

REPORT OF THE
JOINT MEETING OF THE THIRTEENTH SUMMIT OF THE
HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION
COMMITTEE (HSGIC) OF THE NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR
AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD) SHARM EL SHEIKH,
EGYPT, 19 APRIL 2005.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Thirteenth Summit of the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC) of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), was held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, on Tuesday, 19 April 2005, at the invitation of H.E President Hosni Mubarak, President of the Republic of Egypt. The Summits was chaired by H.E. Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chairperson of the HSGIC and the APR Forum.

2. The following dignitaries attended the HSGIC Summit:
 - I. His Excellency, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the Democratic People's Republic of Algeria;
 - II. His Excellency, Mr. Festus Mogae, President of the Republic of Botswana;
 - III. His Excellency, Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of Congo;
 - IV. His Excellency, Mr Muhammad Hosni Mubarak, President of the Republic of Egypt;
 - V. His Excellency, Mr Omar Bongo Ondimba, President of the Republic of Gabon;
 - VI. His Excellency, Mr. Bingu wa Muthakira, President of the Republic of Malawi;
 - VII. His Excellency, Mr Armando Emilio Guebuza, President of the Republic of Mozambique;
 - VIII. His Excellency, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

- IX. His Excellency, Mr Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone;
- X. His Excellency, Mr Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir, President of the Republic of Sudan;
- XI. His Excellency, Mr Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Republic of Ethiopia;
- XII. His Excellency , Mr Pakalitha Mosilili, Prime Minister of Lesotho;
- XIII. His Excellency, Mr. Jacob Zuma, Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa;
- XIV. Rwanda, Cameroon, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Mauritius, Sao Tome, Senegal, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zambia were also represented;
- XV. Partner institutions including ADB, OSAA, UNDP, and UNECA were in attendance;
- XVI. Regional Economic Communities (RECs) including ECCAS, EAC, CEN-SAD and SADC were also present;
- XVII. Members of the Panel of Eminent Persons (APR Panel) and NEPAD Steering Committee also attended.

WELCOME

3. H.E President Hosni Mubarak welcomed his colleagues to Sharm El Sheikh and paid tribute to all dignitaries attending the Summit. He expressed the commitment of the people and Government of Egypt to the APRM and NEPAD. He also praised the achievements of the AU and NEPAD in relation to conflict resolution and peace keeping on the African continent.

President Mubarak also welcomed the support that NEPAD has received from the G8, EU, and member countries of the OECD and further emphasized the need for Partners to honor their commitments, in particular in relation to the implementation of the G8Africa Action Plan and the achievement of MDGs. At the same time, he offered the services of Egyptian institutions of research and training in the

development agenda of the African continent, in particular assistance in the area of the capacity building needs of African institutions.

The President concluded his welcome address by stressing the view that the future of Africa lay in the hands of Africans themselves, as currently demonstrated by the commitment of African leaders to NEPAD and their collective desire to achieve a secure and prosperous continent.

OPENING

4. The Chairman of the HSGIC and the APRF, H.E. President Olusegun Obasanjo, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and the Government and People of Egypt, for the warm reception that he and his colleagues had received as well as the hospitable arrangements for the Summit. He praised the people of Egypt for their commitment and President Mubarak's unwavering leadership in the implementation and advancement of NEPAD and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).

The Chairman informed his colleagues that steady progress was being recorded in the implementation of NEPAD, particularly in strengthening the human capacity of RECs as shown by the recent recruitment of focal points for the implementation of the NEPAD Environment Action Plan in five RECs, as well as the partnership with the Africa Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), and the ADB to develop long-term capacity development programmes for RECs.

Furthermore, President Obasanjo reported that significant progress is also recorded in the area of Peace and Security as evidenced by the peaceful resolution of the situation in Togo and the ongoing efforts in Côte d'Ivoire, Sudan and Guinea Bissau.

The Chairman informed the Summit that in November, he convened a workshop of the AU Commission, the NEPAD Steering Committee, the RECs, and African Development Bank (ADB) to examine avenues for improved capacity building of RECs and the need to fast-track the implementation of key NEPAD infrastructure projects. The workshop was convened on 8-9 March 2005, in Abuja, Nigeria. He also referred

participants to the NEPAD Progress Report for details of the outcomes of the workshop.

5. The Chairman also informed the Summit of the participation of H. E. President Wade and himself in the launching of the Digital Solidarity Fund in Geneva. It was a successful event because it raised awareness of the desire in Africa and the need to bridge the gap through purposeful financing. He thanked President Wade for his work in this area and called for follow-up on the subject. He also called on the Steering Committee to be actively involved in the management of the Digital Solidarity Fund.
6. On the international front, President Obasanjo noted the growing consensus and convergence of views on Africa. It is, therefore, important to examine the thrusts and conclusions of the following reports and their implications for Africa.

The developments include:

- The United Nations Millennium Project Report, released in January 2005;
- The Commission for Africa Report, published on 11 March 2005;
- The G8 Summit to be held in Gleneagles in July 2005; and,
- The 5th Anniversary Summit of the launch of the United Nations Millennium Goals (MDGs) to be held in September 2005.

President Obasanjo also stressed the need to make use of the opportunities presented by all these developments so as to get maximum benefit for Africa. He called on African institutions to critically examine these reports and come up with an African position.

7. In closing his opening remarks the Chairman thanked the NEPAD Steering Committee and the Secretariat for their continued support to the HSGIC and its work. He also thanked all stakeholders and development partners whose continued support has enabled NEPAD

to achieve so much in a short space of time. He called on all stakeholders to continue to build on this foundation in order to deepen the economic development and solid progress of Africa.

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT ARMANDO EMILIO GUEBUZA

8. The Chairman specially welcomed President Guebuza of Mozambique, who, as the newly elected President of the Republic of Mozambique, was attending the Summit for the first time. In response President Guebuza thanked the Chairman and his colleagues for their warm welcome to him in their midst and also reiterated Mozambique's commitment to NEPAD, and his country's readiness to receive the first APRM country support mission by July 2005.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

9. The agenda was adopted without amendments.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE APRM

10. The Summit noted the report presented by Madame Angelique Savane, Chairperson of the APRM Panel (APRP), which covered the period between the last APRF held in Algeria, in November 2004 to date. She reviewed the progress being made in the review processes in Ghana, Rwanda, Mauritius, and Kenya and noted the increasing number of countries indicating their willingness to voluntarily accede to the APRM.

The Chairperson of the APRF reminded the Summit of its promise at the meeting in Algeria in November 2004, to deliver at least two country reports, that is on Ghana and Rwanda. The APR Panel Chairperson revealed that this would not be possible due to capacity constraints, both at national and APRM Secretariat level, as well as the complexities of the review process itself which led to delays in the finalization of the reports. The Chairperson of the APR Panel, however, informed the Summit that the reports from Ghana and Rwanda would be ready by end of May. She further informed the Summit of the progress by other countries in the review process,

notably, Mauritius and Kenya, as well as visitations by country support missions to Uganda, Nigeria, Algeria, and Senegal.

11. The Summit acknowledged the complexities of undertaking APRM reviews, more so because this is the first time that such a process is being embarked upon in Africa and it is a very unique process worldwide. The Chairman, therefore, called on the APRM Panel to develop an information brochure on the procedures and process of the APRM review process so as to ensure that other countries are duly informed of the correct procedures to follow in order to promote accuracy, credibility and integrity of the APRM review process.

12. The Summit also noted Sudan's intention to voluntarily accede to the APRM, and resolved to postpone her signing of the APRM Memorandum of Understanding to the next APRF. H.E Al-Bashir thanked all Africans, and the African leaders for the support that Sudan continues to receive from them.

NEPAD PROGRESS REPORT

13. The Summit noted the report of the work of the NEPAD Steering Committee and Secretariat, by Prof. Wiseman Nkuhlu, which covered the period between the last HSGIC Summit held in Algeria, in November 2004 to date.

Capacity Building of RECs

14. **The Summit Noted the** progress being made in building the capacity of RECs in implementing the NEPAD Programmes, and **thanked** the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and ADB for their support.

15. **The Summit also Noted the** progress being made in the development of a Project Information Management System and Database that is aimed at facilitating project promotion, marketing and information sharing among RECs throughout the continent.

16. **The Summit encouraged** partners, in particular the African Development Bank, the Africa Capacity Building Foundation, UNEP, the Development Bank of Southern Africa, to continue to work with RECs to strengthen their capacity as well as facilitate speedy implementation of key NEPAD projects.

Implementation of CAADP

17. The Summit noted the progress achieved since the last HSGIC Summit in respect of the implementation of Comprehensive Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), particularly the series of workshops being held in order to finalize sub-regional project priorities. The Summit appealed to the Heads of State and Government to participate the final rap-up workshop hosted by President Kufor in Ghana on 5-6 May. The Summit called on international partners to concretely support the speedy implementation of CAADP, given the urgent need to address the food security challenges on the continent.

Implementation of Key Infrastructure Projects

18. The Summit noted the progress being made in the utilisation of the Project Preparation Facility (PPF) under the management of the ADB, and called on countries to submit projects, for further consideration by the ADB, in order to fully utilize the Facility. The Summit urged greater responsibility through leadership, ownership, and commitment in the development and implementation of projects that have been so far prioritized for implementation by the RECs and other partners. The Summit also noted that the latest Report by ADB had shown seven new projects and two additional studies under consideration, at an estimated cost of US\$500m. In addition, The Summit was also informed of the ADB's preparation of 4 multi-national projects, including the COMTEL project, and the Benin-Togo-Ghana electricity interconnection project.
19. The Summit, however, called on RECs and ADB to immediately implement the outcomes of the workshop which was held in Abuja on 8-9 March as a way of speeding up the implementation of NEPAD Projects.

Implementation of the ICT Projects

20. The Summit noted the progress being made in the implementation of the e-Schools Initiative and called on Heads of State and Government in the participating countries to launch at least one of the six e-Schools in their countries. The Summit noted the progress being made with the implementation of the East African Submarine Cable (EASSy). It also highlighted the need to urgently implement the Optic Fibre Project in a manner that would benefit both inland and coastal countries of Africa.
21. H.E. Mr. Bingu wa Muthakira, President of the Republic of Malawi briefed the Summit on the Development of the Shire-Zambezi Waterway infrastructure project which his country will be formally submitting to the SADC Secretariat for further consideration by the NEPAD Secretariat as a priority infrastructure project.
22. Prof. Nkuhlu concluded his report by reminding the Summit of the initial understanding given to the Steering Committee by the Heads of State and Government that NEPAD is a long-term socio-economic programme whose objectives will not be met overnight, due in part to the life-span of project cycles. However, he stressed that in the past three years, a solid foundation had been laid upon which NEPAD will thrive. He emphasized that sustainable development is a process that cannot be rushed and highlighted NEPAD Achievements in the following areas:
 - NEPAD has changed the development paradigm about Africa by getting the development partners to accept agriculture and infrastructure as priorities for Africa;
 - Transformed the dialogue with industrialized countries into one that is based on mutual accountability and respect; and finally there has been increased co-operation in the implementation of major projects such as the Gas Pipe line in West Africa. Thus deepening the economic integration of the continent.

Investment of Government Managed Employee Pension Funds

23. The Summit commended the NEPAD Steering Committee for its efforts in exploring the use of Employee Pension Funds in the context of domestic resource mobilization for investment. The Chairman

noted the importance of African countries developing innovative funding mechanisms for NEPAD projects.

24. The Summit mandated the NEPAD Steering Committee to work closely with African Ministers of Finance to develop this initiative further with the view to submit a final report for the next Summit of the HSGIC.

COORPERATION WITH DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

25. **The Summit acknowledged** the steps that have been taken in order to implement the G8 Africa Action Plan. However, it expressed concern about the low level of financial support which falls far short of what is required to implement NEPAD and to achieve the MDGs.
26. **The Summit further acknowledged** the need for Africa to speak with one voice at the G8 Gleneagles Summit and to be specific about what the continent expects from its development partners. The Summit mandated the Chairman of the AU and the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC) to be the spokesperson on behalf of the continent.
27. **The Summit also discussed** the Commission for Africa Report, and noted that while the initiative was welcome, it is imperative that there should be a collective African response to the report. A collective African response to the Commission for Africa Report will therefore be presented for adoption at the next AU Summit in July.
28. **The Summit recognized that** the challenges of addressing poverty and underdevelopment in the continent remains formidable and that there is a need for Africa to do more through economic integration and greater commitment to accelerating the implementation of NEPAD. Africa must also continue to strengthen its own institutions and mobilize its own resources, including speeding up the Review Mechanism of APR.
29. **The Summit called on** the international community in particular the G8 countries to commit itself to concrete actions and a clear time table on the following matters:

- Take action to double development assistance within three years, through agreed front-loading mechanism.
 - Establishment of US\$10 billion fund to accelerate the implementation of NEPAD trans-boundary infrastructure priority projects.
 - Establishment of US\$10 billion fund to accelerate planning and implementation of expanded national development plans that would enable African countries to achieve MDGs in the short term, whilst steps are being taken to double development assistance as proposed above.
 - 100% cancellation of debt for poor countries as soon as possible.
 - Ensure successful outcomes of WTO negotiations and take immediate steps to remove trade distorting subsidies.
 - Continue to promote NEPAD as the framework for accelerating social, economic and political reforms of the continent as well as continue to mobilise increased international support for it.
30. **The Summit called on** all Heads of State to participate effectively in the upcoming UN Summit marking the 5 years anniversary of the launch of the MDGs, and to ensure that Africa speaks with one voice.
31. **The Summit called on** the NEPAD Steering Committee to further liaise with African Ministers of Finance on financing options and make recommendations on the most appropriate options suitable to Africa's needs. These options would then be considered as part of an AU response to the Report of the Commission for Africa, and its engagement with the G8 at the Gleneagles and the MDGs process.
32. **The Summit called on** the NEPAD Secretariat to continue to work closely with the African Union Commission for the production of a single MDG report for Africa for consideration by African leaders in July this year.

INTEGRATION OF NEPAD INTO AU STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES

33. **The Summit noted** the views presented by the Steering Committee on Integration of NEPAD into AU Structures and Processes and **mandated** the Chairman of the HSGIC to finalise the matter with the Chairperson of the AU Commission.

DATE OF NEXT SUMMIT

34. 3rd APRF will be held in Abuja, Nigeria, on 19th June 2005.

CLOSURE

The Chairman thanked all participants, and closed the Summit.