances. Its findings point both to the continued importance of official aid as the main external

financing instrument, and to the increasing role of non-aid flows, notably FDI and remittances. This will be an information session including a short introduction to the paper, followed by an opportunity for comments and reactions. Members of the Forum may wish to suggest what future work they would like to be done in this area.

9. Following this, there will be a short information report on the establishment of the Support Unit, before moving to concluding and any other business. This will include agreeing the date and venue of the next meeting and the final communiqué. The Support Unit will have prepared a draft text of this during the course of the meeting, under the guidance of the co-Chairs, in order to help expedite the discussion. The co-Chairs will hold a press conference in the early afternoon after the conclusion of the meeting.