

Co- Chairs Summary of the 10th APF

June, 2008

The 10th Africa Partnership Forum was held on April 7-8, 2008. Participants of the meeting were fully engaged in the meeting and had a fruitful discussion on the three themes, namely, Environmental Issues and Climate Change, AU/NEPAD Africa Action Plan, Boosting Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction. Attached papers are the chairs summary of the meeting. We, co-chairs of the meeting, will communicate this chairs summary to relevant competent organizations.

[Annex 1: Environmental Issues and Climate Change]

[Annex 2: AU/NEPAD Africa Action Plan]

[Annex 3: Boosting Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction]

Ambassador Gebreab Newai, Co-chair for Ethiopia

Ambassador Barfuor Adjei-Barwuah, Co-chair for Ghana

Ambassador Masato Kitera, Co-chair for Japan

Ambassador Remo Gautschi, Co-chair for Switzerland

[Annex 1]: Environmental Issues and Climate Change

Situation in Africa

Climate change presents a major threat to economic growth and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Africa. Although Africa contributes least to greenhouse gas emission, it is most vulnerable to climate change. Political will is necessary. Cost of inaction is much higher than cost of tackling this issue now. Adaptation, capacity building, technological transfer are keys to address this issue. Good meteorological observatory systems for climate information are also fundamental for climate risk management. Moreover it is advisable for Africa to develop clean and renewable energy sources using affordable technologies and to utilize private sector. The implementation of the Bali Action plan will help address these challenges, which will be included in the agenda at future UNFCCC meeting.

Currently, Africa receives very little from the Clean Development Mechanisms. Though forests remain a major economic resource for most African countries, avoiding deforestation is not currently included in the Clean Development Mechanisms. The potential of forests in Africa as a carbon sink is largely untapped. African women are particularly vulnerable to the impact of climate change, because of their central role in socio-economic development.

Steps Forward

Bearing the above-mentioned in mind, co-chairs noted calls from participants at the 10th APF for the following actions;

- (i) More focus on adaptation measures in Africa;
- (ii) Additional resources in support of adaptation and mitigation;
- (iii) Mainstreaming climate change issues into Africa's economic planning and management, while taking into consideration situations in each country;
- (iv) Further recognition of Africa's development needs;
- (v) Support for effective Africa's representation in future negotiations on climate change;
- (vi) Conducting joint study among African Union Commission, NEPAD Secretariat and the APF Support Unit to promote greater access for Africa to the world carbon market and report it to the 11th APF;
- (vii) Establishing through joint efforts, an effective post-2012 framework with participation of all countries;

(viii) Strengthening support for AU/NEPAD environmental action plan, Clim Dev Africa program, Africa Climate Center as well as initiatives on information and early warning systems and knowledge production.

(ix) Support for existing multilateral initiatives and consideration of ways to strengthen the international funding architecture while recognizing the need to seek complementarities of funding as well as coordination of donors on the ground;

(x) Enhanced cooperation between various initiatives in line with the principles of the Paris Declaration.

(xi) Encouraging partnership for technological transfer including public and private partnership, in particular for cleaner production and renewable energy.

(xii) Providing additional financial support for capacity building for African institutions and implementation of regional programs;

(xiii) Supporting programs for reducing vulnerability of women to the impacts of climate change.

(xiv) Fulfilling commitment already made on environmental initiatives in Africa and further monitoring the progress in a future APF.

(xv) Promoting WTO negotiations which contribute to solutions of climate change.

We also welcome the WTO negotiations on environmental goods and services..

[Annex 2]: AU/NEPAD AFRICA ACTION PLAN

In introducing the AU/NEPAD African Action Plan (AAP), it was stated that

- the AU/NEPAD AAP outlines the current key and aligned priorities for Africa, *which are expected to advance sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction*, particularly those with high potential impact on regional integration and requires co-ordination at the continental level.
- the Plan embodies the AU/NEPAD principles of African ownership and responsibility, good governance, self reliance, gender equality, promotion of partnership with stakeholders within Africa and with the international community. The AU/NEPAD AAP has been developed through extensive continent-wide consultations and represents African minimum priorities for implementation in the short to medium terms.
- the set of programmes outlined in the AU/NEPAD AAP, is part of an integrated interventions with the requirement to keep Africa on track to meet the MDGs.

In this regard:

The APF welcomed being informed about the AU/NEPAD AAP and, co-chairs observed that a number of development partners are already supporting some programs in it and that there is a need to update some of the estimated figures in the Plan. They underscored the importance of identifying alternative and innovative financing arrangement, including private public partnerships.

- Africa, on its part, is exploring various mechanisms for the mobilization of domestic resources for the implementation of key programs. However, there is a need to accelerate the pace of implementation of Africa's priority programs in order to enable the continent to eradicate poverty, and to meet the MDGs.
- The African side undertook to mobilize the relevant institutions, particularly the African Development Bank to update the status of the projects under the AAP, clarifying which projects are already underway, where key critical bottlenecks exist, and what needs to be done to unblock these bottlenecks. The reviewed AU/NEPAD AAP and its constraints will be discussed at the next APF.

[Annex 3] Boosting Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction

Situation in Africa

There was a general appreciation of African performance in terms of economic growth but also concerns that it may remain fragile and could not lead to as much poverty reduction as expected. Most of the discussion focused therefore on how agriculture and infrastructure development can strengthen the pro-poor and the gender component of the African growth. Human resource development, science and technology social protection as well as private sector especially SMEs can play important role in creating wealth and employment, as well as reducing poverty.. Progress in governance can also improve the business climate and help increasing local and foreign investment – notably through the APRM. Further attention should be given to productive sectors. There is a need to invest efforts in these sectors, in order to increase production and employment levels.

Steps forward

In this regards, co-chairs noted calls from participants at the 10th APF for the following actions;

1. Agriculture

- (i) Support for implementing CAADP with emphasis on financial support and analysis on enhanced agricultural investment programs.
- (ii) Further attention to food security given the rise of prices of food.
- (iii) Support for identification of and investment in marketable agricultural products
- (iv) Support for better access of agricultural products to the market.
- (v) Further data and analytical work on renewable resources including bio-fuels and non-food crops in the bio-fuel industry in order to enable informed and appropriate decision making.
- (vi) Better access to fertilizers and storage facilities in line of the actions identified in the AU Summit.
- (vii) Urgent conclusion of the Doha Development Round this year, taking into account Africa's development needs. And strengthened support for the "Aid for Trade" initiative as a valuable complement to Round.

2. Infrastructure

- (i) Encouraging further domestic resource mobilization by African countries and other resource mobilization with particular emphasis on private financing, region-wide infrastructure and Africa's political commitment to it by its inclusion in national

development plans.

(ii) Enhanced capacity building, in particular, for project preparation, maintenance and management.

(iii) Further develop and mobilize schemes for enhancing private sector in Africa.

3. ICT

(i) Creating private sector enabling environment including independent ICT regulatory frameworks.

(ii) Developing ICT skills and increased use of ICT applications.

4. Gender

(i) Capacity development to promote the participation of women in decision making processes.

(ii) Entrepreneurial development of micro-credit facilities.