

**THE NEW PARTNERSHIP  
FOR  
AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT  
(NEPAD)**

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. This *New Partnership for Africa's Development* is a pledge by African leaders, based on a common vision and a firm and shared conviction, that they have a pressing duty to eradicate poverty and to place their countries, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development and, at the same time, to participate actively in the world economy and body politic. The Programme is anchored on the determination of Africans to extricate themselves and the continent from the malaise of underdevelopment and exclusion in a globalising world.
2. The poverty and backwardness of Africa stand in stark contrast to the prosperity of the developed world. The continued marginalisation of Africa from the globalisation process and the social exclusion of the vast majority of its peoples constitute a serious threat to global stability.
3. Historically accession to the institutions of the international community, the credit and aid binomial has underlined the logic of African development. Credit has led to the debt deadlock which, from instalments to rescheduling, still exists and hinders the growth of African countries. The limits of this option have been reached. Concerning the other element of the binomial – aid – we can also note the reduction of private aid and the upper limit of public aid, which is below the target set in the 1970s.
4. In Africa, 340 million people, or half the population, live on less than US \$1 per day. The mortality rate of children under 5 years of age is 140 per 1000, and life expectancy at birth is only 54 years. Only 58 per cent of the population have access to safe water. The rate of illiteracy for people over 15 is 41 per cent. There are only 18 mainline telephones per 1000 people in Africa, compared with 146 for the world as a whole and 567 for high-income countries.
5. The *New Partnership for Africa's Development* calls for the reversal of this abnormal situation by changing the relationship that underpins it. Africans are appealing neither for the further entrenchment of dependency through aid, nor for marginal concessions.
6. We are convinced that an historic opportunity presents itself to end the scourge of underdevelopment that afflicts Africa. The resources, including capital, technology and human skills, that are required to launch a global war on poverty and

underdevelopment exist in abundance and are within our reach. What is required to mobilise these resources and to use them properly, is bold and imaginative leadership that is genuinely committed to a sustained human development effort and the eradication of poverty, as well as a new global partnership based on shared responsibility and mutual interest.

7. Across the continent, Africans declare that we will no longer allow ourselves to be conditioned by circumstance. We will determine our own destiny and call on the rest of the world to complement our efforts. There are already signs of progress and hope. Democratic regimes that are committed to the protection of human rights, people-centred development and market-oriented economies are on the increase. African peoples have begun to demonstrate their refusal to accept poor economic and political leadership. These developments are, however, uneven and inadequate and need to be further expedited.
  
8. The *New Partnership for Africa's Development* is about consolidating and accelerating these gains. It is a call for a new relationship of partnership between Africa and the international community, especially the highly industrialised countries, to overcome the development chasm that has widened over centuries of unequal relations.

- Work with the regional agencies to build regulatory capacity;
- Establish a network of training and research institutions to build high-level manpower;
- Promote and accelerate existing projects to connect schools and youth centres;
- Work with development finance institutions in Africa, multilateral initiatives (G-8 DotForce, UN Task Force) and bilateral donors to establish financial mechanisms for mitigating and reducing sector risks.

### **(iii) Energy**

#### **109. Objectives**

- Energy plays a critical role in the development process, first as a domestic necessity but also as a factor of production whose cost directly affects prices of other goods and services, and the competitiveness of enterprises. Given the uneven distribution of these resources on the African continent, it is recommended that the search for abundant and cheap energy should focus on rationalising the territorial distribution of existing but unevenly allocated energy resources. Furthermore, Africa should strive to develop its abundant solar energy resources;
- To increase Africans' access to reliable and affordable commercial energy supply from 10 to 35 per cent or more within 20 years;
- To improve the reliability and lower the cost of energy supply to productive activities in order to enable economic growth of 6 per cent per annum;
- To reverse environmental degradation that is associated with the use of traditional fuels in rural areas;
- To exploit and develop the hydropower potential of the river basins of Africa;
- To integrate transmission grids and gas pipelines so as to facilitate cross-border energy flows;

- To reform and harmonise petroleum regulations and legislation on the continent.

110. **Actions**

- Establish an African Forum for Utility Regulation and establish regional regulatory associations;
- Establish a task force to recommend priorities and implementation strategies for regional projects, including hydropower generation, transmission grids and gas pipelines;
- Establish a task team to accelerate the development of energy supply to low-income housing;
- Broaden the scope of the programme for biomass energy conservation from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to the rest of the continent.

**(iv) Transport**

111. **Objectives**

- To reduce delays in cross-border movement of people, goods and services;
- To reduce waiting time in ports;
- To promote economic activity and cross-border trade through improved land transport linkages;
- To increase air passenger and freight linkages across Africa's subregions.

112. **Actions**

- Establish customs and immigration task teams to harmonise border crossing and visa procedures;
- Establish and nurture PPPs as well as grant concessions towards the