

21st AFRICA PARTNERSHIP FORUM, 27 NOVEMBER 2013, DAKAR: JOINT STATEMENT

1. The 21st meeting of the Africa Partnership Forum was held in Dakar on 27 November 2013, with the twin themes of the post-2015 development agenda and future of the APF following the evaluation which had been commissioned at the 19th meeting in Cotonou, Benin in December 2012. It was co-chaired by Ethiopia, Norway, Senegal and the United Kingdom. 28 countries and institutions attended the meeting.

Post-2015 Development Agenda

2. The discussion was introduced by presentations from Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency, Ambassador Skogmo, Norway, and Mr. Adeyemi Dipeolu, Economic Commission for Africa. The meeting took note of the process to reach an African common position on the post-2015 Development Agenda. It noted the emerging consensus that this Agenda needed both to complete the unfinished business of the MDGs, and to go beyond these, and that it should also be integrated with the Rio+20 Sustainable Development Goals. It considered the following issues, reflecting themes which had emerged both in regional consultations in Africa, as well as the Report of the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda:

(i) *What outcomes should be in the post-2015 agenda:* including (a) how to adopt a coherent approach which integrates the three dimensions of sustainable dimensions required to eradicate poverty; (b) working towards a single framework and set of goals, taking account of differing national priorities; (c) how to address inclusive economic growth, structural transformation and social inclusion and equity;

(ii) *How these could be achieved:* including by addressing the 'enablers' of development, particularly peace and security, institution building and governance, and financing and partnerships, in particular the importance of domestic resource mobilisation;

(iii) *How progress should be measured:* including how to take more account of different starting points, and measure quality of service delivery;

3. Members of the Forum welcomed the constructive exchange of views on all these issues, which they hoped would help to build common understanding, and looked forward to continuing discussion in the relevant fora, in particular following the endorsement of the African common position at the AU Summit in January 2014.

The future of the APF

4. The co-chairs of the Forum presented their joint proposals to the meeting, following the evaluation of the APF, the interim report received at the 20th meeting in London, UK in April 2013, the consultations they had undertaken following the submission of the evaluation report in September 2013, and the joint meetings they had held in September/October 2013.

5. The meeting thanked co-chairs for the intensive work they had undertaken in order to indicate the way forward. It agreed that there was an important role for the Forum to continue to play, in support of the vision of an integrated, peaceful, inclusive and prosperous Africa, with the purpose of facilitating the integration of Africa's priorities into the wider global agenda, on issues of common concern. It also agreed that this was now the right moment to bring the Forum up to date with changes both in the wider international architecture, and in Africa's own evolving international partnerships and priorities; and to introduce practical reforms which will increase its efficiency and effectiveness, and enable the Forum to contribute more effectively to Summit level processes relevant to Africa.

6. Against this background, and following a full and constructive discussion, the meeting agreed to present the joint proposals, taking account of points raised in the discussion, to the highest political level of their respective Governments, starting with the next meeting of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee in January 2014.

7. The meeting thanked the Government of Senegal for hosting the 21st session of the Forum, and for the excellent arrangements. It agreed that the date and venue of the next meeting should be decided by the 2014 co-chairs at their first meeting in 2014.