

**AFRICAN UNION**

**الاتحاد الأفريقي**



**UNION AFRICAINE**

**UNIÃO AFRICANA**

---

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

P. O. Box 3243

Telephone: 5517 700

Fax: 5517844

Website: [www. Africa-union.org](http://www.Africa-union.org)

---

**ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION**

**Thirteenth Ordinary Session**

**1-3 July 2009**

**Sirte, Libya**

**Assembly/AU/14 (XIII)**

**THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE G8 SUMMIT TO BE HELD  
IN LA QUILA, ITALY: 8-10 JULY 2009**

## THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE G8 SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN LA QUILA, ITALY: 8-10 JULY 2009

### I. Introduction

1. The next G8 Summit is scheduled to take place in La Quila, Italy, from 8<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> July, 2009 under the auspices of the Italian Presidency. In line with the agreed upon format, the G8 Summit is expected to be attended, on the African side, by the AU-NEPAD Group of 5+3. The Group comprises Heads of State and Government of the five initiating countries (South Africa, Senegal, Algeria, Egypt, and Nigeria) of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the Chairperson of the African Union, the Chairperson of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee, and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC). In addition to this Group representing the African side, the G8 Presidency has proposed to the African side that the Emerging Economies of Brazil, India, China and Mexico be invited to attend the G8/Africa Outreach Session.

2. The agenda for the G8 Summit will be the following: Response to the impact of the financial and economic crisis; Climate Change on Africa; peace and security; and e-government.

### II. Preparatory Meetings

3. In preparation for the G8 Summit, several meetings have been held. These include the meeting of the Personal Representatives (PRs) of the AU-NEPAD Group of 5+3 and the NEPAD Secretariat, which took place in Algiers, Algeria, from 17 - 18 March, 2009; the Joint Meeting of the PRs of the AU-NEPAD Group of 5 + 3 and the NEPAD Secretariat and African Personal Representatives of the G8 held in Venice, Italy, from 18 - 19 April 2009; and the meeting of the NEPAD Steering Committee held in Midrand, South Africa, from 11-13 May 2009. Other meetings include APF Co-Chairs meetings held in Lisbon, Portugal, on 15 March, 2009, and in Midrand, South Africa, on from 13- 14 May, 2009. In addition to the above meetings, the Italian Presidency convened two meetings in Rome, Italy. These were: the 12<sup>th</sup> Africa Partnership Forum (APF) and the G8 Development Ministers/Africa Outreach Session, which were held on 10<sup>th</sup> June and 11<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> June 2009, respectively.

#### II.1 Algiers Meeting

4. The Algiers Meeting developed an African position for presentation to the Joint G8 APRs and NEPAD G5+3 PRs meeting, held in Venice, Italy, from 18-19 April 2009. In addition, it deliberated on the proposed agenda for the G8/Africa Outreach as earlier communicated by Italian Presidency, and explained by the PR of the Italian Prime Minister during the meeting at the request of the Algerian Authorities. The proposed agenda items were the following:

- i. Impact of the global financial crisis on Africa (with short assessment reports by ADB/World Bank);

- ii. Climate Change with specific attention to the Congo Basin Forest Initiative and Africa's preparations for the Copenhagen Conference of December 2009;
- iii. Peace and Security, with particular reference to Piracy in the Horn of Africa and Drug /Arms Trafficking / illegal Fishing / Money laundering in West Africa; and
- iv. Administrative/Political processes in support of population registration/census systems in Africa.

5. The PR of the Italian Prime Minister reported the G8 Presidency (Italy) arrived at this Agenda based on consultations with some African leaders, African Ambassadors based in Rome, as well as senior officials in different African capitals. The meeting welcomed the first three agenda items but proposed amendments and decided to seek further clarification on the fourth item during the Joint Meeting of Venice. The comments made are outlined below.

**a) Impact of the Global Financial Crisis on Africa (with short assessment reports by ADB/World Bank)**

6. The meeting agreed that this item should top the agenda at the 2009 G8/Africa Outreach. In view of the fact that the impact assessment of the global financial crisis is well known, the meeting agreed to rephrase the title of the agenda item to focus more on the following:

- i. Policy response, solutions/way forward and partnership elevation assistance to implement global measures to address the impact of the financial and economic crisis on Africa, with possible sub-themes on status of G8 pledges, support for African response to high food prices and promotion of agricultural development and infrastructure;
- ii. Africa's key messages to reflect on the review of debt sustainability framework, increased policy space for African countries to determine macro-economic direction, increased African representation/voice in the International Financial System, delivery of G8 commitments, early WTO Doha Development Round conclusion, support for MDGs attainment, special fiscal stimulus packages for Africa to cover the re-capitalization of the African Development Bank (AfDB), and quick and flexible disbursement of new resources; and
- iii. Follow-up on the implementation of the outcomes of G20 London Summit.

7. The Meeting requested the AUC to lead the preparation of a short briefing note for the G5+3 on this theme, with the support of the NEPAD Secretariat.

**b) Climate Change (focus on Congo Basin Forest Initiative and Copenhagen Conference)**

8. The meeting supported the inclusion of Climate Change on the agenda of the next G8/Africa Outreach. However, it raised concerns regarding the area of focus. The meeting was of the view that focusing on the Congo Basin Forest Initiative would be too restrictive since the discussion would not capture the other major African concerns and key regional project initiatives on Climate Change. It, therefore, agreed to include the following:

- i. Africa's special interests as elaborated in the Declaration of the Algiers African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) held from 19- 20 November, 2008 and endorsed by the February 2009 12<sup>th</sup> AU Assembly, which primarily cover adaptation measures, greater and qualitative access for Africa in the carbon finance market, access to new and clean technologies, as well as input to influence the post-Kyoto Protocol negotiations billed for December 2009 Copenhagen conference;
- ii. Focus on other environmental flagship/trans-boundary projects such as the Green Wall of Sahara, Lake Chad and Nile Basins, in addition to the Congo Basin Forest Initiative.

9. The meeting requested the AUC and the NEPAD Secretariat, with the support of Algeria, the host November 2008 AMCEN meeting, and South Africa, as current AMCEN Chair, to prepare the sectoral briefing note for the G5+3 on combating climate changes, reflecting the above two elements.

**c) Peace and Security (with particular reference to maritime security and combating organized crime (Piracy in the Horn of Africa and Drug /Arms Trafficking / illegal Fishing / Money laundering in West Africa)**

10. The meeting observed the critical nature/impact of peace and security on Africa's development aspirations and stressed the urgent need for G8/Africa dialogue to focus on contextualizing all African peace and security issues, rather than limiting attention to selected or identified challenges and new concerns. It then proposed that the African approach should be in line with the AUC objectives, which seek to identify ways to ensure sustainable, predictable and flexible funding for AU peace-support operations, including AMISOM.

11. The meeting requested the AUC to lead in preparing of the brief report on this agenda item, taking into consideration all the elements raised above.

**d) Administrative/political processes in support of Population registration/Census systems**

12. The meeting observed lack of clarity and definitive rationale regarding this proposed agenda item. The understanding was that the item was just for information sharing among the APF Co-Chairs as it was presented during the Lisbon Co-Chairs Meeting. Therefore, the meeting suggested that the African Peer Mechanism (APRM) process could be used in order to accommodate the G8 Italian proposal on the matter. Further, the meeting agreed to seek further clarification from the Italian Presidency.

**e) The Role of the G8/Africa Follow-Up Mechanism**

13. In addition, the meeting discussed the G8/Africa Follow-Up Mechanism. It noted the efforts by the G8, under Italian Presidency, to implement the 2008 G8 Hokkaido Toyoda Summit's decision on operationalizing the G8/Africa Follow-Up Mechanism, through the convening of the first G8 APRs-Africa G5+3 Personal Representatives Meeting in Venice, Italy, from 18-19 April 2009. It also agreed on the proposals by both the G8 Presidency and Portugal, one A Chair of non-G8 OECD Partners, regarding the following issues:

- i. Re-introduction of the Follow-Up Mechanism and APF's effectiveness (Italy);
- ii. The role of the APRs/APF reforms (Portugal as a chair for non-G8 OECD Partners);
- iii. The holding regular and result-oriented meetings among the APRs;
- iv. The move to consolidate G8/Africa partnership and reinforce the dialogue between Development Partners and Africa; and
- v. A more institutionalized and synergized format of the APRs Follow Up Mechanism whereby the periodicity of its meetings is pre-determined and choice of themes for G8/APF is aligned with AU/NEPAD priority issues and the new practice of focused sectoral themes of AU Assembly sessions.

**II.2. Venice Meeting**

14. The main purpose of Venice Joint Meeting of PRs of the African Group of 5 + 3 and the APRs of the G8 included a discussion of the preparations for the 2009 G8/Africa Outreach, taking into account some of the issues raised and agreed during the Algiers Meeting. The issues discussed included:

**a) Strengthening the Dialogue among the G8 Africa-African PRs**

15. The meeting emphasized on the need to strengthen the dialogue among the G8 APRs and African PRs. To this effect, both sides welcomed the re-introduction of the

dialogue among G8 APRs-Africa PRs and jointly committed to sustained engagement and in-depth dialogue involving regular meetings.

**b) Preparation of the G8 Summit and the G8/Africa Outreach**

16. The Meeting discussed the four proposed themes for the G8 Summit, taking into the consideration the Algiers outcome and agreed on the following agenda for the G8/Africa Outreach:

- i. Response to the impact of the global financial and economic crisis on Africa;
- ii. Climate Change;
- iii. Peace and Security; and
- iv. e-Government

17. It was further agreed that food security would be addressed within these discussions as a sub-theme. The Italian Government undertook to provide papers on these four themes. Further, the G8 APRs indicated their plan to include the Emerging Economies during the G8/Africa outreach. The African side rejected this format and urged for the retention of the traditional format whereby invited African Leaders engage their G8 counterparts directly and specifically on African issues in their partnership.

**c) The Review of the G8/Africa Follow-Up Mechanism of the APF**

18. The meeting discussed the matter as presented by the African side. However, the G8 side was of the view that there was no need to review the follow-up mechanism.

**II.3. NEPAD Steering Committee Meeting**

19. The 37<sup>th</sup> NEPAD Steering Committee Meeting, officially opened by Brother **Muammar Ghaddafi**, Leader of The Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, also discussed, among other things, the preparations for the G8/Africa Outreach, particularly addressing outstanding issues from both Algiers and Venice meetings.

20. The meeting agreed with the proposed four themes for the Summit. However, it requested further clarifications from the Italian Presidency regarding e-government. Regarding the inclusion of the emerging economies into the G8/Africa Outreach, the Steering Committee did not agree with the proposal, arguing that there was need to use the current format, given that invitation to the five may have something with trying to convince them to be applying certain conditions in the delivery of aid.

**II.4 Midrand APF Co-Chairs Meeting**

21. The Midrand APF Co-Chairs Meeting was attended on the African side by the Personal Representatives of the Chair of the NEPAD HSGIC; the Commissioner for Economic Affairs, representing the Chairperson of the African Union Commission; and

the NEPAD Secretariat. On the Partners side were Personal Representatives of the Italian G8 Presidency and Portugal, as the country chairing non-G8 OECD Partners.

22. The main objective of the meeting was to continue the preparations for the G8 Summit and the G8/Africa Outreach, taking into consideration the outcomes of the NEPAD Steering Committee. The meeting discussed almost all the issues pertaining to themes for the G8 Summit, particular those where agreements were not reached during the Algiers and the Venice Meetings.

**a) Role of the G8/Africa Follow-Up Mechanism**

23. The meeting raised concerns regarding the need to implement the 2008 G8 Hokkaido Toyoda Summit's decision on operationalizing the G8/Africa Follow-Up Mechanism. The meeting recommended the following:

- i. Consider the re-introduction of the Follow-Up Mechanism during the next G8 Summit;
- ii. Use the APF to follow-up on G8 commitments;
- iii. Reform the APF to make it more effective, particularly through strengthening its level of representation and participation, choice of themes, and linkages with global processes on Africa's development, including the G20 and G8;
- iv. The need for a more institutionalized and synergized format of the APRs Follow Up Mechanism whereby the periodicity of its meetings is pre-determined and choice of themes for G8/APF is aligned with AU/NEPAD priority issues;
- v. Consider using the Africa Action Plan to follow-up on implementation of the G8 commitments.

**b) Preparation of the themes for the Summit**

24. The meeting discussed the need for the G8 Presidency to consult the African side before proposing agenda items for the G8 Summit. The present practice is that the themes for the Summit are proposed by the G8 Presidency and the risk is that the proposed themes may not be Africa's priorities.

**c) Inclusion of the emerging economies**

25. On the inclusion of the Emerging Economies into the G8/Africa Outreach, the African side informed their counter-parts that based on the outcome of the NEPAD Steering Committee meeting held from 11- 13 May, 2009, the African side did not favour the idea. The meeting agreed to continue discussing the matter.

## **II.5 The 12<sup>th</sup> Africa Partnership Forum (APF)**

26. The APF was addressed by H.E. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbe, President of the Republic of Togo; the Prime Minister of Somalia; Representatives of Italy; Ethiopia; Portugal; Libya; and the Commissioner for Economic Affairs of the African Union.

27. The meeting was attended by the G8 and non-G8 OECD countries; the AU-NEPAD Group of 5+3; the European Commission, the International Monetary Fund, the African Development Bank (AfDB); the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); Southern Africa Development Community (SADC); and the OECD Support Unit.

28. The meeting focused on the following agenda items:

- i. Response to the impact of global financial and economic crisis;
- ii. Peace and security: Drug trafficking, piracy and money laundering-the international dimension of organized crime;
- iii. Climate challenges to Africa, from Bali to Copenhagen; and
- iv. Reform and effectiveness of the Africa Partnership Forum.

29. Following the discussions of the above agenda items, the meeting issued a Communiqué, which among others things, underlined the importance of delivering on the agenda agreed by the G20 Summit, held in London, the United Kingdom, on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009. In addition, the Communiqué addressed the problems of drug trafficking in West Africa and piracy in the Horn of Africa by enhancing international co-operation on peace keeping, the fight against terrorism, law enforcement and maritime security, in addition to enhancing support for the Africa Peace and Security Architecture.

30. The meeting also underscored the severe impact of climate change on Africa and acknowledged that it was a problem not of Africa's making. Finally, the 12<sup>th</sup> APF reviewed the APF to make it more relevant and effective as a forum for dialogue between Africa and its development partners.

## **II.6 The G8 Development Ministers**

31. The G8 Development Ministers Meeting was attended by the following: G8 countries, OECD, UN Agencies, the AUC, the World Bank, the IMF, and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)-Biodiversity. Also attending the meeting were the five emerging economies (Brazil, Mexico, China, South Africa, and Egypt). From the Africa side, the meeting was attended by the AU-NEPAD Group of 5+3.



32. The meeting focused on the following agenda items:
- i. Response to the impact of the global financial and economic crisis on Africa; and
  - ii. Climate Change, including food security.
33. Following discussions of the above two agenda items, the meeting agreed on the following:
- i. The need to promote foreign direct investment in addition to the Official Development Assistance (ODA);
  - ii. The need to increase investment, particularly in the area of infrastructure, social sectors, and agriculture, including support for micro-financing;
  - iii. Resources to be made available to assist developing countries in mitigating the impact of climate change and global financial and economic crisis;
  - iv. Delivery on commitment made during the G20 Summit;
  - v. Enhancing cooperation efforts by development partners in providing support to African countries, which should also be in line with their national strategies;
  - vi. Allocation of stimulus packages to consider Africa's needs;
  - vii. Developed countries to untie their aid and ensure proper coordination to avoid duplication of efforts;
  - viii. Civil society and private sector to be involved in the decision making process of formulating policies and developing solutions to the financial and economic crisis; and
  - ix. Effective conclusions of Doha Development Round and WTO negotiations.

#### **IV. Key Messages to the G8**

##### **a) Policy Response to the Global Financial Crisis**

34. In preparing for the G8 Summit, the Africa Union Commission has prepared the key messages to be taken to the G8 Summit in La Quila. These key messages have been shared with the G8 Presidency, the G8 Development Ministers; and the 12<sup>th</sup> APF Meeting. It is expected that the same key messages will be presented to the G8 Summit in La Quila, Rome. The following are the messages:

35. The impact of the current global financial crisis will spread to all parts of the world, including African countries, despite their economies being less integrated into the international financial system. Examples of the impact include: declining private capital inflows; the closure of mining industries in some countries; reduction in trade volumes; reduction in volumes of remittances; decline in aid volumes, which will further affect the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); and low levels of foreign direct investment. It is most likely that the current financial crisis will adversely impact on the recent hard won Africa's economic growth performance.

36. Efforts are being made by African countries aimed at mitigating the impact. However, these efforts need a strong support from the development partners, particularly in the following areas, among others:

- i. **Surveillance and Regulation of Financial Systems:** There is need to develop more tools in order to increase multilateral surveillance of policies in areas such as exchange rate policies, banking system, and capital account movements. Financial international institutions such as the IMF have a big role to play in this regard in order to sharpen the regulatory framework;
- ii. **Governance of International Financial Institutions, including Issue of Voice and Representation:** The developed countries enjoy a significant majority of voting power compared to the developing countries which have had a declining voting power. This resulted into a number of decisions being taken without adequate consideration of African concerns. Africa calls for an increase voice and representation at the Bretton Woods Institutions and that African countries should be part of the key players in developing the stimulus packages, including that of the G20 and the G8. In this regard, Africa proposes that the region be given a permanent seat in the G20 to ensure that its interests and concerns on global financial and economic issues are heard and taken into account
- iii. **Fiscal Stimulus:** Developed countries continue to develop stimulus packages to boost their economies, and yet very little attention is being paid to boosting demand in Africa. Africa needs to be integrated into the coordinated effort to stimulate global aggregate demand. Possible sources of finance to boost demand in Africa include sale of gold reserves by the IMF; issuance of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs); increased resources for the international financial institutions; and an acceleration of disbursements. In addition, the need for the IMF, the World Bank and the MDBs need to come up with new lending models to take into consideration the impact of the global financial crisis. Further, there is need for an early capital increase of the African Development Bank (AfDB) to enable it scale up its intervention in support of African countries during the crisis. Further, there is need for an early capital increase of the Regional and Multilateral Development Banks, including the African Development Bank (AfDB), to enable them scale up interventions in support of low income countries, including those in Africa during the crisis. It is also proposed that there be a temporary moratorium on debt repayments by African countries to free resources for development.

- iv. **The need to deliver on ODA commitments:** There are clear indications that ODA flows will drop due to financial and economic crisis. Although a number of developed countries have committed to scale up resources for Africa's development, indications show that most of them are not on track to meet their by 2010 targets. Donors must deliver their commitments, including those of the Gleneagles Summit. In this respect, Africa calls for urgent need to improve aid effectiveness in Africa.
- v. **Increasing policy space:** The imposition and use of policy conditionalities in aid delivery has adversely affected many Africa countries in choosing their own policies and paths. An example is provided by the Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA) of the World Bank, which ranks countries according to the quality of their policies and institutional arrangements, and not outcomes. Africa demands that the CPIA be redesigned to include outcomes.
- vi. **Trade: The WTO- Doha Rounds/Trade Negotiations, Protectionism, Trade Finance and Aid for Trade:** Africa faces challenges pertaining to improved trade performance and slow progress of the multilateral and bilateral trade negotiations, including the outcomes of the Doha Round and EPA negotiation processes with the European Union. Africa welcomes the G20 commitment to reaching an ambitious and balanced conclusion of the Doha Development Round and calls upon the G8 to support efforts aimed at accelerating the pace towards a successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round.
- vii. **Social Protection for the Poor:** Quick responses to the crisis, including social protection for the poor are needed. In this regard, the African side is pleased to note that funds amounting to US\$ 2 billion have been set aside under IDA's Rapid Social Response Fund to help poor countries to deal with effects of the financial crisis on their economies. However, there is need for the Rapid Social Response Fund to be separated from IDA allocations. In addition, we urge the Regional and Multilateral Development Banks to increase their financial support to African countries to enable them to finance social programmes and ensure that the crisis does not become a humanitarian disaster.
- viii. **Support for Regional Integration in Africa:** The current global and economic crisis has demonstrated the need for Africa to promote intra-African trade and regional integration in general to bolster economic growth and development by enlarging markets and reducing vulnerability to shocks. Africa, therefore, calls upon Partners, particularly the IMF, the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the European Union to strengthen their support for regional integration in Africa.
- ix. **Implementation of G20 Commitments:** Commitments towards the global financial and economic crisis made during the G20 Summit held in London, the United Kingdom, on 2 April 2009. For instance, the G20 pledged to treble resources available to the IMF to US \$750.00 billion; to support a new SDR allocation of US \$250 billion; and to ensure US \$250.00 billion in support of trade

finance. However, what remains is the implementation of these commitments, particularly those relating to Africa. The African Union, therefore, wishes to seek support of the G8 in the implementation of commitments from the G20 Summit. In addition, it will be necessary to develop a monitoring mechanism for the implementation of these commitments and Africa requests that it be part of this mechanism.

## **b) Peace and Security**

37. A number of commitments have been made by the G8 countries towards supporting the AU Peace and Security agenda. Worth noting are commitments made during the Kananaskis, Evian and Sea Island Summits, among others. However, many of these commitments have not been implemented as pledged. On the other hand, African countries have also made strides in implementing the peace and security agenda of the Continent, despite a number of challenges, including financial resources. The African side, therefore, wishes to call upon the G8 countries to support peace and security in the following areas:

- i. Operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture (ASPA) established in the Protocol relating to the establishment of the Peace and Security Council (PSC): The Architecture revolves around five key pillars, namely, the PSC; the Panel of the Wise; the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS); African Standby Force (ASF); and the Relations with Regional Mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution;
- ii. Funding for AU peace support operations: This is in line with the Decision of 8<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union, which among others, called upon the United Nations to examine, within the context of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, the possibility of funding, through assessed contributions, peacekeeping operations undertaken by the AU or under its authority and with the consent of the United Nations;
- iii. Implementation of recommendations made by the UN Secretary-General relating to relationship between the UN and regional organizations, in particular the African Union, to maintain international peace and security, through predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing regional organizations as they undertake peacekeeping operations under UN mandate;
- iv. The implementation of the Decision taken during the 7<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Union, relating to development of an AU Policy Framework on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD), including:
  - ✓ the development of operational guidelines for the adaptation of the Policy at regional and national levels;

- ✓ the development of a database of African experts on PCRD, to be placed at the disposal of countries emerging from conflict;
  - ✓ the mobilization of the resources required and the enhancement of African capacity, including the use of AU Volunteers (AUVs); and
  - ✓ the establishment of an AU Standing Multidimensional Committee (AUSMC) to provide political support and mobilize all the necessary and available resources for the implementation of the Policy.
- v. Implementation of the Common African Defence and Security Policy, including strengthening Regional and Continental Mechanisms to control of small arms and light weapons. Activities in this area include: combating the illicit proliferation; circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons; international terrorism; and weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons; The need to address the underlying causes of insecurity, including the lack of state-security capacity through G8 support for Africa's peace and security agenda, the full establishment of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) as well as security-sector reforms;
- vi. Africa's efforts towards restoring constitutionality to Somalia and Guinea Bissau, which are two of the most vulnerable countries to the incidence of piracy/illegal fishing and organized crime; and
- vii. implementation of the recommendations contained in the "Prodi Report", as presented to the UN Security Council.

**c) Climate Change**

38. Many parts of the world are experiencing the effects of climate change through extreme variations in weather patterns and changing ecosystems. The impact of climate change has spread worldly, including the poorest countries, some of which are in Africa.

39. Despite contributing only about 3.6 per cent to global carbon dioxide emissions, Africa remains the most vulnerable continent to climate variability and change. This has been the case because of their heavy dependency on climate –sensitive sectors such as agriculture, health, forest, water, among others. Failure to address the current challenges posed by Climate Change will put Africa at greater risk, where unprecedented high levels of floods and severe droughts are already the visible consequences. Finding lasting solutions to address climate change is, therefore, critical in achieving Africa's economic growth and sustainable development.

40. Many African countries have made efforts in addressing the impact of climate change. These include, adoption of various Decisions on climate change by the African Union Summits; ratification of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) by all African Member States; the launching of the Green Wall for the Sahara

Initiative 2007 and adoption of its Action Plan by the AU Summit; and a decision on developing a common negotiating position on a comprehensive international climate regime beyond 2012 adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on Environment. The Commission of the African Union in partnership with United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank have established a joint Secretariat for implementation of the Climate for Development in Africa programme (ClimDEV Africa) which aims at strengthening Africa's policy and technical capacities to enhance the continent's resilience to climate change

41. The aforementioned Africa's efforts need support from its development partners, including the G8 countries. In this respect, Africa calls for the following:

- i. Scale-up of the current funding levels available under the financial mechanism for adaptation and mitigation which at the moment remains at its current levels and continues to rely on voluntary contributions, which are not sufficient to address the impact of climate change. Additional investment and financial flows are needed for adaptation measures, estimated at between US \$28-\$67 billion a year (UNFCCC, 2008);
- ii. Support the implementation of the UNFCCC process relating to adaptation and mitigation measures for Africa's activities, including the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture development Programme (CAADP); the Climate for Development in Africa programme (ClimDevAfrica), Climate Change Adaptation in Africa programme (CCAA); the AU/NEPAD High Level Panel on Climate Change; and the Environmental Action Plan (EAP) Of NEPAD; the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the African Regional Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction and the Great Green wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative
- iii. Increase the facilitation for access to the multilateral funding for adaptation such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Trust Fund; and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF); among others;
- iv. Implementation of the recommendation contained in the Gleneagles Communiqué on climate change, energy, and sustainable development and in particular to create regional climate centres in Africa;
- v. Financial support from development partners to focus more on the key economic sectors sensitive to Climate Change, particularly infrastructure, agriculture and food security, water and sanitation, health, energy, environment, ecotourism to ensure sustainable development;
- vi. Strengthening of the support of development partners in promoting the full integration of climate change issues into Africa's economic planning and management at the national and regional levels, especially in poverty reduction strategies;
- vii. Full participation of African countries in international climate change negotiations;

- viii. The financial resources required to tackle climate change should be new and additional, adequate, predictable, sustainable and provided primarily in the form of grants and other innovative financing mechanisms and instruments, such as debt-for-nature swaps;
- ix. Encourage the establishment of a fund to reward or provide incentives for reducing emissions through sustainable land-management practices, including forest conservation, sustainable forest management, the avoidance of deforestation, forestation and sustainable agriculture;
- x. Support the enhancement of the development and implementation of programmes and activities relating to building resilience of coastal communities and their preparedness to respond to the impacts of climate change in Africa;
- xi. Support the implementation of a comprehensive framework of African climate change programme developed at the twelfth session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in June 2008;
- xii. Improvement for the Clean Development Mechanism to ensure equitable geographical distribution and access to projects contributing sustainable development efforts on the continent;
- xiii. The expansion of eligible categories to benefit from carbon credits and other international incentives in the post 2012 agreed outcome to include sustainable land use, agriculture and forest management, so as to promote agriculture in a way that improves resilience and adaptation to climate change;
- xiv. Call upon G8 to implement in full the recommendations contained in Gleneagles Communiqué on climate change, energy, and sustainable development and in particular to create regional climate centres in Africa;
- xv. Donors to pledge during the fifteenth session of the Conference of parties to the UNFCCC to replenish Global Environment Facility, which is the operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention;
- xvi. The Global Environment Facility to continue to give priority to African countries and to allocate financial resources based on the needs and priorities of countries and to request the Facility to improve its procedures and to revise its co-financing policy to give an African countries direct access to its financial resources;
- xvii. Development partners to honour commitments previously made within the context of implementing the AU/NEPAD Environment Action plan and the prioritization and implementation of the Sub-Regional Environmental Action Plans (SREAPs); and

- xviii. The G8 to support strengthening of the capacities of African climate and climate change-related institutions at all levels, to develop and implement solutions in response to Climate Change.

**V. Some Issues for Consideration by Member States**

42. The following issues need to be addressed:

- i. There is need to provide clarity regarding who takes leadership during the preparations for the G8 Summits. This issue needs to be discussed within the current context of integrating NEPAD into the African Union structures and processes. Currently, there are no clear mandates regarding the roles of the AUC in relation to those of the NEPAD Secretariat. As of now, the NEPAD Secretariat considers preparations for the G8 as one of its main activities, having been fully and directly involved in all the activities of the APF and G8 since their establishment. It is recommended that preparations for the G8 be led by the AUC, with the support of the NEPAD Secretariat. The NEPAD Secretariat should follow-up on the implementation of the G8 commitments, including resources mobilization.
- ii. The need for the G8/Africa Outreach to review the level of participation for the APF meetings. It is advisable that the Forum be attended by the Personal Representative of the Heads of State and Government who are at the level of ministers.
- iii. There is need for the African Action Plan to be discussed and adopted by the APF as well as the G8 Summit.
- iv. There is need to establish a more institutionalized and synergized format of the APRs Follow Up Mechanism whereby the periodicity of its meetings is pre-determined and choice of themes for G8/APF is aligned with AU/NEPAD priority issues and the new practice of focused sectoral themes of AU Assembly sessions.
- v. Discuss the merits and demerits of emerging economies attending the G8/Africa outreach and make appropriate recommendations.



**AFRICAN UNION UNION AFRICAINE**

**African Union Common Repository**

**<http://archives.au.int>**

---

Organs

Assembly Collection

---

2009-07-01

# The preparations for the G8 summit to be held in La Quila, Italy: 8-10 JULY 2009

Africa union

African union

---

<http://archives.au.int/handle/123456789/5668>

*Downloaded from African Union Common Repository*