



## THE AU/NEPAD AFRICAN PLAN OF ACTION

## Introduction

1. At the 12<sup>th</sup> Summit of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC) in Algiers, Algeria, the Head of State and Government identified five priority areas that would form the basis for the speedy implementation of NEPAD. At the 13<sup>th</sup> HSGIC Summit held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, they reaffirmed the priorities which were also to form the basis of their engagement with G8 leaders during the G8 Summit in Gleneagles. The same priorities were subsequently endorsed by the 5<sup>th</sup> AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in July 4-5 in Libya. These priorities were:
  - i. Peace and Security
  - ii. Food Security and Agriculture
  - iii. Infrastructure, including ICT
  - iv. Water and Sanitation
  - v. Human Development, including Education and Health
2. In the period leading up to the G8 Summit, and at the G8 Summit itself, the African leaders appealed to the G8 leaders to translate their political pledges into concrete commitments and actions. More specifically, they called on the G8 countries to:
  - Take action to double development assistance within three years, through agreed front-loading mechanism;
  - Establish a US\$10 billion fund to accelerate the implementation of NEPAD trans-boundary infrastructure priority projects;
  - Establish a 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;
  - Cancel all debt for poor countries as soon as possible;
  - Ensure successful outcomes of WTO negotiations and take immediate steps to remove trade distorting subsidies; and
  - 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.

## Outcomes of the G8 Gleneagles Summit

3. The G8 leaders signalled their political support for Africa, largely in line to what African leaders had called for. For example, they agreed to:
  - a. double aid to Africa by 2010;
  - b. debt cancellation of eligible HIPC African countries;
  - c. the strengthening of the Africa Partnership Forum (APF), and called on the APF to establish a Joint Action Plan; and

- d. the establishment of the Infrastructure Consortium, and the Investment Climate Facility for Africa.

### **Africa Action Plan**

4. In light of the Algiers and Sharm El Sheikh decisions, and the need to respond to the G8 pledges of support, a consultative process involving African Ministers of Finance, African Union Commission/NEPAD Secretariat, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), country experts and partner institutions' experts, was undertaken. This process resulted in an Africa Action Plan annexed hereto, which outlines the priority programmes and projects and estimations of resources required to implement them. It also includes commitments already made by Africa towards meeting its development objectives, as well as the pledges of the international community, including the G8. The Africa Action Plan was costed at US\$110 billions per year for the next 10 years if the Millennium Development Goals are to be achieved. African countries are already committing about US\$37 billion per year and the private sector and African non-government organisations are committing US\$30 per year. The Action Plan was adopted by the NEPAD Steering Committee, and endorsed by the Chairman of the HSGIC. This Action Plan has become the framework for NEPAD implementation and engagement with development partners.
5. The African Action Plan was presented to the 5<sup>th</sup> APF in London with a view to actualising pledges of the G8 and other existing commitments by OECD countries. The expectation was that the Africa Action Plan would constitute the basis of the Joint Action Plan between Africa and its development partners. While it has so far not been possible to have the desired Joint Action Plan, joint actions have already begun in Africa's key priorities, much of which have been drawn by the African side from the Africa Action Plan. African leaders will continue to engage their G8/OECD counterparts with a view to building consensus on the Joint Actions, while at the same time developing and implementing strategies for harnessing and generating domestic resources for development.

### **Way Forward**

6. The Africa Action Plan represents the minimum of African priorities for implementation in the short to medium term. The plan has been developed through a consultative process, which demonstrates African ownership. However, the successful implementation of this plan will largely depend on:
  - African commitments of resources, both financial and human, for its implementation;
  - Partnership support for the implementation of the programmes and projects identified in the plan;

- Mutual responsiveness and accountability in ensuring the implementation of the plan,