

THE NEW AFRICAN INITIATIVE¹

A MERGER OF THE MILLENNIUM AFRICAN RENAISSANCE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME (MAP) AND THE OMEGA PLAN

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¹ *Revised document with the amendements to the Lusaka Summit*

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AGOA	Africa Growth and Opportunity Act
AU	African Union
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
EBA	“Everything But Arms”
ECA	Economic Commission on Africa
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GESI	Global Environmental Sanitation Initiative
GIS	Geographic Information System
GNP	Gross National Product
GSP	Generalised System of Preferences
HIPC	Highly Indebted Poor Country
IAF	International Accreditation Forum
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDA	International Development Assistance
IDG	International Development Goal
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ISO	International Standards Organisation
NBI	National Business Incubator
OAU	Organisation of African Unity
ODA	Overseas Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
RETOSA	Regional Tourism Organisation of Southern Africa
SADC	Southern African Development Community
TBT	Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organisation
WTO	World Trade Organisation

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. This New African Initiative 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. Since the 1970s, and their 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 contrary to the 1970s objectives.
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 initiative 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 grasp. 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 poverty eradication, 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 African initiative 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.

II. AFRICA IN TODAY'S WORLD : BETWEEN POVERTY AND PROSPERITY

9. Africa's place in the global community is defined by the fact that the continent is an indispensable resource base that has served all humanity for so many centuries.
10. These resources can be broken down into the following components:
 - 10.1 The rich complex of mineral, oil and gas deposits, its flora and fauna, and its wide unspoiled natural habitat, which provide the basis for mining, agriculture, tourism and industrial development (**Component I**);
 - 10.2 The ecological lung provided by the continent's rain forests, and the minimal presence of emissions and effluents that are harmful to the environment – a global public good that benefits all humankind (**Component II**);
 - 10.3 The paleontological and archaeological sites containing evidence of the evolution of the earth, life and the human species. The natural habitats containing a wide variety of flora and fauna, unique animal species and the open uninhabited spaces that are a feature of the continent (**Component III**);
 - 10.4 The richness of Africa's culture and its contribution to the variety of the cultures of the global community (**Component IV**).
11. The first of these, *Component I*, is the one with which the world is most familiar. The second, *Component II*, has only come to the fore recently, as humanity came to understand the critical importance of the issue of the environment. The third, *Component III*, is also now coming into its own, emerging as a matter of concern not only to a narrow field of science or of interest only to museums and their curators. The fourth of these, *Component IV*, represents the creativity of African people, which in many important ways remains under-exploited and under-developed.
12. Africa has a very important role to play with regard to the critical issue of the protection of the environment. African resources include rain forests, the virtually carbon dioxide-free atmosphere above the continent and the minimal presence of toxic effluents in the rivers and soils that interact with the Atlantic and Indian Oceans and the Mediterranean and Red Seas. The African initiative will contain a strategy for nurturing these resources and using them for the development of and trade by the African peoples, while preserving them for all humanity.

13. It is obvious that, unless the communities in the vicinity of the tropical forests are given alternative means of earning a living, they will co-operate in the destruction of the forests. As the preservation of these environmental assets is in the interests of humanity, it is imperative that Africa be placed on a development path that does not put them in danger.
14. Modern science recognises Africa as the cradle of humankind. As part of the process of reconstructing the identity and self-confidence of the peoples of Africa, it is necessary that this contribution to human existence be understood and valued by Africans themselves. Africa's status as the birthplace of humanity should be cherished by the whole world as the origin of all its peoples. Accordingly, the African initiative must preserve this common heritage and use it to build a universal understanding of the historic need to end the underdevelopment and marginalisation of the continent.
15. Africa also has a major role to play in maintaining the strong link between human beings and the natural world. Technological developments tend to emphasise the role of human beings as a factor of production, competing for their place in the production process with their contemporary or future tools. The open uninhabited spaces, the flora and fauna, and the diverse animal species that are unique to Africa offer a rare experience for humanity to maintain its link with nature. Africa is uniquely placed to offer this asset to humanity.
16. Africa has already made a significant contribution to world culture through literature, music, visual arts and other cultural forms, but her real potential remains untapped because of her limited integration into the global economy. The African initiative will enable Africa to increase her contribution to science, culture and technology.
17. In this new millennium, when humanity is searching for a new way to build a better world, it is critical that we bring to bear the combination of these attributes and the forces of human will to place the continent on a pedestal of equal partnership in advancing human civilisation.

The historical impoverishment of a continent

18. The impoverishment of the African continent was accentuated primarily by the legacy of colonialism, the Cold War, the workings of the international economic system and the inadequacies of and shortcomings in the policies pursued by many countries in the post-independence era.
19. For centuries, Africa has been integrated into the world economy mainly as a supplier of cheap labour and raw materials. Of necessity, this has meant the draining of Africa's resources rather than their use for the continent's development. The drive in that period to use the minerals and raw materials to develop manufacturing industries and a highly skilled

human base to sustain growth and development was lost. Thus, Africa remains the poorest continent despite being one of the most richly endowed regions of the world.

20. In other countries and on other continents, the direct opposite happened. There was an infusion of wealth in the form of investments, which created larger volumes of wealth through the export of value-added products. It is time that African resources are harnessed to expand wealth creation on the continent for the well-being of her peoples.
21. Colonialism subverted hitherto traditional structures, institutions and values or made them subservient to the economic and political needs of the imperial powers. It also retarded the development of an entrepreneurial class, as well as a middle class with skills and managerial capacity.
22. At independence, virtually all the new states were characterised by a shortage of skilled professionals and a weak capitalist class, resulting in a weakening of the accumulation process. Post-colonial Africa inherited weak states and dysfunctional economies that were further aggravated by poor leadership, corruption and bad governance in many countries. These two factors, together with the divisions caused by the Cold War, hampered the spread of accountable governments across the continent.
23. Many African governments did not empower their peoples to embark on development initiatives to realise their creative potential. Today, the weak state remains a major constraint to sustainable development in a number of countries. Indeed, one of Africa's major challenges is to strengthen the capacity to govern and to develop long-term policies. At the same time, there is also the urgent need to implement far-reaching reforms and programmes in many African states.
24. The structural adjustment programmes provided only a partial solution. They promoted reforms that tended to remove serious price distortions, but gave inadequate attention to the provision of social services. As a consequence, only a few countries managed to achieve sustainable higher growth under these programmes.
25. Indeed, Africa's experience shows that the rate of accumulation in the post-colonial period has not been sufficient to rebuild societies in the wake of colonial underdevelopment, or to sustain improvement in the standard of living. This has had further corrosive effects on the political process and has increased patronage and corruption.
26. The net effect of these processes has been the entrenchment of a vicious cycle, in which economic decline, reduced capacity and poor governance reinforce each other, thus confirming Africa's peripheral and diminishing role in the world economy. Over the

centuries, Africa has become defined as, of necessity, the marginalised continent.

27. The African initiative seeks to build on and celebrate the achievements of the past, as well as reflect on the lessons learned through painful experience, so as to establish a partnership that is both credible and capable of implementation. In doing so, the injunction is for the peoples and governments of Africa to gain the conviction that development is a process of empowerment and self-reliance. Accordingly, Africans must not be wards of benevolent guardians; rather they must be the architects of their own sustained uplift.

Africa and the global revolution

28. The world has entered the new millennium in the midst of an economic revolution. This revolution could provide both the context and the means for Africa's rejuvenation. While globalisation has increased the cost of Africa's ability to compete, we hold that the advantages of an effectively managed integration present the best prospects for future economic prosperity and poverty reduction.
29. The current economic revolution has, in part, been made possible by advances in information and communications technology (ICT), which have reduced the cost and increased the speed of communications across the globe, abolishing pre-existing barriers of time and space, and in consequence affecting all areas of social and economic life. It has made possible the integration of national systems of production and finance, and is reflected in incredible growth in the scale of cross-border flows of goods, services and capital.
30. The integration of national systems of production has made it possible to "slice up the value chain" in many manufacturing and service-sector production processes. At the same time, the greater mobility of finance means that borrowers, whether governments or private entities, must compete with each other for capital in global rather than national markets. Both these processes have increased the costs to those countries that are unable to compete effectively. To a large extent, these costs have been borne disproportionately by Africa.
31. While no corner of the world has escaped the effects of globalisation, the contributions of the various regions and nations have differed markedly. The locomotive for these major advances is the highly industrialised nations. Outside this domain, only a few countries in the developing world play a substantial role in the global economy. Many developing countries, especially in Africa, contribute passively, and mainly on the basis of their environmental and resource endowments.
32. It is in the distribution of benefits that the global imbalance is most glaring. On the one hand, opportunities have increased to expand wealth, acquire knowledge and skills, and improve

access to goods and services – in brief, to improve the quality of life. In some parts of the world, the pursuit of greater openness to the global economy has created opportunities for lifting millions of people out of poverty.

33. On the other hand, greater integration has also led to the further marginalisation of those countries that are unable to compete effectively. In the absence of fair and just global rules, globalisation has increased the ability of the strong to advance their interests to the detriment of the weak, especially in the areas of trade, finance and technology. It has limited the space for developing countries to control their own development. The conditions of those marginalised in this process have worsened in real terms. A fissure between inclusion and exclusion has emerged within and among nations.
34. In part, Africa's inability to harness the process of globalisation is a result of structural impediments to growth and development in the form of resource outflows and unfavourable terms of trade. At the same time, we recognise that failures of political and economic leadership in many African countries impede the coherent mobilisation of resources into productive areas of activity in order to attract and facilitate domestic and foreign investment.
35. The low level of economic activity means that the instruments necessary for the real injection of private funds and risk-taking are not available, and the result is a further decline. In this self-perpetuating cycle, Africa's capacity to respond to globalisation is weakened, leading to further marginalisation. The increasing polarisation of wealth and poverty is one of a number of processes that have accompanied globalisation, and which threaten its sustainability.
36. The closing years of the last century saw a major financial collapse in much of the developing world, which not only threatened the stability of the global financial system, but also the global economy as a whole. One of the immediate effects of the financial crisis was the exacerbation of existing levels of deep, structural poverty in which about half of the world's population lives on less than US \$2 per day, and a fifth on less than US \$1 per day.
37. There also exist slower dynamics that pose longer-term risks. These include the rapid increase in the numbers of the socially excluded in different zones of the globe, contributing to political instability, civil war and military conflict on the one hand, and a new pattern of mass migration on the other. The expansion of industrial production and the growth in poverty contribute to environmental degradation of our oceans, atmosphere and natural vegetation. If not addressed, these will set in motion processes that will increasingly slip beyond the control of governments, both in developed and developing countries.

38. The means to reverse this gloomy scenario are not yet beyond our reach. Improvements in the living standards of the marginalised offer massive potential for growth in the entire international economy, through the creation of new markets and by harnessing increased economic capacity. This will bring with it greater stability on a global scale, accompanied by the social well-being and cultural exuberance that thrive in conditions of certainty.
39. The imperative of development, therefore, not only poses a challenge to moral conscience; it is in fact fundamental to the sustainability of the globalisation process. We readily admit that globalisation is a product of scientific and technological advances, many of which have been market-driven. Yet, governments – particularly those in the developed world – have, in partnership with the private sector, played an important role in shaping its form, content and course.
40. The case for the role of national authorities and private institutions in guiding the globalisation agenda along a sustainable path and, therefore, one in which its benefits are more equally spread, remains strong. Experience shows that, despite the unparalleled opportunities that globalisation has offered to some previously poor countries, there is nothing inherent in the process that automatically reduces poverty and inequality.
41. What is needed is a commitment on the part of governments, the private sector and other institutions of civil society, to the genuine integration of all nations into the global economy and body politic. This requires the recognition of global interdependence in respect of production and demand, the environmental base that sustains the planet, cross-border migration, a global financial architecture that rewards good socio-economic management, and global governance that recognises partnership among all peoples. We hold that it is within the capacity of the international community to create fair and just conditions in which Africa can participate effectively in the global economy and body politic.

III. THE NEW POLITICAL WILL OF AFRICAN LEADERS

42. The African initiative recognises that there have been attempts in the past to set out continent-wide development programmes. For a variety of reasons, both internal and external, including questionable leadership and ownership by Africans themselves, these have been less than successful. However, there is today a new set of circumstances, which lend themselves to integrated practical implementation.
43. The new phase of globalisation coincided with the reshaping of international relations in the aftermath of the Cold War. This is associated with the emergence of new concepts of security and self-interest, which encompass the right to development and the eradication of poverty. Democracy and state legitimacy have been redefined to include accountable government, a culture of human rights and popular participation as central elements.
44. Significantly, the numbers of democratically elected leaders are on the increase. Through their actions, they have declared that the hopes of Africa's peoples for a better life can no longer rest on the magnanimity of others.
45. Across the continent, democracy is spreading, backed by the African Union (AU), which has shown a new resolve to deal with conflicts and censure deviation from the norm. These efforts are reinforced by voices in civil society, including associations of women, youth and the independent media. In addition, African governments are much more resolute about regional and continental goals of economic co-operation and integration. This serves both to consolidate the economic turnaround and to reinforce the advantages of mutual interdependence.
46. The changed conditions in Africa have already been recognised by governments across the world. The United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted in September 2000, confirms the global community's readiness to support Africa's efforts to address the continent's underdevelopment and marginalisation. The Declaration emphasises support for the prevention of conflict and the establishment of conditions of stability and democracy on the continent, as well as for the key challenges of eradicating poverty and disease. The Declaration further points to the global community's commitment to enhance resource flows to Africa, by improving aid, trade and debt relationships between Africa and the rest of the world, and by increasing private capital flows to the continent. It is now important to convert these commitments into reality.

47. The African initiative centres around African ownership and management.

Through this programme, African leaders are setting an agenda for the renewal of the continent. The agenda is based on national and regional priorities and development plans that must be prepared through participatory processes involving the people. We believe that while our African leaders derive their mandates from these plans, it is their role to articulate them as well as lead the processes of implementation on behalf of the people.

The programme is a new framework of interaction with the rest of the world, including the industrialised countries and multilateral organisations. It is based on the agenda set by African peoples through their own initiatives and of their own volition, to shape their own destiny.

To achieve these objectives, African leaders will take joint responsibility for the following:

- ? To strengthen mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution at the regional and continental levels, and to ensure that these mechanisms are used to restore and maintain peace;
- ? To promote and protect democracy and human rights in their respective countries and regions, by developing clear standards of accountability, transparency and participatory governance at the national and sub-national levels;
- ? To restore and maintain macroeconomic stability, especially by developing appropriate standards and targets for fiscal and monetary policies, and introducing appropriate institutional frameworks to achieve these standards;
- ? To institute transparent legal and regulatory frameworks for financial markets and auditing of private companies and the public sector;
- ? To revitalise and extend the provision of education, technical training and health services, with high priority given to tackling HIV/AIDS, malaria and other communicable diseases;
- ? To promote the role of women in social and economic development by reinforcing their capacity in the domains of education and training; by the development of revenue-generating activities through facilitating access to credit; and by assuring their participation in the political and economic life of African countries;
- ? To build the capacity of the states in Africa to set and enforce the legal framework,

as well as maintain law and order;

- ? To promote the development of infrastructure, agriculture and its diversification into agro-industries and manufacturing to serve both domestic and export markets.

IV. APPEAL TO THE PEOPLES OF AFRICA

48. The African Renaissance project, which should allow our continent, plundered for centuries to redeem its place in the world, depends on the building of a strong and competitive economy as the rule of the world is liberalisation and competition.

The present African Initiative will be successful only if it is owned by the African peoples united in their diversity.

Africa, impoverished by slavery, colonisation and post-independence exploitation is taking off in a difficult situation but fortunately, in addition to its important natural resources, it has human potentialities which definitively are the decisive capital in any development. These human potentialities are of quality and they only need training to be able to build the new Africa on strong bases.

This is why our peoples, in spite of the present difficulties must regain confidence in their genius and their capacity to face obstacles and to be resolutely involved in the building of the new Africa. The present initiative expresses the consensus of the leaders of Africa, aware of the need to translate the deep popular will on the base of modernity by looking resolutely towards the future.

But the struggle they would be waging will be successful only if our peoples are the masters of their own destiny.

This is why the political leaders of the continent appeal to all the peoples of Africa, in all their components, men, women, youth, workers, trade unionists to become aware of the seriousness of the situation and the need to mobilise themselves in order to form a single block to stop the process of marginalisation of the continent and ensure its development by bridging the major gap vis a vis developed countries.

We are therefore asking the African peoples to take up the present initiative by responding to our appeal for mobilisation for the implementation of the programme which we have proposed and by setting up all levels structures for organisation, mobilisation and action.

The leaders of the continent are aware of the fact of that the true genius of a nation is measured against the background of its capacity to emerge with imagination and determination support of the

peoples.

The creation of the African Union which we have just achieved by setting up its institutions, and defining its principles of organisation and action, was far more difficult for a continent torn by intra and inter-state conflicts. But in spite of everything this ultimate objective has been attained.

We have only to implement this ambitious programme of building an economy and a more just and more inter-dependent democratic society. In this perspective, the African leaders are convinced that Africa which through its march, has always been able to stand up after the injuries of history shall succeed.

V. PROGRAMME OF ACTION : THE STRATEGY FOR ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE 21ST CENTURY

49. The New African Initiative is a plan different from all that has been proposed to Africa until now. Whereas the causes for concern are the same, except for their increasing scope, the approach and strategy are different.

The New African Initiative is envisaged as a long-term vision of African development based on Africans' option for a good mastery and application of the rules of the game of economics.

The Action Programme is presented under nine top priorities structured in the same way as the strategy outlined. It covers what needs to be done in the short term, despite the great dimension of the actions to be taken. In fact, whatever the dimension of the project, and of infrastructure for instance, everything depends on the availability of funds. At any rate, it is always possible to find in the world, high-technology enterprises that can implement actions of the highest quality in the shortest possible time.

Although long-term funding, about thirty to fifty years, is envisaged in this framework, the projects can be implemented very quickly to eradicate poverty in Africa and place African countries, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development and thus halt the marginalisation of Africa in the globalisation process.

Of course, there are other urgent priorities but these would be induced by the implementation of selected top-priority actions.

Mere growth rate does not suffice to enable Africa to make up its deficits, for it is true, for example, that a 5 % growth rate achieved by a developing country does not have the same significance if achieved by a developed country. The possibility of maintaining a growth rate in the long term largely depends on far-reaching parameters of development including infrastructures or capital accumulated over time, human capital in keeping with economic activities to constitute an elastic supply in relation to the demand for skilled labour, food resources, health and creative environment.

The objective of the New African Initiative is therefore to enable Africa to benefit, as soon as possible, from conditions similar to those pertaining to production in the developed countries; in other words, to bridge the fundamental gaps in certain priority sectors to be considered subsequently.

The new long-term vision then consists in securing, under financial conditions, some rules

governing free-market economy and long-term funding, to fill the gaps in question by establishing them in the short term. Constructing several kilometres of quality roads and highways actually requires a relatively short time if funds are available and if the big companies that boast the most advanced technologies in the world are solicited.

The New African Initiative will therefore increasingly call on companies in the developed world to assist in providing infrastructures and in carrying out large-scale projects, while reserving some projects for African companies. Similarly, it will approach the Western world for their human resources to train Africans in technical educational institutions, in universities and in the health sector. In fact, the launching of large-scale programmes will absorb, in the first place, all the human resources available in Africa as well as Africans working in developed countries. Since this number is obviously insufficient, Africa will also make use of and pay the price for some external human resources.

Developed countries use a great deal of African experts who settle there after training. In France, there is even an Association of African Physicians, some of whom are unemployed. For its construction, Africa must make intensive use of such experts.

The main themes of a long-term vision are set forth as follows :

50. ENHANCING THE PROCESS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

50.1 Peace, security, democracy, human rights and political governance

African leaders have learnt from their own experiences that peace, security, democracy, good governance, human rights and sound economic management are conditions for sustainable development. They are making a pledge to work, both individually and collectively, to promote these principles in their countries, regions and the continent.

Peace and Security Initiative

The Peace and Security Initiative consists of three elements:

- ? Promoting long-term conditions for development and security;
- ? Building the capacity of African institutions for early warning, as well as enhancing African institutions' capacity to prevent, manage and resolve conflict;
- ? Institutionalising commitment to the core values of the African initiative through the leadership.

Long-term conditions for ensuring peace and security in Africa require policy measures to address the political and social vulnerabilities on which conflict is premised. These are dealt with by the Political and Economic Governance Initiatives, the Capital Flows and Market Access Initiatives and the Human Development Initiative.

Efforts to build Africa's capacity to manage all aspects of conflict focus on the means necessary to strengthen existing continental and regional institutions, especially in four key areas:

- ? Prevention, management and resolution of conflict;
- ? Peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace enforcement;
- ? Post-conflict reconciliation, rehabilitation and reconstruction;
- ? Combating the illicit proliferation of small arms, light weapons and landmines.

The African Initiative's leadership will consider, within six months of its establishment, setting out detailed and costed measures required in each of the four areas above. The exercise will also include actions required of partners, and the nature and sources of financing such activities.

The envisaged Heads of State Forum will serve as a platform for the African initiative leadership to seek to enhance the capacity of African mechanisms to promote peace and security on the continent, to share experience and to mobilise collective action. The Forum will ensure that the principles and commitments implicit in the Initiative are **fulfilled**.

Aware of that requirement, Africans must make all efforts to extinguish their hotbeds of conflict, ensure their internal security and promote peace among the countries.

At the Lusaka Summit, the African Union decided to take drastic measures in reviving the organs in charge of conflict prevention and resolution.

State capacity-building is a critical aspect of creating conditions for development. The **State** has a major role to play in promoting economic growth and development and in the implementation of poverty reduction programmes. However, the reality is that many governments lack the capacity to fulfil this role. As a consequence, many countries lack the necessary policy frameworks and regulatory structures that provide the rules of the game for the private sector. They also lack the capacity to implement programmes even when

funding is available.

It is for this reason that targeted capacity building should be given a high priority. Programmes in every area must be preceded by an assessment of capacity, followed by the provision of appropriate support as needed.

50.2 Democracy

Everybody must now be convinced that development is impossible in the absence of true democracy, respect for human rights, peace and good governance.

Africa accepts to respect the global standards of democracy, that is to say, political pluralism allowing for the existence of several political parties and workers' unions, fair, open, free and democratic elections periodically organised to enable the populations to choose their leaders, respect for human rights, independent judicature, eradication of corruption and good governance.

50.3 Good Governance

Objective

? To promote throughout the participating countries a set of concrete and time-bound programmes aimed at enhancing the quality of economic and public financial management as well as corporate governance.

The purpose of the Democracy and Governance Initiative is to contribute to strengthening the political and administrative framework of participating countries, in line with the principles of democracy, transparency, accountability, integrity, respect for human rights and promotion of the rule of law. It is strengthened by and supports the Economic Governance Initiative, with which it shares key features, and taken together will contribute to harnessing the energies of the continent towards development and poverty eradication.

The Initiative consists of the following elements:

- ? A series of commitments by participating countries to create or consolidate basic governance processes and practices;
- ? An undertaking by participating countries to take the lead in supporting initiatives that foster good governance;

- ? The institutionalisation of commitments through the African initiative leadership to ensure that the core values of the initiative are abided by.

African initiative states will also undertake a series of commitments towards meeting basic standards of good governance and democratic behaviour while, at the same time, giving support to each other. Participating states will be supported in undertaking such desired institutional reforms where required. Within six months of its institutionalisation, the African initiative leadership will identify recommendations on appropriate diagnostic and assessment tools, in support of compliance with the shared goals of good governance, as well as to identify institutional weaknesses and to seek resources and expertise for addressing these weaknesses.

In order to strengthen political governance and build capacity to meet these commitments, the African initiative leadership will undertake a process of targeted capacity-building initiatives. These institutional reforms will focus on:

- ? Administrative and civil service reform;
- ? Strengthening parliamentary oversight;
- ? Promoting participatory decision-making;
- ? Effective measures to combat corruption and embezzlement;
- ? Judicial reform.

Countries participating in the initiative will take the lead in supporting and building institutions and initiatives that protect these commitments. They will dedicate their efforts towards creating and strengthening national, regional and continental structures that support good governance.

The Heads of State Forum on the New African Initiative will serve as a mechanism through which the African Initiative's leadership will consider a range of common good governance commitments and goals, including progress in assessing weaknesses in governance and progress in implementing reforms. The Forum will provide a platform for countries to share experiences with a view to fostering good governance and democratic practices.

Actions

- ? A Task Force from Ministries of Finance and Central Banks will be commissioned

to review economic and corporate governance practices in the various countries and regions, and make recommendations on appropriate standards and codes of good practice for consideration by the Heads of State Implementation Committee within six months.

- ? The Implementation Committee will refer its recommendations to African states for implementation.
- ? The Implementation Committee will give high priority to public financial management. Countries will develop a programme for improving public financial management and targets, and assessment mechanisms will also be set.
- ? The Heads of State Implementation Committee will mobilise resources for capacity-building to enable all countries to comply with the mutually agreed minimum standards and codes **of conduct**.

50.4 Poverty Reduction

Objectives

- ? To meet the IDG of halving the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 2015;
- ? To provide focused leadership by prioritising poverty reduction in all African initiative initiatives and national governments' macroeconomic and sectoral policies;
- ? To develop a special focus on the reduction of poverty among women;
- ? To ensure empowerment of the poor in poverty reduction strategies;
- ? To support existing poverty initiatives at the multilateral level, such as the Comprehensive Development Framework of the World Bank and the Poverty Reduction Strategy approach linked to the HIPC debt relief initiative.

Actions

- ? Require that country plans prepared for initiatives in this programme of action assess their poverty reduction impact, both before and after implementation;
- ? Work with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the

United Nations (UN) agencies to accelerate implementation and adoption of the Comprehensive Development Framework, the Poverty Reduction Strategy and related approaches;

- ? Establish a gender task team to ensure that the specific issues faced by poor women are addressed in African initiative poverty reduction strategies;
- ? Establish a task team to accelerate the adoption of participatory and decentralised processes for the provision of infrastructural and social services.

51. THE REGIONAL AND CONTINENTAL APPROACH

The base of the Joint African Initiative is the region ("sub-region" in the United Nations terminology for each continent is a region).

Most African countries are small, both in terms of population and per capita incomes. As a consequence of limited markets, they do not offer attractive returns to potential investors, while progress in diversifying production and exports is retarded. This limits investment in essential infrastructure that depends on economies of scale for viability.

These economic conditions show the need for African countries to pool their resources and enhance regional development and economic integration on the continent, in order to improve international . The five regional economic groupings of the continent must be strengthened :

- West Africa,
- North Africa,
- Central Africa,
- East Africa
- Southern Africa.

The African initiative focuses on the provision of essential regional public goods (such as transport, energy, water, ICT, disease eradication, environmental preservation, and provision of regional research capacity), as well as the promotion of intra- African trade and investments. The focus will be on rationalising the institutional framework for economic integration, by identifying common projects compatible with integrated country and regional development programmes, and on the harmonisation of economic and investment policies and practices. There needs to be co-ordination of national sector policies and effective monitoring of regional decisions.

The African initiative will give priority to the building of capacity to enhance the effectiveness of existing regional structures and the rationalisation of existing regional organisations. The African Development Bank must play a leading role in financing regional studies, programmes and projects.

Whereas the States must continue managing secondary roads through local sources of funding or international co-operation, the Joint African Initiative Plan shall take care of all regional and continental projects in all sectors.

The sectors covered by the current Plan and considered as priority areas are :

1. Infrastructure
2. Human resources, education and skills development
3. Health
4. Information and Communication Technology
4. Agriculture
5. Energy
6. Access to the markets of developed for African exports

For each sector, however, the objective is to make up, as quickly as possible, the disparity between us and the developed countries so as to restore our countries in the same conditions for international competitiveness and involve us in the globalisation process.

Nevertheless, the integration of the continent presupposes the right for landlocked countries to have access to the sea and to have their own ports.

52. SECTORAL PRIORITIES

52.1 BRIDGING THE INFRASTRUCTURAL GAP

The infrastructures considered include roads, highways airports, ports, railways, waterways, telecommunication facilities such as networks and satellites. However, only the regional or continental

Infrastructures are adopted in the Plan.

For instance, roads linking up two cities are not considered in the current Plan. On the other hand, those taken into consideration are :

- *regional roads linking up two capital cities of two countries in the region*
- *continental highways crossing several regions*

Infrastructure is one of the major parameters of economic growth, and solutions should be found to permit Africa to rise to the level of developed countries in terms of the accumulation of material capital and human capital.

If Africa had the same basic infrastructure as developed countries, it would be in a more favourable position to focus on production and improving productivity for international competition. The structural gap in infrastructure constitutes a very serious handicap to economic growth and poverty reduction. Improved infrastructure, including the cost and reliability of services, would benefit both Africa and the international community, which would be able to obtain African goods and services more cheaply.

In many African countries, the colonisers built the infrastructure needed for exportation of African raw materials and importation into Africa of their industrial goods.

If infrastructure is to improve in Africa, private foreign finance is essential to complement the two traditional funding methods, namely credit and aid.

The Infrastructure Initiative comprises elements that are common to all the infrastructure sectors; it also includes elements that are sector-specific.

Objectives

- ? To improve access to and affordability and reliability of infrastructure services for both firms and households;
- ? To enhance regional co-operation and trade through expanded cross-border connectivity in infrastructure;
- ? To increase financial investments in infrastructure by lowering risks facing private investors, especially in the area of policy and regulatory frameworks;
- ? To build adequate knowledge and skills in technology and engineering with a view to install, operate and maintain “hard” infrastructure networks in Africa.

Actions

- ? With the assistance of sector-specialised agencies, put in place policy and legislative frameworks to encourage competition. At the same time, introduce new regulatory frameworks as well as build capacity for regulators, so as to promote policy and regulatory harmonisation in order to facilitate cross-border connectivity and market enlargement;
- ? Increase investment in infrastructure, especially refurbishment, and improve system maintenance practices that will sustain infrastructure;
- ? Initiate the development of training institutions and networks which can develop and produce high-skill technicians and engineers in all infrastructure sectors;
- ? Promote community and user involvement in infrastructure construction, maintenance and management, especially in poor urban and rural areas, in collaboration with the African Initiative Governance Initiatives;
- ? Work with the African Development Bank and other development finance institutions on the continent to mobilise sustainable financing especially through multilateral processes, institutions and donor governments, with a view to securing grant and concessional finance to mitigate medium term risks;
- ? Promote PPPs as a promising vehicle for attracting private investors, and focus public funding on the pressing needs of the poor, by building capacity to implement and monitor such agreements.

In addition to these common issues, the following are sector-specific strategies for the different types of infrastructure.

52.2 BRIDING THE EDUCATION GAP

Objectives

- ? To work with donors and multilateral institutions to ensure that the IDG of achieving universal primary education by 2015 is realised;
- ? To work for improvements in curriculum development, quality improvements and access to ICT;
- ? To expand access to secondary education and improve its relevance to the world of work;

- ? Promote networks of specialised research and higher education institutions.

Actions

- ? Review current initiatives jointly with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and other major international donors;
- ? Review levels of expenditure on education by African countries, and lead the process of developing norms and standards for government expenditure on education;
- ? **Set up a task force** to accelerate the introduction of ICT in primary schools;
- ? **Set up a task force** to review and put forward proposals for the research capacity needed in each region of the continent.

The key problems in education in Africa are the poor facilities and inadequate systems under which the vast majority of Africans receive their training. Africans who have had the opportunity of obtaining training elsewhere in the world have demonstrated their ability to compete successfully.

The plan supports the immediate strengthening of the university system across Africa, including the creation of specialised universities where needed, building on available African teaching staff. The need to enhance the presence of institutes of technology is especially emphasised.

Universities are designed, established and specialised at the regional level. Instead of having in each State a university without the means to be efficient, universities in the region will be specialised so that each of them can acquire the financial, material and human resources that will upgrade them among the prestigious universities in the world.

Apart from the existing universities to be specialised, the Plan envisages the establishment of new universities on the basis of the following principles of specialisation. The demand for training exists.

It would therefore be expedient to establish higher training institutions (Grandes Ecoles), institutes and universities at the regional level, to invite Africans teaching in developed countries and consider engaging teachers from developed countries to come and teach in Africa, since the number of African teachers abroad will not suffice. Nowadays, the United States does not hesitate to recruit doctors and professors from all countries, including Africans, and even to offer them good salaries so that they go to lecture in American universities. If Africa has the means, it should not hesitate to do likewise.

In Africa, poor ICT infrastructure, combined with weak policy and regulatory frameworks and limited human resources, has resulted in inadequate access to affordable telephones, broadcasting, computers and the Internet. African teledensity remains below one line per 100 people. Service costs are also high: the connection cost in Africa averages 20 per cent of GDP per capita, compared with the world average of 9 per cent, and 1 per cent for high-income countries. Africa has been unable to capitalise on ICT as a tool in enhancing livelihoods and creating new business opportunities, and cross-border linkages within the continent and with global markets have been constrained. Though many countries in Africa have started ICT policy reforms, service penetration, quality or tariffs have not yet improved.

The strategic priority is improved access for households and firms, with a short-term objective of doubling teledensity to two lines per 100 people by 2005, with an adequate level of access. Affordability must also be addressed: lower cost and improved service reliability for firms will lower the costs of production and transactions throughout the economy, and enhance growth. Doubling teledensity by 2005 will require an estimated investment in excess of US \$8 billion in core infrastructure alone. Africa's telecommunications operators (public and private) do not have sufficient resources.

Attracting private sector investors requires a comprehensive, integrated and well co-ordinated strategy involving policy and regulatory reform, the creation of a human resource base for the sector, including engineering and software skills, a focus on applications and content that add value to networks, and the development of effective financing mechanisms, including public-private partnerships (PPPs).

Needs assessment: a survey in each sub-region will make it possible to identify the institutes and universities as well as their specialisation.

52.3 HEALTH

Objectives

- ? To strengthen anti-communicable disease programmes so that they do not fall short of the scale required in order to reduce the burden of disease;
- ? To have a secure health system that meets needs and supports disease control effectively;
- ? To ensure the necessary support capacity for the sustainable development of an effective health system;

- ? To empower the people of Africa to act to improve their own health and to achieve health literacy;
- ? To impact successfully on the disease burden of the poorest people in Africa;
- ? To encourage cooperation between medical doctors and traditional practitioners

Actions

- ? Strengthen Africa's participation in processes aiming at affordable drugs, including those involving the international pharmaceutical companies and the international civil society, and explore the use of alternative delivery systems for essential drugs and supplies;
- ? Mobilise the resources required to build effective disease interventions and secure health systems:
 - Lead the campaign for increased international financial support for the struggle against HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases;
 - Join forces with other international agencies such as the WHO and donors to ensure support for the continent is increased by at least US \$10 billion per annum;
 - Encourage African countries to give higher priority to health in their own budgets and to phase such increases in expenditure to a level to be mutually determined;
 - Jointly mobilise resources for capacity-building in order to enable all African countries to improve upon their health infrastructures and management.

Human development is about expanding people's choices and enabling them to enjoy long, healthy and creative lives.

Africa is the realm of major endemic diseases. Bacteria and parasites carried by insects, the movement of people and other carriers thrive, favoured as they are by weak environment policy and mediocre living conditions. One of the major impediments facing African development efforts is the widespread incidence of communicable diseases, in particular HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Unless these epidemics are slowed down and eventually stopped, real gains in human development will remain an impossibility.

In the health sector, Africa compares very poorly with the rest of the international community. In 1997, child and juvenile death rates were 105 and 169 per 1000, as against 6 and 7 per 1000

respectively in developed countries. Life expectancy is 48.9 years, as against 77.7 years in developed countries. Only 16 doctors are available per 100 000 inhabitants against 253 in industrialised countries. Poverty, reflected in very low per capita incomes, is one of the major factors limiting the populations' capacity to address their health problems.

Nutrition is also an input into health status. The average daily intake of calories varies from 2384 in low-income countries to 2846 in middle-income countries to 3390 in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries.

Health (defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a state of complete physical and mental well-being) contributes to the increase of productivity and consequently to economic growth. The most obvious effects of health improvement on the working population are the reduction in lost working days due to sick leave, the increase of productivity, and the chance to get better paid jobs. Eventually, improvement in health and nutrition directly contributes to higher well-being as the spread of diseases is controlled, child death rates are reduced, life expectancy is lengthened, and students' learning capacity is strengthened. The link to the fight against poverty is clearly established.

52.3.1 Water and Sanitation

Objectives

- ? To ensure sustainable access to safe and adequate clean water supply and sanitation, especially for the poor;
- ? To plan and manage water resources to become a basis for national and regional co-operation and development;
- ? To systematically address and sustain ecosystems, bio-diversity and wildlife;
- ? To co-operate on shared rivers among member states;
- ? To address effectively the threat of climate change;
- ? To ensure enhanced irrigation and rain-fed agriculture to improve production and food security.

Actions

- ? Accelerate work on multipurpose water resource projects; for example, the SADC Water Secretariat's investigation of the utilisation of the Congo River, and the Nile Basin Initiative;
- ? Establish a task team to make plans for the negative impact of climate change on Africa;
- ? Partner with the Global Environmental Sanitation Initiative (GESI) in promoting sanitary waste disposal methods and projects;
- ? Support the UN Habitat programme on Water Conservation in African Cities.

Needs assessment : needs in terms of health facilities and staff will in turn be assessed in each sub-region, it being understood, as stated earlier, that the dispensaries and health facilities of lesser importance will be considered at the State level.

52.4 AGRICULTURE

The majority of Africa's people live in rural areas. However, the agrarian systems are generally weak and unproductive. Coupled with external setbacks such as climatic uncertainty, biases in economic policy and changes in world prices, these systems have held back agricultural supply and incomes in the rural areas, leading to poverty.

The urgent need to achieve food security in African countries requires that the inadequate agricultural systems be addressed, so that food production can be increased and nutritional standards raised.

Improvement in agricultural performance is a prerequisite of economic development on the continent. The resulting increase in rural peoples' purchasing power will also lead to higher effective demand for African industrial goods. The induced dynamics would constitute a significant source of economic growth.

Productivity improvement in agriculture rests on the removal of a number of structural constraints affecting the sector. A key constraint is climatic uncertainty, which raises the risk factor facing intensive agriculture based on the significant inflow of private investment. Consequently, governments must support the provision of irrigation and develop irrigable

lands when private agents are unwilling to do so. The improvement of other rural infrastructure (roads, rural electrification, etc.) is also essential.

The institutional environment for agriculture also significantly affects the sector's productivity and supply performance. Institutional support in the form of research centres and institutes, the provision of extension and support services, and agricultural trade fairs will further boost the production of marketable surpluses. The regulatory framework for agriculture must also be taken into account, including the encouragement of local community leadership in rural areas, and the involvement of these communities in policy and the provision of services.

Too little attention has been paid recently by bilateral donors and multilateral institutions to the agriculture sector and rural areas, which contain 70 per cent of the poor people in Africa. For example, in the World Bank portfolio, credits to agriculture amounted to 39 per cent in 1978, but dropped to 12 per cent in 1996 and even further to 7 per cent in 2000. The entire donor community must reverse such negative trends.

52.5 BRIDGING THE DIGITAL GAP

52.5.1 Africa's backwardness in the digital sector

Whereas the continent has embarked on a new process through the AFRICAN UNION project, the world is experiencing a vast movement spearheaded by the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

These ICT are not only the expression of technological advancements in the lineage of the substantial technological progress witnessed throughout the 20th Century. They foreshadow, on the other hand, profound structural changes influencing the functioning of our societies and affecting production relations, the public and private sectors.

The observable trends in the evolution of certain developed countries give the impression that the so-called <<information society>> will have new and lasting repercussions on our ways of socialising our relations, working, learning and making exchanges.

Already, the Internet, which combines all communication techniques and organises a network around which the various uses are federated, is participating in the accelerated construction of a globalised world that puts the specific characteristics into perspective, <<virtualises>> borders and opens

new prospects by transforming market-places into a vast market space.

The AFRICAN UNION cannot be constructed while getting round the central issue concerning the assessment to be made about this planetary revolution with focus on the ICT. All the problems raised by this continental project for Africa, which is seeking urgent solutions to the current partitioning of its different States, in addition to liberating Africa from its ghetto, with respect to the global supply and demand market for goods and services, imply an intelligent appropriation of the ICT.

At best, we have to bridge the digital gap between Africa and the rest of the world and organise ourselves better through the intensive use of ICT. Many advantages can be derived from this initiative :

- new impetus to the democratisation process of democratisation good governance ;*
- making African cultural diversity an important lever for the integration of the continent into the information society ;*
- at the infrastructural level, bridging the digital gap would help us acquire an African support mechanism that could promote direct relations between countries of the continent and between the continent and the outside world ;*
- the resultant statutory provisions would make it possible to avert the influence of the multinational organisations already imposing in most African States the transformation of public monopolies into private monopolies ;*
- the existing complementarities can be better utilised to provide training that would allow for the production of a critical mass of professionals having a good mastery of the ICT;*
- in the research sector, we can establish African programmes as well as technological exchange environments capable of meeting the continent's specific needs, with particular regard to the fight against illiteracy so that the oral character becomes an advantage and no longer a handicap;*
- the African virtual market will be making up for the traditional market's weakness by giving fresh impetus to exchanges that would open up the local supply and demand mechanisms;*
- the better organised diaspora will be in a better position to complement our human resources and help us benefit from the expertise of the daughters and sons of Africa living abroad ;*
- we can establish regional distance learning and health education programmes to improve the situation in the health and education sectors ;*
- finally, with regard to conflict management and control of pandemic diseases, the ICT will help towards the organisation of an efficient warning mechanism by promoting a constant monitoring tension spots.*

52.5.2 Information and Communications Technology

Objectives

- ? To double teledensity to two lines per 100 people by 2005, with an adequate level of access for households;
- ? To lower the cost of and improve reliability of service;
- ? To achieve e-readiness for all countries in Africa;
- ? To develop and production of a pool of ICT-proficient youth and students, from which Africa can draw trainee ICT engineers, programmers and software developers;
- ? To develop local content software, based especially on Africa's cultural legacy.

Actions

- ? Work with regional agencies such as the African Telecommunications Union and Africa Connection to design model policy and legislation for telecommunications reform, and protocols and templates for e-readiness assessments;
- ? Work with the regional agencies to build regulatory capacity;
- ? Establish a network of training and research institutions to build high-level man power;
- ? 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 to mitigate and reduce sector risks.

52.6 ENERGY

Objectives

Energy constitutes one dimension of development, first as a domestic necessity but also and especially as a factor of production whose cost directly affects prices and the competitiveness of enterprises.

Africa should therefore wage the battle for abundant and cheap energy by exploiting all possibilities and rationalising the territorial distribution of existing but unevenly allocated energy resources. Furthermore, it should develop all the solar energy resources.

- ? To increase from 10 per cent to 35 per cent, **or more**, access to reliable and affordable commercial energy supply by Africa's population in 20 years;
- ? To improve the reliability as well as 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 are associated with the use of traditional fuels in rural areas;
- ? To exploit and develop the hydropower potential of 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 in the continent.

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.

52.7 ACCESS TO INDUSTRIALISED MARKET

52.7.1 Diversification of Production

African economies are vulnerable because of their dependence on primary production and resource-based sectors, and their narrow export baskets. There is an urgent need to diversify production and the logical starting point is to harness the existing basis of African production, namely its natural resource base. Value added in agro-processing and mineral beneficiation must be increased and a broader capital goods sector developed, through a strategy of economic diversification based on inter-sector linkages. Private enterprise must be supported, both micro-enterprises in the informal sector and small and medium enterprises in the manufacturing sector, which is a principal engine of growth and employment. Governments should remove constraints to business activity and encourage the creative talents of African entrepreneurs.

Objectives

- ? To improve the productivity of agriculture, with particular attention to small-scale and women farmers;
- ? To ensure food security for all people and increase the access of the poor to adequate food and nutrition;
- ? To promote measures against natural resource degradation and encourage production methods that are environmentally sustainable;
- ? To integrate the rural poor into the market economy and provide them with better access to export markets;
- ? To develop Africa into a net exporter of agricultural products;
- ? To become a strategic player in agricultural science and technology development.

Actions

At the African level:

- ? Increase the security of water supply for agriculture by establishing small-scale irrigation facilities, improving local water management, and increasing the exchange of information and technical know-how with the international community;
- ? Improve land tenure security under traditional and modern forms of tenure, and promote the necessary land reform;
- ? Foster regional, sub-regional, national and household food security through the development and management of increased production, transport, storage and

marketing of food crops, as well as livestock and fisheries. Particular attention must also be given to the needs of the poor, as well as the establishment of early warning systems to monitor droughts and crop production;

- ? Enhance agricultural credit and finance schemes, and improve access to credit by small-scale and women farmers;
- ? Reduce the heavy urban bias of public spending in Africa by transferring resources from urban to rural activities.

At the international level:

- ? Develop new partnership schemes to address donor fatigue for individual, high-profile agricultural projects;
- ? Developing countries should assist Africa in carrying out and developing its research and development infrastructure in agriculture;
- ? Encourage access for African food and agricultural products, particularly processed products so as to meet the standards required by international markets;
- ? Support African networking with external partners in the areas of agricultural technology and know-how, extension services and rural infrastructure;
- ? Support investment in research in the areas of high-yield crops and durable preservation and storage;
- ? Provide support for building national and regional capacity for multilateral trade negotiations, including food sanitation and other agricultural trade regulations.

- MINING

Objectives

- ? To improve the quality of mineral resource information;
- ? To create a regulatory framework conducive to the development of the mining sector;
- ? To establish best practices that will ensure efficient extraction of natural resources and minerals at high quality.

Actions

At the African level:

- ? Harmonise policies and regulations to provide basic agreed minimum levels of operational practices and information provision;
- ? Harmonise commitments to the continuous reduction of the perceived investment risk in Africa;
- ? Harmonise business investment incentives and resource information;
- ? Increase collaboration on knowledge and value addition to natural resources;
- ? Apply conditional principles of value-added investment (beneficiation) for African mining investments;
- ? Establish an African School of Mines System (for the development and production of education, skills and training at all levels). This could be in the form of collaboration among existing schools.

- MANUFACTURING

Objectives

- ? To increase the production, competitiveness and diversification of the domestic private sector, especially in the agro-industrial, mining and manufacturing sub-sectors, with potential for exports and employment creation;
- ? To establish national standards associations in African countries;
- ? To harmonise the technical regulation frameworks of African countries.

Actions

At the African level:

- ? Develop new industries, or upgrade existing ones, where African countries have comparative advantages, including agro-based industries, energy and mineral resource-

based industries;

- ? Acquire membership of the relevant international standards organisations. Active membership would give Africa a stronger voice in these bodies, and would enable African industry to participate meaningfully in the development of international standards. Membership would also transfer copyright of international standards to the national associations;
- ? Establish national measurement institutions to ensure links with the international metrology system. Such activities will always remain the responsibility of government;
- ? Ensure that testing laboratories and certification organisations are set up to support the relevant national technical regulations. Such organisations should be established, as soon as possible, wherever they do not exist;
- ? Establish an accreditation infrastructure, such as the International Standards Organisation (ISO) system, which is accepted by the international community. Such an accreditation infrastructure can be nationally based where the industry is strong enough to maintain it, otherwise regional structures should be contemplated. Appropriate funding to ensure membership of international structures such as the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) should be made available;
- ? Pursue mutual recognition of test and certification results with Africa's major trading partners. Generally, this will only be possible if the framework for standards, technical regulations, measurement tractability and accreditation are in place and can be shown to meet international requirements.

At the international level:

- ? Facilitate partnership through the development of mechanisms, such as joint business councils, for information-sharing between non-African and African firms, and for working towards the establishment of joint ventures and subcontracting arrangements;
- ? Assist in strengthening African training institutions for industrial development, particularly through the promotion of networking with international partners;
- ? Promote the transfer of technologies to African countries;

- ? Develop and accept a best-practice framework for technical regulations that meets both the requirements of the World Trade Organisation's Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO/TBT) and the needs of Africa. The technical regulation frameworks of the developed countries are not only steeped in history but also unnecessarily complex for many countries in Africa;
- ? Establish Standards **Bureaux**, which would provide the industry and government with the necessary information on international, regional and national standards, thereby facilitating market access. These centres should be linked to the relevant international, regional and national standards information centres so that the latter can act as the national WTO/TBT Enquiry Points;
- ? Ensure the development of appropriate regional and national standards through the establishment of appropriate technical committee structures representing the stakeholders of the country, as well as managing such committees in line with ISO/IEC Directives and WTO/TBT Agreement requirements.

- TOURISM

Objectives

- ? To identify key "anchor" projects at the national and sub-regional levels, which will generate significant spin-offs and assist in interregional economic integration;
- ? To develop a regional marketing strategy;
- ? To create a research capacity in tourism;
- ? To extend partnerships such as those formed via sub-regional bodies, such as the Regional Tourism Organisation of Southern Africa (RETOSA), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the SADC.

Actions

At the African level:

- ? Forge co-operative partnerships so as to capture the benefits of shared knowledge, as well as provide a base for other countries for entering into tourist-related activities;
- ? Provide the African people with the capacity to be actively involved in sustainable

tourism projects at the community level;

- ? Prioritise consumer safety and security issues;
- ? Market African tourism products, especially in adventure tourism, eco-tourism and cultural tourism;
- ? Increase regional co-ordination of tourism initiatives in Africa for the expansion and increased diversity of products;
- ? Maximise our benefits from the strong interregional demand for tourism activities, by developing specialised consumer-targeted marketing campaigns.

- SERVICES

Services can constitute a very important activity for our countries in particular those that are well equipped in the field of TICs (téléservices)

- PROMOTING THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Objectives

- ? To ensure a sound and conducive environment for the activity of the private sector, with a particular emphasis on domestic entrepreneurs;
- ? To promote foreign direct investment and trade, with a particular emphasis on exports;
- ? To develop micro-, small and medium enterprises, including the informal sector.

Actions

At the African level:

- ? Undertake measures to enhance the entrepreneurial, managerial and technical capacities of the private sector by supporting technology acquisition, production improvements, and training and skills development;
- ? Strengthen chambers of commerce, trade and professional associations, and their regional networks;

- ? Organise dialogue between the government and the private sector to develop a shared vision of economic development strategy and remove constraints to private sector development;
- ? Strengthen and encourage the growth of micro-, small and medium-scale industries through appropriate technical support from service institutions and civil society, and improve access to capital by strengthening micro-financing schemes, with particular attention to women entrepreneurs.

At the international level:

- ? Promote entrepreneurial development programmes for mentoring African firms;
- ? Provide technical assistance in relation to the development of an appropriate regulatory environment, promotion of small, medium and micro-enterprises and micro-financing schemes for the African private sector.

- TRANSPORT

Objectives

- ? To reduce delays in the 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 African sub-regions.

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 construction, development and maintenance of ports, roads, railways and maritime transportation;
- ? Promote harmonisation of transport modal standards and regulations, and the

increased use of multimodal transport facilities;

- ? Work with the regional organisations to develop transportation development corridors;

Promote PPPs in and the rationalisation of the airline industry and build capacity for air traffic control.

52.7.2 Promoting African Exports

Objectives

- ? To improve procedures for customs and drawback/rebate schemes;
- ? To tackle trade barriers in multilateral organisations and through the improvement of standards;
- ? To increase intra-regional trade via promoting cross-border contact among African firms;
- ? To improve Africa's negative image through conflict resolution and marketing;
- ? To deal with short-term skill shortages through appropriate firm-level incentives.

Actions

At the African level:

- ? Promote intra-African trade with the aim of sourcing within Africa imports formerly sourced from the rest of the world;
- ? Create marketing mechanisms and institutions to develop marketing strategies for African products;
- ? Publicise African exporting and importing companies and their products, *inter alia* through trade fairs;
- ? Reduce the costs of transactions and operations;
- ? Promote and improve regional trade agreements, further interregional trade liberalisation, and harmonise of rules of origin, tariffs and product standards;

?

? Reduce export taxes.

At the international level:

? Negotiate facilitating measures and agreements for increased market access for African products to the world market;

? Encourage foreign direct investment;

? Assist in capacity-building in the private sector, as well as strengthening country and sub-regional capacity in trade negotiations, implementing the rules and regulations of the WTO, and identifying and exploiting new trading opportunities that emerge from the evolving multilateral trading system.

? The African heads of state must ensure active participation in the world trading system, which has been managed under the auspices of the WTO since 1995. If a new round of multilateral trade negotiations is started, it must recognise and provide for the African continent's special concerns, needs and interests in future WTO rules.

Participation in the world trading system must enhance:

- Open, predictable and geographically diversified market access for exports from Africa;
- The provision of a forum in which developing countries could collectively call for structural adjustment by developed countries in those industries in which the natural competitive advantage now lies with the developing world;
- Transparency and predictability as preconditions for increased investment that, in turn, would boost supply capacity and amplify the gains from existing market access.

? Concrete steps must be taken to enhance African states' institutional capacity by way of technical assistance from developed countries to use the WTO and to engage in multilateral trade negotiations.

? In addition to broad-based support for the WTO, heads of state must identify strategic areas of intervention and, together with the international community, strengthen the contribution of trade to the continent's recovery. These strategic areas include:

- The identification of key areas in export production in which serious supply-side impediments exist;
- The diversification of production and exports especially in existing and potential areas of competitive advantage, and bearing in mind the need to move towards higher value-added production;
- An assessment of the scope for further liberalisation in manufacturing, given the concentration of access in low value-added sectors, and its restrictiveness in high value-added activities with the greatest economic and growth potential;
- Renewed political action by African countries to intensify and deepen the various integration initiatives on the continent. To this end, consideration needs to be given to: (1) a discretionary preferential trade system for intra-African trade; (2) the alignment of domestic and regional trade and industrial policy objectives, thereby increasing the potential for intra-industry trade critical to the sustainability of regional economic arrangements.

Heads of **State** must act to: (1) secure and stabilise preferential treatment by key developed country partners, e.g. the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), the Cotonou Agreement, the ‘Everything But Arms’ (EBA) initiative, and the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA); (2) ensure that further multilateral liberalisation does not erode the preferential margins of these arrangements; (3) identify and address deficiencies in their design and application.

Removal of non-tariff barriers

African leaders believe that improved access to the markets of industrialised countries for products in which Africa is competitive is crucial. Although there have been significant improvements in terms of lowered tariffs in recent years, there remain significant exceptions on tariffs while non-tariff barriers also constitute major barriers. Progress on this issue would greatly enhance economic growth and diversification of African production and exports. Dependence on ODA would decline and infrastructure projects would become more viable as a result of increased economic activity.

The most flagrant case of injustice lies in the fact that Europe and the United States amply subsidise their agriculture but they do not allow Africa to do likewise to protect its own commodities and its own markets or to impose a compensatory tariff. If an African country is protected by either mechanism, it is threatened with suspension from all aid programmes

52.8 CULTURE

Culture is an integral part of development efforts on the continent. Consequently, it is essential to protect and effectively utilise indigenous knowledge that represents a major dimension of the continent's culture, and to use this knowledge in a shared manner for the benefit of humankind. The African initiative will give special attention to the protection and nurturing of indigenous knowledge, which refers to tradition-based literacy, artistic and scientific works, performances, inventions, scientific discoveries, designs, marks, names and symbols, undisclosed information and all other tradition-based innovations and creations resulting from intellectual activity in the industrial, scientific, literary or artistic fields. The term also includes genetic resources and associated medicinal knowledge.

The African initiative leaders will take urgent steps to ensure that indigenous knowledge in Africa is protected through appropriate legislation. They will also promote its protection at the international level, by working closely with the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).

Science and Technology Platforms

Objectives

- ? To promote cross-border co-operation and connectivity by utilising knowledge currently available in existing centres of excellence in the continent;
- ? To develop and adapt information collection and analysis capacity to support productive activities as well as for exports outside Africa;
- ? To generate a critical mass of technology expertise in targeted areas that offer high growth potential, especially in biotechnology and geo-science;
- ? To assimilate and adapt existing technologies in order to diversify manufacturing production.

Actions

- ? Establish regional co-operation on product standards development and dissemination, and on geographic information systems (GIS);
- ? Develop networks among existing centres of excellence, especially through the Internet, for cross-border staff exchanges and training programmes, and develop schemes to assist displaced African scientists and researchers;
- ? Work with UNESCO, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), and other

international organisations to harness biotechnology in order to develop the commercial potential of Africa's rich biodiversity and indigenous knowledge base by improving agricultural productivity and developing pharmaceutical production;

- ? Expand geo-science research to enhance the exploitation of the mineral riches of Africa;
- ? Establish and develop a skills-base product engineering and quality control to support diversification in manufacturing.

52.9 THE ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE

It has been recognised that a healthy and productive environment is a prerequisite for the African initiative. It is further recognised that the range of issues necessary to nurture this environmental base is vast and complex, and that a systematic combination of initiatives is necessary in order to develop a coherent environmental programme. This will necessitate that choices be made, and particular issues be prioritised for initial interventions.

It is also recognised that a core objective of the Environment Initiative must be to combat poverty and contribute to socio-economic development in Africa. It has been shown that many of the steps taken to achieve a healthy environmental base can contribute greatly to employment, empowerment, social cohesion, dignity and the reduction of poverty.

It should be mentioned, too, that Africa is to host the World Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2002. Environmental management forms the basis of the range of issues to be debated at the Summit, and we submit that the event gives particular focus and status to the deliberations on this theme in the African initiative.

The Environment Initiative has targeted eight sub-themes for priority interventions:

Combating Desertification. Role model interventions are envisaged to rehabilitate degraded land and to address the factors that led to such degradation. Many of these steps will need to be labour intensive, along the lines of "public works programmes", thereby contributing to the social development needs of the continent.

Wetland Conservation. This involves a rolling out of African role model interventions on wetland conservation, where social and ecological benefits give very good returns on investment.

Invasive Alien Species. Partnerships are also sought to prevent and control invasive alien

species. These partnerships are critical for both the integrity of natural systems and economic well-being. Major labour-intensive initiatives are possible.

Coastal Management. In protecting and utilising coastal resources to optimal effect, role models are again suggested from which a broader programme can be introduced.

Global Warming. The initial focus is on monitoring and regulating the impact of climate change. Labour-intensive work is essential and critical to integrated fire management projects.

Cross-border Conservation Areas. This sub-theme seeks to build on the emerging initiatives to seek partnerships across countries that boost conservation and tourism, and therefore create or protect jobs.

Environmental Governance. This relates to the securing of the institutional, legal, planning, training and capacity-building requirements that underpin all of the above.

Financing. A carefully structured and fair system for financing work is needed.

The Environment Initiative has a distinct advantage in that many of the initiatives can start within relatively short time frames, and they also offer exceptional good returns on investment in terms of creating the social and ecological base upon which the African initiative can prosper.

53. RESOURCE MOBILISATION

53.1 INCREASING DOMESTIC SAVINGS

To achieve higher levels of growth and more effective poverty reduction, Africa needs to mobilise additional resources, both domestic and foreign. Domestic resources include national savings by firms and households, which need to be substantially increased. In addition, more effective tax collection is needed to increase public resources, as well as the rationalising of government expenditures. A significant proportion of their domestic savings is lost to African countries as a result of capital flight. This can only be reversed if African economies become attractive locations for residents to hold their wealth. Therefore, there is also an urgent need to create conditions that promote private sector investments by both domestic and foreign investors.

53.2. INCREASING CAPITAL FLOWS

To achieve the estimated 7 per cent per annum growth rate needed to meet the IDGs – most importantly, to halve poverty incidence by the year 2015 – Africa needs to fill an annual resource gap of 12 per cent of its GDP, or US \$64 billion. This will require increased domestic savings, as well as improvements to the public revenue collection systems. However, the majority of the needed resources will have to be obtained from outside the continent. The African initiative focuses on debt reduction and ODA as complementary external resources required in the short to medium term, and addresses private capital flows as a longer-term concern. A basic principle of the Capital Flows Initiative is that improved governance is a necessary accompaniment to increased capital flows, so that participation in the Economic and Political Governance Initiatives is a prerequisite for participation in the Capital Flows Initiative.

Other resources can be mobilised as follows :

1. All existing resources currently allotted to infrastructure and education in African countries will be devoted to global rather than to national management. Management of a global space would be more rational, more in keeping with our objective of African unity and facilitate economies of scale.

All existing resources would remain within the ambit of international, multilateral and bilateral cooperation; only management thereof would change, passing from national to sub-regional or continental levels.

2. Some African countries have substantial reserves which they will not use in ten to twenty years. The resources in question will be invested in Western markets or Western economies.

With renewed confidence in Africa, these resources could be lent by these states to sub-regional or continental groupings.

Developed countries are requested to pledge their Treasury bills to build resources for the Plan.

By so doing, they would not directly commit their liquid assets.

It is proposed to establish Special Drawing Rights for Africa.

3. The encouraging development prospects in Africa would make it possible to make use of reserve private resources which, in the West, are currently being invested, with confidence, in very long-term projects (toll highways, railways, ports, etc..)

Preferential Interest Rates

Developed countries are requested to bear the interests payable on these long-term resources so as to ensure a zero interest rate for Africa.

Interest of Developed Countries

This financing modality would therefore be of huge or even greater benefit to developed countries through their companies which, obviously, have the technological capacity particularly in the domain of road construction, to carry out these programmes within the shortest possible time limit and with better quality.

This means that this option will, in the long term, be more rational than the current loan/aid binomial.

The resources will also be of benefit to African while the resulting growth would foster sustainable development in the Continent, and consequently, in international trade and the global economy.

53.2.1 The Debt Initiative

The African initiative seeks to extend debt relief beyond its current levels (based on debt “sustainability”), which still require debt service payments amounting to a significant portion of the resource gap. The African initiative’s long-term objective is to link debt relief with costed poverty reduction outcomes. In the interim, debt service ceilings should be fixed as a proportion of fiscal revenue, with different ceilings for IDA and non-IDA countries. To secure the full commitment of concessional resources – debt relief plus ODA – that Africa requires, the African initiative leadership will negotiate these arrangements with creditor governments. Countries would engage with existing debt relief mechanisms – the HIPC and the Paris Club – before seeking recourse through the African initiative. The Debt Initiative will require agreed poverty reduction strategies, debt strategies and participation in the Economic Governance Initiative to ensure that countries are able to absorb the extra resources. In addition to seeking further debt relief through the interim debt strategy set out above, the African initiative leadership will establish a forum in which African countries will exchange experiences and mobilise for the improvement of debt relief strategies.

Actions

- ? The African initiative heads of state will seek to secure an agreement, negotiated with the international community, to provide further debt relief for countries participating in the African initiative, based on the principles outlined above.
- ? The African initiative leadership will establish a forum in which African countries may share experiences and mobilise for the improvement of debt relief strategies. They will exchange ideas that may end the process of reform and qualification in the HIPC process.

53.2.2 The ODA Reform Initiative

The African initiative seeks increased ODA flows in the medium term, as well as reform of the ODA delivery system, to ensure that flows are more effectively utilised by recipient African countries. The African initiative will establish an ODA forum of African countries so as to develop a common African position on ODA reform, and to engage with the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD and other donors in developing a charter underpinning the development partnership. This charter will identify the Economic Governance Initiative as a prerequisite for enhancing African countries’ capacity to utilise increased ODA flows, and will propose a complementary, independent assessment mechanism for monitoring donor performance. The African initiative will support a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) Learning Group to engage in the PRSP process together with the IMF and the World Bank.

Actions

- ? Constitute an ODA forum for developing a common African position on ODA reform, as a counterpart to the OECD DAC structure;
- ? Engage, through the ODA forum, with donor agencies to establish a charter for the development partnership, which would embody the principles outlined above;
- ? Support ECA's efforts to establish a PRSP Learning Group;
- ? Establish an independent mechanism for assessing donor and recipient country performance.

53.2.3 The Private Capital Flows Initiative

The African initiative seeks to increase private capital inflows from outside Africa, as an essential component of a sustainable long-term approach to filling the resource gap.

The first priority is to address investors' perception of Africa as a "high risk" continent, especially with regard to insecurity of property rights, regulatory weakness and markets. Several elements of the African initiative will help to lower these risks gradually, and include initiatives relating to peace and security, political and economic governance, infrastructure and poverty reduction. Interim risk mitigation and reduction measures will be put in place, including credit guarantee schemes and the strengthened investment-related regulatory and legislative frameworks. The next priority is the implementation of a PPP capacity-building programme through the African Development Bank and regional development banks, to assist national and sub-national governments in structuring and regulating transactions in the provision of infrastructural and social services. The third priority is to promote the deepening of financial markets within countries, as well as cross-border harmonisation and integration, via a Financial Market Integration Task Force. Initially, this will focus on the legislative and regulatory environment for the financial system.

Actions

- ? Establish a task team to carry out audits of investment-related legislation and regulation, with a view to risk reduction and harmonisation within Africa;
- ? Carry out a needs assessment of and feasibility study on financial instruments to mitigate risks associated with doing business in Africa;

- ? Establish an initiative to enhance the capacity of countries to establish PPPs;
- ? Establish a Financial Market Integration Task Force that will serve to fast-track financial market integration through the establishment of an internationally competitive legislative and regulatory framework and the creation of a single African trading platform.

Equally important, however, especially in the short to medium term, are additional ODA and debt reduction. Additional ODA is required to enable least developed countries to achieve the international development goals, especially in the areas of primary education, health and poverty eradication. Further debt reduction is also crucial. The enhanced Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) debt relief initiative still leaves many countries within its scope with very high debt burdens, given the need to direct more resources towards poverty reduction. In addition, there are countries not included in the HIPC that also require debt relief to release resources for poverty reduction.

- ? To ensure that the continent achieves the agreed International Development Goals (IDGs), which are:
 - To reduce the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by half between 1990 and 2015;
 - To enrol all children of school age in primary schools by 2015;
 - To make progress towards gender equality and empowering women by eliminating gender disparities in the enrolment in primary and secondary education by 2005;
 - To reduce infant and child mortality ratios by two-thirds between 1990 and 2015;
 - To reduce maternal mortality ratios by three-quarters between 1990 and 2015;
 - To provide access for all who need reproductive health services by 2015;
 - To implement national strategies for sustainable development by 2005, so as to reverse the loss of environmental resources by 2015.

VI. A NEW GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

54. Africa recognises the centuries-old historical injustice and the need to correct it. The central injunction of the new partnership is, however, for combined efforts to improve the quality

of life of Africa's people as rapidly as possible. In this, there are shared responsibilities and mutual benefits between Africa and her partners.

55. The global technological revolution needs an expanding base of resources, a widening sphere of markets, new frontiers of scientific endeavour, the collective capacity of human wisdom, and a well-managed ecological system. We are aware that much of Africa's mineral and other material resources are critical inputs into production processes in developed countries.
56. In addition to its indispensable resource base, Africa offers a vast and growing market for producers across the world. A developing Africa, with increased numbers of employed and skilled workers and a burgeoning middle class, would constitute an expanding market for world manufactured products, intermediate goods and services.
57. At the same time, Africa provides a great opportunity for investment. The African initiative creates opportunities for joint international efforts in the development of infrastructure, especially in ICT and transportation.
58. Africa also provides prospects for creative partnerships between the public and private sectors in beneficiation, agro-industries, tourism, human resource development and in tackling the challenges of urban renewal and rural development.
59. Furthermore, Africa's biodiversity – including its rich flora and fauna and the rain forests – is an important global resource in combating the environmental degradation posed by the depletion of the ozone layer and climate change, as well as the pollution of air and water by industrial emissions and toxic effluents.
60. The expansion of educational and other opportunities in Africa would enhance the continent's contribution to world science, technology and culture, to the benefit of all humankind. After all, modern science recognises Africa as the cradle of humanity. Fossils, artefacts, artistic works and the remains of ancient human settlements are to be found throughout Africa, providing material evidence of the emergence of *Homo sapiens* and the progression of humanity.
61. A part of the process of the reconstruction of the identity and self-confidence of the peoples of Africa, it is necessary that this be understood and valued by Africans themselves. In the same vein, Africa's status as the birthplace of humanity should be cherished by the whole world as the origin of all its peoples.
62. Africa's rich cultural legacy is reflected in its artefacts of the past, its literature, philosophies,

art and music. These should serve both as a means of consolidating Africans' pride in their own humanity and of confirming the common humanity of the peoples of the world.

63. The African initiative has, as one of its foundations, the expansion of democratic frontiers and the deepening of the culture of human rights. A democratic Africa will become one of the pillars of world democracy, human rights and tolerance. The resources of the world currently dedicated to resolving civil and interstate conflict could therefore be freed for more rewarding endeavours.
64. The converse of such an initiative, the collapse of more African states, poses a threat not only to Africans, but also to global peace and security. For industrialised countries, development in Africa will reduce the levels of global social exclusion and mitigate a major potential source of global social instability.
65. Africa is committed to the development and strengthening of South-South partnerships.

Establishing a new relationship with industrialised countries and multilateral organisations

66. A critical dimension of Africans taking responsibility for the continent's destiny is the need to negotiate a new relationship with the development partners. The manner in which development assistance is delivered in itself creates serious problems for developing countries. The need to negotiate and account separately to donors supporting the same sector or programme is both cumbersome and inefficient. Also, the tying of development assistance generates further inefficiencies. The appeal is for a new relationship that takes the country programmes as a point of departure. The new relationship should set out mutually agreed performance targets and standards for both donor and recipient. There are many cases that clearly show that the failure of projects is not caused only by the poor performance of recipients, but also by bad advice given by donors.
67. The various partnerships between Africa and the industrialised countries on the one hand, and multilateral institutions on the other, will be maintained. The partnerships in question include, among others: the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s; the Africa-Europe Summit's Cairo Plan of Action; the World Bank-led Strategic Partnership with Africa; the International Monetary Fund-led Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers; the Japan-led Tokyo Agenda for Action; the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act of the United States; and the Economic Commission on Africa-led Global Compact with Africa. The objective will be to rationalise these partnerships and to ensure that real benefits to Africa flow from them.
68. The African leaders envisage the following responsibilities and obligations of the developed

countries and multilateral institutions:

- ? To support materially mechanisms for and processes of conflict prevention, management and resolution in Africa, as well as peacekeeping initiatives;
- ? To accelerate debt reduction for heavily indebted African countries, in conjunction with more effective poverty reduction programmes, of which the Strategic Partnership with Africa and the PRSP initiatives are an important starting point;
- ? To improve debt relief strategies for middle-income countries;
- ? To reverse the decline in ODA flows to Africa and to meet the target level of ODA flows equivalent to 0,7 per cent of each developed country's gross national product (GNP) within an agreed short-term period. Increased aid flows will be used to complement funds released by debt reduction for accelerating the fight against poverty;
- ? To translate into concrete commitments the international strategies adopted in the fields of education and health;
- ? To facilitate the development of a partnership between countries, international pharmaceutical corporations and civil society organisations to urgently secure access to existing drugs for Africans suffering from infectious diseases;
- ? To admit goods into markets of the developed countries through bilateral initiatives, and to negotiate more equitable terms for African countries in the WTO multilateral framework;
- ? To work with African leaders to encourage investment in Africa by the private sector in developed countries, including the establishment of insurance mechanisms and financial instruments that will help lower risk premiums in Africa;
- ? To raise consumer protection standards for exports from developed countries to developing countries to the same levels applied in developed countries' domestic markets;
- ? To ensure that the World Bank and other multilateral development finance institutions participate as investors in the key economic infrastructure projects, in order to facilitate and support the securing of private sector participation;
- ? To provide technical support to accelerate the implementation of the programme of

action, including strengthening Africa's capacity in planning and development management, financial and infrastructure regulation, accounting and auditing, and development, construction and management of infrastructure;

- ? To support governance reforms of multilateral financial institutions to better cater for the needs and concerns of countries in Africa;
- ? To set up co-ordinated mechanisms to combat corruption effectively, as well as commit themselves to the return of monies (proceeds) of such practices to Africa.

VIII. REVERTING THE IMMIGRATION TRENDS TOWARDS COUNTRIES OF THE NORTH

The implimentation of the Initiative entails, as demonstrated before the use of African experts living in countries of the north. And the execution of projects will also required semi-skilled and unskilled manpower.

Major western entreprises which will be accorded contracts to work in Africa within the framework of the Initiative will be compelled to recruit a given percentage of manpower among Africans living in the West.

The bullient economic activities will created small businesses ideal for those with experience from abroad.

VIII. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW AFRICAN INITIATIVE

69. IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

Recognising the need to sequence and prioritise, the initiating Presidents propose that the following programmes be fast-tracked, in collaboration with development partners.

70. PROGRAMMES

- (a) Communicable diseases – HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis;
- (b) Information and Communications Technology;
- (c) Debt reduction;
- (d) Market access.

Work has already been done on all these programmes by a variety of international partnerships and institutions; however, Africa's participation and leadership need to be strengthened for better delivery. We hold that addressing these issues could fast-track the renewal of the continent. (Detailed proposals on each programme are available as annexes.)

71. PROJECTS

Much as the promoters of the New African Initiative appreciate the dangers of a project approach to development, they are proposing a number of projects that are crucial to an integrated regional development, as conceived by the African initiative. These projects not

only strengthen country and regional development programmes, but will also go a long way in kick-starting the regeneration of the continent.

The projects presented below are for illustrative purposes only. A detailed list of projects can be found on the Initiative's Web site (www.mapstrategy.com).

(i) Agriculture

- ? Expand the ambit and operation of the integrated land and water management action plan for Africa

The project addresses the maintenance and upgrading of Africa's fragile agricultural natural resources base. Many African governments are already implementing these initiatives as part of this programme. Partners include the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the World Bank, the FAO and other bilateral donor agencies.

- ? Strengthen and refocus the capacity of Africa's Agricultural Research and Extension Systems

The project addresses upgrading of the physical and institutional infrastructure that supports Africa's agriculture. Technological innovation and technology diffusion hold enormous potential for accelerating agricultural output and productivity, but the continent lacks the research capacity that is necessary for major breakthroughs. Major players include the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), the World Bank, the FAO and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

(ii) Promotion of the Private Sector

- ? National Business Incubators (NBI)

International experience suggests that one of the best practices in promoting enterprises in highly innovative areas is through the establishment of business incubators. This project will formulate required guidelines and policies for the establishment of such incubators at the national level, drawing on international experience and established best practice, tailored to African needs and conditions.

(iii) Infrastructure and Regional Integration

The African initiative process has identified many energy, transport, telecommunications and water projects that are crucial to Africa's integrated development. The projects are at various stages of development and require funding.

The next step is to accelerate their further development in collaboration with the African Development Bank, the World Bank and other multilateral institutions.

The view of the initiating Presidents is that, unless infrastructure is addressed on a planned basis – that is, linked to regional integrated development – the renewal process of the continent will not take off. Therefore, the international community is urged to partner Africa in accelerating the provision of infrastructure. Detailed infrastructure projects can be found on the Initiative's Web site (www.mapstrategy.com).

72. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

As part of assessing the required action in the priority sectors, a needs assessment will be undertaken, progressing from the national level, to the sub-regional level, to the continental level. The point is to assess the needs in the five priority sectors in terms of structures and staff.

The assessment of sub-regional sectoral needs will start from the national needs assessment. The proposal is that the experts and ministers in each sub-sector meet in one of the sub-regional capitals. For each sector, national data will have been aggregated and used to elaborate on a sub-regional sectoral plan. Once sub-regional sectoral needs are assessed in the five sectors, they can be aggregated to formulate sub-regional global needs.

It should be stressed that sub-regional sectoral needs are not to be simply added up – the starting point is a sub-regional perspective leading to at least two new elements:

- ? Specific needs of the sub-region perceived as a single space for all states in the region, for instance, roads and railroads will not be conceived from a national perspective but from a sub-regional one.
- ? Needs that should be rationalised on a sub-regional basis; for example, the universities should be distributed according to a sub-regional territorial rationale.

Finally, the continent's needs will be assessed in the five sectors considered as priority sectors in the light of the global sub-regional plans. The details can be found on the Initiative's Web site (www.mapstrategy.com).

73. **MANAGEMENT MECHANISM OF THE AFRICAN INITIATIVE**

The Heads of State promoting the New African Initiative will advise OAU on an appropriate mechanism for its implementation.

There will be a need for core technical support for the implementing mechanism in the areas of research and policy formulation.

Heads of State Implementation Committee

A Heads of State Implementation Committee composed of the five **Heads** of State, **promoters of the New African Initiative**, and ten others, 2 from each region, are appointed for the implementation.

The functions of the Implementation Committee will **consist in** :

- ? identifying strategic issues that need to be researched, planned and managed at the continental level;
- ? setting up mechanisms for reviewing progress in the achievement of mutually agreed targets and compliance with mutually agreed standards;
- ? reviewing progress in the implementation of past decisions and taking appropriate steps to address problems and delays ;
- ? preparing the UN Summit of September 2001 mainly a project of declaration of the Summit to support the New African Initiative and calling the world community, both the international public sector and the private one.
- ? preparing the Plan's management structure as follows:

At continental level

1. High Authority of the New African Initiative composed of fifteen members :
 - ~~05~~ 05 Heads of State promoters of the New African Initiative
 - ~~and~~ and 10 other Heads of State (2 for each of the five regions)
2. General Panafrican Management
 - ~~1~~ 1 Continental General Manager

~~2.2~~ Staff specialised in finance and management

3. Board of Governors (2 per region)

At regional level

1. 1 Regional Authority composed by Heads of State of the region

2. Regional Manager

3. One Board of Directors (each country being represented by one Director)

- Preparing the Summit of Heads of State and Government, Donors and the Private Sector scheduled for November 2001 in Dakar.

IX. CONCLUSION

74. The African initiative's objective is to consolidate democracy and sound economic management on the continent. Through the programme, African leaders are making a commitment to the African people and the world to work together in rebuilding the continent. It is a pledge to promote peace and stability, democracy, sound economic management and people-centred development and to hold each other accountable in terms of the agreements outlined in the programme.

In proposing the partnership, Africa recognises that it holds the key to its own development. We affirm that the African initiative offers an historical opportunity for the developed countries of the world to enter into a genuine partnership with Africa, based on mutual interest, shared commitments and binding agreements.

The adoption of a development strategy as set out in the broad approach outlined above, together with a detailed programme of action, will mark the beginning of a new phase in the partnership and co-operation between Africa and the developed world.

In fulfilling its promise, this agenda must give hope to the emaciated African child that the 21st century is indeed the century of Africa's renewal.

75. PROGRAMME FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS

At the continental level

- ? First meeting of the New African Initiative Heads of State Implementation Committee – July 2001;
- ? Commissioning of a Committee of Ministries of Finance and Central Banks to conduct reviews of current economic and corporate governance practices in the various regions. The Committee will report within six months and make recommendations on minimum standards and codes of good practice for fiscal policies, public financial management and corporate governance;
- ? Commissioning of a Committee of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to review capacity-building needed for peacekeeping structures at both the regional and continental levels;
- ? Establishing a task force to undertake sectoral needs assessments at national, regional and continental levels;

- ? Establishing special task forces to carry out the high-priority programmes, i.e. eradication of infectious diseases, infrastructure and ICT;
- ? Commissioning UNECA to prepare special reports on each of the prioritised areas for consideration by the Steering Committee appointed by the Heads of State Implementation Committee.

At the International Community level :

- ? Meeting with the leaders of the G-8 to discuss support of the programme in Genoa – July 2001;
- ? Holding of a special session of the UN General Assembly on the African initiative – September 2001;
- ? A summit of world leaders to deliberate on the financing of the New African Initiative in Senegal – November 2001.

PRETORIA

July 2001