African Common Position on

The Review of the Millennium Declaration and The Millennium Development Goals

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African Union
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Table of Contents

Tables

Figures

Foreword

The African Union document on the *Review of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): Towards an African Common Position* is a follow up to the Draft Decision of the Heads of State and Government at the 4th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union (AU) in Abuja, Nigeria, held from 30-31 January 2005. It was presented by the AU Commission at the 5th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Sirte, Libya, from 4- 5 July 2005 and was endorsed by the Heads of State and Government. It has since served as the Continent's contribution at the United Nations High Level Summit held in New York, United States of America, in September 2005.

The African Union Commission (AUC) prepared this document in collaboration with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Secretariat, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In addition, the following partners contributed to the preparation of the document in various ways: the International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), *Organisation Internationale de la Francophone (OIF)*, World Food Programme (WFP), the Department for International Development- UK (DFID), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The document highlights the efforts made by African Heads of State and Government, prior and subsequent to the Millennium Summit, in adopting the establishment of the African Union and the adoption of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as the strategic programme of the African Union. It reviews the status of the MDGs in Africa, highlights the main challenges faced in achieving the goals, and assesses the national and regional policies and priorities for achieving the MDGs. In addition, it considers enhancing regional integration in achieving the MDGs, outlines the role of the African Union and what Africa should do over the next ten years and beyond 2015. The document stresses that the attainment of the MDGs is a minimum prerequisite for sustainable development and poverty reduction.

Drawing insights from the experiences of the last decade and half, the document illustrates that achieving the MDGs in Africa will be difficult; and very few African countries with the exception of North African countries are likely to meet even some of the goals. On the other hand, the document recognizes twelve African countries that have implemented sound economic policies and improved their systems of governance in having seen acceleration in growth and poverty reduction.

In conclusion, the document identifies policies that are best catalysts for sustained growth and development towards achieving the MDGs. The main pillars for strategic action and for an African Common Position include progress in the followings areas: peace and security; good governance; broad based pro-poor growth and social policy; regional integration and harmonization; regional infrastructure development; science and technological development; regional trade development; effective domestic and foreign resource mobilization and utilization; and increased overseas development assistance (ODA), debt cancellation and removal of trade barriers.

As a way forward, the Assembly of African Heads of State and Government in Sirte, Libya, mandated the African Union Commission to monitor the implementation of the MDGs in Africa. In undertaking this function, the African Union Commission will work closely with the Member States of the African Union, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the NEPAD Secretariat, the ECA, the ADB and partners such as the United Nations Development Progaramme (UNDP).

I wish to take the opportunity to thank the Member States of the African Union for making available to the AUC their national MDG review documents and thereby facilitating the work of the African Union Commission in preparing the African Common Position on the Review of the MDGs. I would also wish to express my sincere gratitude to the NEPAD Secretariat, the ECA, the ADB, the UNDP and all the partners for their excellent collaboration with the AUC in the preparation of this document. Last but not least, I wish to commend the dedicated and hard-working team of Africans from the AUC, the NEPAD Secretariat, the ECA, the ADB, and the UNDP for preparing this document, which goes a long way in assessing Africa's performance in achieving the MDGs.

Alpha Oumar Konaré
Chairperson, African Union Commission

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Accordingly, this document has immensely benefited from the collaboration of and contributions from AU specialized Departments, Directorates and Units, and partner organizations including the ADB, the ECA, the UNDP and others such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), *Organisation Internationale de la Francophone* (OIF), World Food Programme (WFP), the Department for International Development- UK (DFID), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). In this regard, the African Union Commission wishes to sincerely extend its gratitude to these organizations for the collaboration and support received in the preparation of this document.

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Executive Summary

The AU Review of the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs-Towards an African Common Position[1] is response to a request to the AU Commission by the 4th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held from 30-31 January 2005 to coordinate and lead in the process of developing an African Common Position as the Continent's contribution to the Report on the Review of the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs considered at a High-level Summit in September 2005. The Millennium Declaration stressed the special needs of Africa, calling on nations to support the consolidation of democracy in African countries and assist Africans in their struggle for lasting peace, poverty eradication and sustainable development, thereby bringing Africa into the mainstream of the world economy. Further, the Declaration resolved to give full support to the political and institutional structures of emerging democracies in Africa.

In September 2000, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were adopted by 189 nations at the Millennium Summit. The commitments to the goals were strongly reaffirmed by all United Nations member states at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2002 and at the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development in March 2002.

On the African side, African Heads of State and Government have, prior and subsequent to the Millennium Summit, adopted the establishment of the African Union and the adoption of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as the strategic programme of the African Union. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) has the MDGs as a centrepiece of Africa's development agenda. The African Union sums up the vision of African leaders at the highest level for a strong, united and prosperous Africa that is effectively integrated into the global economy as a respectable partner.

This AU document reviews the status of the MDGs in Africa, highlights the main challenges faced in achieving the goals, assesses the national and regional policies and priorities for achieving the MDGs and outlines what Africa is prepared to do over the next ten years and beyond 2015. The document is divided into eight sections. Section 1 gives some background information on the MDGs; Section 2 reviews the status of the MDGs in Africa, including the regional progression towards the MDGs using selected African countries case studies in North Africa, West Africa, East Africa and Southern Africa; Section 3 is an analysis of the main challenges to achieving the MDGs in Africa; Section 4 discusses national policies and priorities for achieving the MDGs; Section 5 presents the need for enhanced regional integration for the achievement of the MDGs;

1 This document has been prepared by the African Union Commission in collaboration with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Secretariat, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Section 6 discusses the role of the AU in the achievement of the MDGs, particularly in providing an enabling policy environment for the socio-economic development of Africa; Section 7 presents the financing options and partnerships in support of the MDGs; and Section 8 discusses the strategic actions for Africa to achieve the MDGs and sustainable development beyond 2015. For Africa, the attainment of the MDGs is a minimum prerequisite for sustainable development and poverty reduction. The attainments of the MDGs provide the foundation for meeting the much higher hopes and ambitions of the African continent.

The Status of MDGs in Africa

On balance and given the trends in the last decade and half, and the significant challenges they face, several African countries, with the exception of North African countries, are unlikely to meet the MDGs by 2015. The experience during this period has shown that achieving the MDGs in Africa will be difficult and very few African countries are likely to meet even some of the goals.

Africa scores low in all the MDGs indicators. Almost half of the region's population is living in extreme poverty and hunger; the region appears at the bottom of the health-related human development indicators; and about 28 million people are living with HIV/AIDS. However, those African countries that have implemented sound economic policies and improved their systems of governance have seen acceleration in growth and poverty reduction and are likely to make significant progress towards attaining some of the goals.

In North Africa, while impressive growth has contributed much in terms of progress toward the MDGs, institutional factors continue to hinder the pace of progress. High inequality in some of the countries has limited the impact of recent growth on poverty reduction. Nevertheless, the countries in this region have made considerable progress with investment in education, health, water and sanitation, and safeguarding the environment. However, progress in engendering institutions is rather slow and tackling gender inequality remains a daunting task.

In West Africa, trends in some of the indicators (such as incidence of poverty, under-5 mortality rates, maternal mortality ratios, the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and malaria) show weak prospects of achieving the MDGs by 2015 unless major policy and institutional changes take place now.

In East Africa, economic performance since the adoption of the MDGs has been uneven across and within countries in East Africa. While Ethiopia and Kenya recorded relative low growth rates, growth in Uganda and Tanzania for the last five years has been remarkable. Uganda's economy has been growing steadily at 7-8 percent since 2000 and Tanzania growth rate has also moved steadily from 0.4 percent in 1993 to 6.3 percent in 2003.

Economic performance in the Central African region since signing on to the MDGs in 2000 has been mixed. GDP on the average fell by 5.4 per cent in 1994. In recent times the economic performance for the region as a whole has remained virtually unchanged, even though the growth performance has been better since 2002.

The first of the MDGs is to halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty and hunger by 2015. According to the latest data available, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty in Africa actually increased from 44.6 percent in 1990 to 46.5 in 2001; while developing countries as a group registered a significant reduction in extreme poverty, from 27.9 percent in 1990 to 21.3 percent in 2001.

In Africa, the poverty incidence is high and there are several countries where more than 50 percent of the population lives on less than a dollar a day. However, masked by the overall averages for the region, a number of African countries have made good progress in reducing income poverty. For example, the 2003 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report identifies 12 countries as having made significant progress in reducing income poverty. These are: Mauritius, Botswana, Namibia, Cape Verde, Lesotho, Ghana, Mauritania, Guinea, Benin, Mozambique, Burkina Faso, Mali, and Ethiopia. According to the same source, in 18 out of 45 African countries for which recent data is available, the proportion of under-nourished people was very high, affecting one-third or more of the population. In addition, 16 countries are on track to halve hunger by 2015, but 19 are not; and in 8 of these countries, the proportion of under-nourished people is actually increasing.

Since the 1990s, poverty reduction in Africa was hindered mainly by: *weak economic performance, political turmoil and civil strife, and bad weather conditions.* Progress in reducing poverty is further complicated by Africa's *highly skewed income distribution.* Not only does high inequality inhibit economic growth, but it may also neutralize and even cancel out whatever positive impacts growth could have on poverty reduction.

Regarding Goal 2, in Africa, net enrolment rates increased from 54 percent in 1990 to over 60 percent in 2002. Moreover, progress in some African countries has been rapid. For example, Malawi and Uganda achieved large increases in enrolments in a very short period of time by removing impediments such as school fees. Despite these gains, the average annual rate of increase in enrolment would have to be accelerated to 3 percent from the 1990-98 level of 1.3 percent. Moreover, while the enrolment rates increased, primary schooling completion rates have been very low. Failure to meet the education target will reduce the chances of reaching the other MDGs because basic education is key to unlocking positive externalities and synergies.

MDG 3 aims to promote gender equality and empower women. In Africa, there has been a decline in the gap between girls' and boys' net enrolment ratios during the 1990s. While only 89 girls were enrolled in school for every 100 boys in 1990, the proportion rose to 91 girls per 100 boys in the early 2000s. The ratio of literate females to males in Africa rose throughout the 1990s and beyond. It is important to note that the issue of gender equality is not just a human rights concern. Instead, gender equality and empowerment of women is an economic issue, where the participation of women in the labour force increases productivity and contributes to sustainable development and poverty reduction.

The MDGs also call for reducing by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate. In Africa, almost one in six children die before the age of five. In fact, in parts of Africa, the under-five mortality rate has increased since 1990. For example, in Botswana and Kenya, the spread of HIV/AIDS pandemic has resulted in increased levels of under-five mortality rate. Therefore, the overwhelming majority of African countries are seriously off-track in meeting the infant mortality rate goal by 2015.

The fifth MDG calls for reducing maternal mortality ratios by three-quarters of their 1990 levels by 2015. In Africa, the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel showed a very minimal change in the 1990s, from 40 percent in 1990 to 44 percent in 2000. At the present rate, the targeted 85 percent coverage of births attended by skilled health providers may not be attained by 2015.
The MDGs (Goal 6) also target HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other major diseases, which pose significant threats to economic and social progress in developing countries. Infectious diseases threaten to reverse development gains, reducing life expectancy, productivity and income. In Africa, HIV/AIDS is deepening and spreading poverty, reversing human development, reducing labour productivity and eroding the capacity of governments to provide essential services. HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death in Africa and the fourth largest killer worldwide. Estimates based on malaria cases reported to the World Health Organization (WHO) show that almost 90 percent occur in Africa, with most of the deaths being among young children. The tuberculosis incidence rate is high in Africa, but the largest number of cases occurs in Asia. Because of its linkage with HIV, tuberculosis is resurging and becoming a major health concern in countries hit by the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

On environmental sustainability (Goal 7), the target to halve, by 2015, the proportion of Africa's population without access to safe drinking water remains a daunting challenge. The African Development Bank (ADB) estimates that 54 percent of Africa's population (approximately 300 million people) has no access to safe water. Consequently, about 40 percent of the health bill in Africa is related to water-born diseases affecting 50 percent of the population (ADB). In Africa, a few countries did mange to register some progress through the 1990s and beyond.

The key to achieving the seven inter-linked income and non-income dimensions of the MDGs in Africa and other developing regions remains in the eighth goal (developing global partnership for development) through increased external and internal partnership and cooperation, in which stronger reform efforts by developing countries are matched with enhanced support from developed countries and international financial institutions, in line with commitments made at Monterrey, Doha and Johannesburg. A more effective framework for channelling increased development assistance is provided by country-owned Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) at the national level and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) at the regional level.

As agreed in Monterrey, the attainment of the MDGs requires a global partnership. For African countries, attaining the MDGs entails greater international cooperation and assistance by the developed industrialized countries, in the key areas of (i) Official Development Assistance (ODA), (ii) trade and (iii) debt relief. Specifically, achieving the MDGs requires doubling the present ODA flows, reduction of agricultural subsidies and removal of remaining protectionist trade barriers by the industrialized countries and enlarging and sustaining debt relief/cancellation under the enhanced HIPC Debt Initiative.

However, progress on global partnership has been very slow. So far, concerning **ODA,** only five countries of the twenty-three OECD largest donors have reached the overall level of 0.7 percent of their GNP for ODA. The five countries include Norway, Denmark, Netherlands, Luxembourg and Sweden. Surprisingly, the United States has so far registered only 0.14 percent of GNP for ODA.

With regard to **market access,** agricultural subsides are very damaging to African and other developing countries trade since agricultural products represent a large part of their exports. In 2002, subsidies to agriculture in the developed countries amounted to US$ 318 billion or 1.2 percent of GDP. This amount dwarfs ODA flows, which are now equivalent to about one fifth of agricultural subsidies.

Beyond increased official development assistance and removal of trade restrictions; a global partnership for development will also require **debt relief/cancellation.** The decision by the G8 Ministers of Finance in July 2005 to cancel 100 percent of debt owed by 18 countries, including 14 from Africa, to the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the African Development Bank is highly commended. However, consideration also ought to been given to the remaining African countries. International assistance is required for ensuring that current debt relief efforts meet the goal of debt sustainability.

The Main Challenges to Achieving the MDGs

The main challenges to achieving the MDGs in Africa can be outlined and identified as follows: ensuring peace and security; fostering good political and economic governance, tackling the HIV/AIDS pandemic and other diseases, breaking the poverty-demographic trap, and achieving gender equality and empowering women.

One of the most critical challenges to Africa's development efforts has been the prevalence of conflicts and political instability. Conflicts have reduced economic growth, destroyed physical infrastructure and human capital, and aggravated poverty and human misery, among other things, and adversely affected prospects for achieving sustainable development and the MDGs. On the other hand, the importance of good governance for the achievement of the MDGs in Africa cannot be overemphasized. Bad governance reflected in corruption and lack of transparency, accountability and responsive institutions has often resulted in the misapplication and inefficient use of scarce resources that could have been utilized for the promotion of growth and development.

HIV/AIDS remains the leading cause of death in Africa, with HIV/AIDS adult prevalence rate for Africa estimated at 8.5 percent. Malaria is also a leading cause of morbidity and mortality in tropical Africa and the incidence rate of tuberculosis is the highest in Africa.

Many African countries are stuck in a poverty-demographic and are too poor to make progress. The link between poverty and high fertility is strong for several interconnected reasons. The main challenge is how to achieve fertility from high to low levels. Without demographic transition, the achievement of economic transformation and sustained growth remains a challenge.

Finally, the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women is vital to achieving sustainable development. Generally, in Africa, women continue to suffer deep and systematic discrimination and exclusion. They also have less representation in political leadership and decision-making process. As a prerequisite for sustainable development, African governments need to address gender imbalances through the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women.

National Policies towards the Achievement of the MDGs

Regarding major national policies towards achieving the MDGs, African countries must move in the direction of pro-poor growth. Although in general higher growth reduces poverty, the extent to which growth translates into poverty reduction varies from one country to another. Therefore, for poverty reduction, this growth will have to be pro-poor by benefiting the poor. Moreover, policy priorities should focus on: sustained macroeconomic management; growth with employment generation; private sector development; promotion of trade and investment; domestic saving mobilization; and rural development for food security. Policies for attaining the social development goals must focus on investments in health, education, empowerment of women and environment that have high rates of return and contribute immensely to poverty reduction.

The Need for Enhanced Regional Integration

With regard to regional integration, there is more need for: for coordination and harmonization of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and minimizing or eliminating overlapping membership; strengthening infrastructure in different sub-regions and between the sub-regions; and enhancing the development of intra-regional and inter-regional trade. The RECs and the AU must play a critical role in the promotion of regional integration, and the enhancement of the competitiveness of African economies through the establishment of large regional markets and the promotion of intra-regional and inter-regional trade.

The acquisition and use of science and technology is critical in raising food production and extending productive opportunities outside the traditional land resources and in ensuring food availability, affordability and stability of access. Africa should identify and promote 'regional centres of excellence' in higher education and research, especially in science and technology, strengthen its links with the Diaspora, and establish strategic partnerships with international partners to promote priority areas for research.

The Role of the African Union

The African Union is seen to play an important role in the achievement of the MDGs since its activities focus on such critical issues as follows: the promotion of peace and security and good governance; the promotion of employment and poverty alleviation; the promotion of quality education for Africa's sustainable development; the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women; and the promotion of good natural resource management and environmental sustainability. As indicated above, the African Union also has an important role to play in the area of regional integration, particularly in coordinating and harmonising national policies and in the provision of regional infrastructure and the provision of regional public goods.

Since its inception, the African Union has made peace and security one of its cardinal priorities. The activities of the Union have focused on promoting and encouraging efforts at the national, regional and continental levels as well as harnessing the much-needed international cooperation for peace and security in Africa. The Peace and Security Council of the Union, since its operationalization in March 2004 and its solemn launching two months later, has risen to the challenge of conflicts on the continent, by playing a leadership role and taking landmark and decisive actions to ensure peace and security in Africa.

The African Union Commission has also identified governance as being of crucial importance to the sustainable development of Africa and has translated its firm commitment by emphasizing and ensuring a well-governed Africa as a priority objective in line with its Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan. Further, the African Union Plan of Action for Promotion of Employment and Poverty Alleviation has as its primary goal to reverse the current trends of pervasive and persistent poverty, unemployment and under-employment on the continent; and to have tangible improvement in the living standards of the people and their families at the national and community levels in Africa. The mandate of the African Union as continental political rallying force dictates that Education, Science and Technology Programme focuses mainly on 'quality basic education for all' and 'strengthening regional and sub-regional cooperation and exchange mechanisms.

Financing Options for the Achievement of the MDGs

Under financing options and partnership in support of the MDGs, the review has identified the following as the main sources of finance: domestic private and public savings as well as surpluses from external trade; foreign direct investments; official development assistance; debt relief; and partnership between governments and the private sector, civil society and local communities.

While calling African governments to rely on domestic savings mobilisation, the review recognises the critical role played by ODA and foreign direct investment and calls for a significant increase in the level of ODA and the attainment of the target of 0.7 percent of GNP as ODA by 2015. The review also calls for the need to improve the quality of aid, among others, through better coordination, harmonization and simplification of aid operational procedures; greater predictability of ODA flows and a stronger linkage of aid to the MDGs, the NEPAD Programme and the Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSs). Regarding Africa's external debt, the report calls for 100 percent debt cancellation for African countries that need it most.

In the area of trade, there is need for increased intra-African trade and the establishment of a fair and equitable global trading system. Among others, the review calls for improvements in market access of African products to the markets of developed countries through the elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers, the elimination of by the developed countries of trade distorting subsidies and domestic support especially in agriculture, and the provision of assistance and adjustment support to mitigate the negative consequences of trade liberalisation in Africa. In addition, there is need to continue with the on-going trade negotiations (World Trade Organisation (WTO) and Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), for example).

Summary and Conclusion

The review has revealed that most African countries, with the exception of North African countries, are unlikely to meet the MDGs by 2015. This report, therefore, has presented a road map for collective action for enabling Africa to effectively address the challenges it faces in achieving the MDGs by 2015. North Africa is progressing well toward the MDGs but can accelerate faster and like the rest of Africa more attention needs to be paid to good governance and promoting gender equality. The rest of Africa still faces other serious mitigating factors of peace and security, the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria and breaking the poverty-demographic trap.

The main pillars for strategic action include: Peace and security; broad based pro-poor growth and social policy; regional integration and harmonisation, regional infrastructure development, science and technological development and regional trade; effective domestic resource mobilisation and utilisation; increased ODA; debt relief and debt cancellation; and removal of trade barriers. The Africa Common Position paper outlines these key action oriented policy recommendations for accelerating progress towards achieving the MDGs to be implemented at the national, regional and international levels.

1.0 Introduction

At the 4th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union, 30-31 January 2005, the Assembly of Heads of State and Governments upon recommendation by the Executive Council requested the AU Commission to coordinate and lead in the process of developing an African Common Position as the Continent's contribution to the Report on the Review of the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs considered at a High-level Summit in September 2005. The Assembly further requested the Chairperson of the Commission to submit a finalized draft of the African Common Position to the 7th Ordinary Session of the Council in July 2005. Thus, this paper is a follow up towards the execution of the above Draft Decision of the Assembly of Heads of State.

1. In September 2000, the Millennium Development Goals were adopted by 189 nations that met in New York for the 55th General Assembly, or the Millennium Summit. The Millennium Development goals (MDGs) result out of the International Development Goals derived from the World Summits and conferences of the 1990s and the goals outlined in the Millennium Declaration. The commitments to the goals were strongly reaffirmed by all United Nations member states at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2002 and at the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development in March 2002. These global targets serve to mobilize political commitment and to provide benchmarks for measuring progress in promoting human development and poverty reduction. As a universally agreed agenda, MDGs bring unprecedented clarity to the shared responsibilities and objectives of all development parties: governments, donors, civil society organizations and the private sector. As such, they now provide the overarching international operating and accountability framework and in September 2005 the Millennium + 5 Summit reviewed global progress made towards achieving these goals. In some areas of the world great progress has been made and several countries especially in Asia, Latin America and North Africa are on track to meet many of the goals. However, in most countries in Africa the Millennium Development Goals are unlikely to be met on current trends. The African Heads of State Summit in July 2005 reviewed the progress of the region in meeting the MDGs.

2. The Millennium Declaration stressed the special needs of Africa, calling on nations to support the consolidation of democracy in Africa and assist Africans in their struggle for lasting peace, poverty eradication and sustainable development, thereby bringing Africa into the mainstream of the world economy. Further, the Declaration resolved to: give full support to the political and institutional structures of emerging democracies in Africa; encourage and sustain regional and sub-regional mechanisms for preventing conflict and promoting political stability, and to ensure a reliable flow of resources for peacekeeping operations on the continent; take special measure to address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa, including

debt cancellation, improved market access, enhanced Official Development Assistance and increased flows of Foreign Direct Investment, as well as transfers of technology; and help Africa build up its capacity to tackle the spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and other infectious diseases.

3. Determined to claim the 21st Century for the continent, African Heads of State and Government have, prior and subsequent to the Millennium Summit, adopted a number of initiatives and strategies to promote rapid and sustainable socio-economic development and effectively meet the challenges of globalisation. These include the establishment of the African Union and the adoption of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as the strategic programme of the African Union.

4. The African Union encapsulates the vision of African leaders at the highest level for a strong, united and prosperous Africa that is effectively integrated into the global economy as a respectable partner. The African Union has set for itself the ambition of building by the year 2030 an integrated Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) locates itself within the MDGs. NEPAD has as its strategic goal to sustain a long-term growth rate of over 7 per cent per annum, and ensuring that Africa achieves the MDG's. With emphasis on regional integration and development, the African Union has set a development agenda that is consistent with the achievement of the MDGs. Within the institutional framework of the African Union, appropriate structures and mechanisms have been established to prevent and manage conflicts; to promote democracy, good governance and political stability; to improve economic management and create a conducive environment for increased flows of investment into Africa. The establishment of such key organs of the AU as the Peace and Security Council and the Pan-African Parliament, and the adoption of the AU Mission and Vision and of NEPAD reflect the determination of the African leadership to ensure a brighter future and better life for the peoples of the continent.

5. The year 2005, which has been called the 'Year for Africa', provides an opportune moment to review the progress made and to chart the way forward towards the full realization of the MDGs through swift, strategic action and partnership. This year also marks the acknowledgment by the world of the commitment by African leaders to accelerate development and progress and hence provides an opportunity for the developed world to review political will to partner with Africa in achieving development.

6. The experience of the last decade and half has shown achieving the MDGs in Africa will be difficult; and extrapolating from current trends few African countries are likely to meet even some of the goals. Currently almost half of the region's population is living in extreme poverty and hunger. The region ranks at the bottom on health-related indicators and Africa is home to the vast majority people infected with HIV about 28 million. However, those African countries that have implemented sound economic policies and improved their systems of governance have seen acceleration in growth and poverty reduction and are likely to make significance progress towards attaining some of the goals.

7. This report reviews the status of the MDGs in Africa, highlights the main challenges faced in achieving the goals, assesses the national and regional policies and priorities for achieving the MDGs and outlines what Africa is prepared to do over the next ten years and beyond 2015. For Africa the attainment of the MDGs is a minimum prerequisite for sustainable development and poverty reduction. They provide the foundation for meeting the much higher hopes and ambitions of the African continent.

2.0 The Review of the Status of the MDGs in Africa

2.1 Summary of Africa's Progress towards Meeting the MDGs[1]

8. On balance, Africa has recorded insufficient progress toward meeting the MDGs by 2015. According to the latest data available, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty in Africa actually increased from 44.6 percent in 1990 to 46.5 in 2001; while developing countries as a group registered a significant reduction in extreme poverty, from 27:9 percent in 1990 to 21.3 in 2001

Table 1: Poverty Reduction by Region, 1990- 2001

Region	millions 1990	Millions 2001	% 1990	% 2001
East Asia and Pacific	472	284	29.6	15.6
China	377	212	33.0	16.6
Europe and Central Asia	2	18	0.5	3.7
Latin America and the Caribbean	249	50	11.3	9.5
Middle East and North Africa	6	7	1.6	2.4
South Asia	462	428	40.1	31.1
Africa	227	314	44.6	46.5
Total	1,219	1,101	27.9	21.3

Source: UN – Statistical Division.

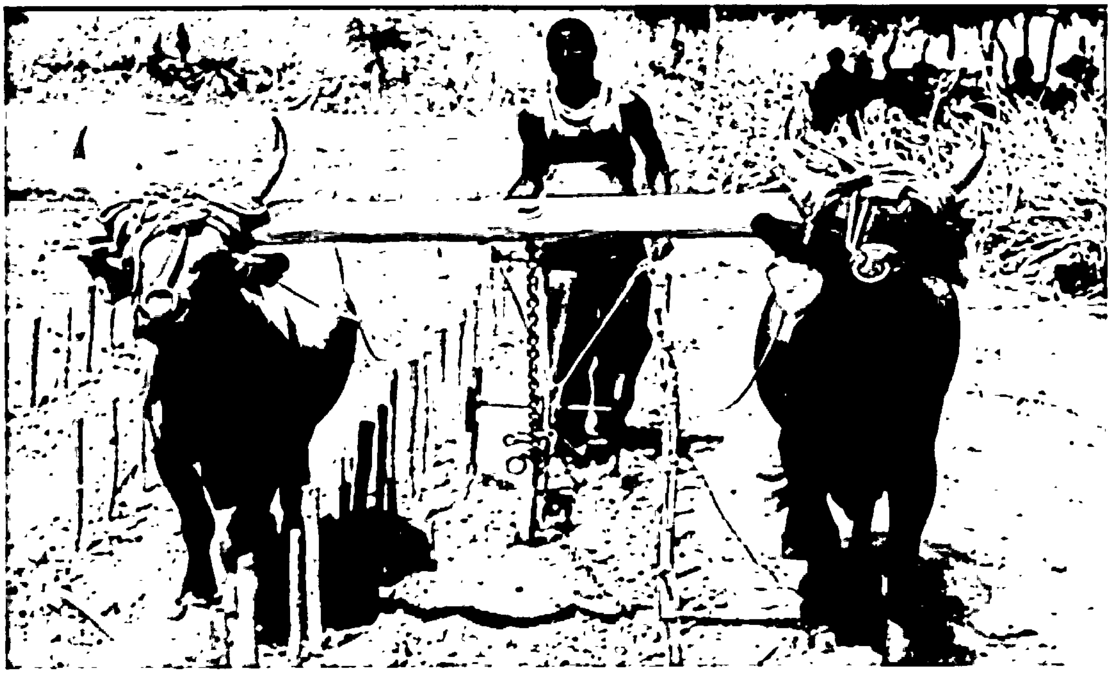
9. Between 1990 and 2000, with the exception of access to safe water, regional progress toward the MDGs was less than 10 percent of the agreed target to meet the goals by 2015. A less than 10 percent regional progress in meeting the MDGs in the first ten years leaves over 90 percent to be achieved by 2015 (in fifteen years). Not only was progress insufficient, much of it by-passed the poor.

10. Given the trends in the 1990s, the prospect for poverty being halved in Africa by 2015 is unlikely[2]. In the region, the rate of poverty reduction would have to increase many times over to meet the goal, going from an average annual reduction of 0.2% to more than 4% annually until 2015. On the other hand, the five countries of North Africa, with significantly lower poverty levels and high social indicators are on course to meet the poverty reduction goal.

1 Most of the figures cited in this paper are from World Bank - *World Development Indicators*, UNDP – *Human Development Reports*, UN – *Statistical Division and the Millennium Database* unless otherwise specified.

2 Since 1990s, poverty reduction in Africa is hindered mainly by weak economic performance, political turmoil and civil strife, the vagaries of weather and highly skewed income distribution.

Masked by the overall averages for the region, a number of African countries have made some progress in reducing income poverty.



2.2 A Comprehensive Review of the MDGs

2.2.1 Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

11. The first of the MDGs is to halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty (living on less than $1 per day) by 2015. As a single indicator, income poverty provides a good measure of overall well being, since income is correlated with other social indicators such as education attainment and health status. On the other hand, the rate of economic growth as an indicator may not always translate into poverty reduction as it depends on many factors, such as historic levels of income distribution, institutional constraints and policy choices (**Table 4**).

12. Using the income poverty indicator, East Asia and the Pacific and China are the only regions on track to meet the income poverty target of reducing by half the number of people in extreme poverty by 2015. In fact, this region has come close to meeting the goal in one decade. On the other hand, the Middle East and Africa have performed poorly (**Table 1**). In Latin America and Caribbean, the rate would have to triple, from 1.2% to 3.7% annually until 2015 in order to meet the goal. In Eastern Europe and Central Asia poverty had actually rapidly increased by annual average of 9% in the 1900s. In South Asia, the challenge is great due to the large numbers of very poor. Africa faces a grim prospect in halving the proportion of people living in extreme poverty and individuals suffering from under nourishment by 2015. The number of Individuals suffering from under nourishment is estimated to be 228 millions for 2005 and at current trends this figure is supposed to increase to 255 by 2015 (**Table 2**).

Table 2: Africa – Grim Prospect for Achieving the MDGs at Current Trends

	2005 Estimate	Current trend extrapolated to 2015	MDG Scenario for 2015
Poverty headcount (millions of people)	345	431	198
GDP per capita (2003 US$)	520	509	712
Individuals suffering from under nourishment (millions)	228	255	155

Source: Millennium Project Database.

13. In the region, the rate of poverty reduction would have to increase many times over to meet the goal, going from an average annual reduction of 0.2% to more than 4% annually until 2015. On the other hand, the five countries of North Africa, with significantly lower poverty levels are on course to meet the poverty reduction goal.

14. However, masked by the overall averages for the region, a number of African countries have made good progress in reducing income poverty. For example, the 2003 UNDP Development Report identifies Mauritius, Botswana, Namibia, Cape Verde, Lesotho, Ghana, Mauritania, Guinea, Benin, Mozambique, Burkina Faso, Mali, and Ethiopia in reducing income poverty.

15. Since the 1990s, poverty reduction in Africa was hindered mainly by:

- *Weak economic performance* – While average growth improved in recent years, the annual average for the entire decade was a low 2.1 per cent. For Africa as a whole, this average improves slightly when the growth performance of North African countries is added.
- *Political turmoil and civil strife* – As a group, the worst affected countries saw their GDP decline. These are Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Sierra Leone.
- *The vagaries of weather* – Protracted drought in Eastern and Southern Africa, the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, as well as typhoons and floods in Southern Africa, resulted in a major disruption of agricultural production, which constitutes the main source of livelihood for the bulk of Africa's population. The poor performance of many countries, particularly the predominantly commodity exporters was mainly due the worsening weather condition.
- *Highly skewed income distribution* – Progress in reducing poverty is further complicated by Africa's highly skewed income distribution. Not only does high inequality inhibit economic growth, but it may also neutralize and even cancel out whatever positive impacts growth could have on poverty reduction. Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Guinea Conakry, Kenya, Lesotho, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe are among the countries with very unequal income distribution.

16. Over the past 20 years, the proportion of the world's people who are hungry has declined while the absolute number of hungry people has fallen slightly. But 852 million people, mainly in the developing world, are still chronically or acutely malnourished.

Africa has 204 million hungry people and is continue, Africa will fail to meet the hunger target of the MDGs.the only region of the world where hunger is increasing. If current trends

17. The first MDG pairs reduction in hunger with income poverty target, that is, halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger by 2015. Several regions have made considerable progress on this goal including Latin America and South Asia. Still, only East Asia and the Pacific is on track to meet the goal by 2015.

18. On the other hand, Africa has made little progress in tackling food insecurity and malnutrition. According to UNDP Human Development Report 2003, in eighteen out of forty five African countries for which recent data is available, the proportion of under-nourished was very high, affecting one-third or more of the population (**Table 3**). Sixteen countries are on track to halve hunger by 2015, but nineteen are not; and in eight of these countries, the proportion of under-nourished people is actually increasing – Botswana, Burundi, Congo, D.R.C., Liberia, Madagascar, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia. The problem is especially severe in Central, East and Southern Africa, where almost half of their combined population of 360 million is under-nourished.

19. Children and women are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity. Indeed, malnutrition is the one leading cause of death among children under the age of five. While the average proportion of underweight children in the developing world declined during the 1990s, prevalence rate in Africa showed virtually no change. Eastern Africa even saw a full 5 percentage increase, to reach 37 per cent in 2000. In Africa as a whole, the number of underweight children actually increased by an estimated 8 million.

20. Poor and hungry people often face social and political exclusion. They have little access to education, health services, and safe drinking water. The challenge of halving hunger is thus closely linked with that of achieving the other MDGs. It is particularly important that hunger reduction should be a major part of poverty reduction strategies, since little progress in reducing poverty is likely as long as large numbers of people suffer from malnutrition.

Table 3: Undernourished People (Percent of Total Population)

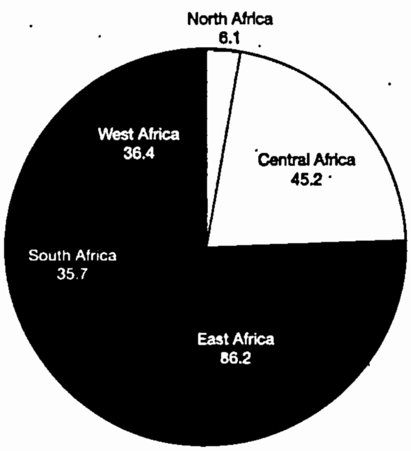
Country	1990/92	1998/00
Algeria	5	6
Angola	19	50
Benin	17	13
Botswana	23	25
Burkina Faso	49	23
Burundi	32	69
Cameroon	49	25
CAR	58	44
Chad	37	32
Congo D.R.	32	73
Cote D'Ivoire	18	15
Egypt	5	4
Eritrea	..	58
Ethiopia	59	44
Gabon	11	8
Gambia	21	21
Ghana	35	12
Guinea	40	32
Kenya	47	44
Lesotho	27	26
Liberia	33	39
Madagascar	35	40
Malawi	49	33
Mali	25	20
Mauritania	14	12
Mauritius	6	5
Morocco	6	7
Mozambique	69	55
Namibia	15	9
Nigeria	13	17
Rwanda	34	40
Senegal	23	25
Sierra Leone	46	47
South Africa	..	..
Swaziland	10	12
Tanzania	36	47
Togo	28	23
Tunisia	..	..
Uganda	23	21
Zambia	45	50
Zimbabwe	43	38

21. Within Africa, there are vast differences in levels of hunger. In absolute terms, North Africa has 6.1 million undernourished people with Africa having the bulk of the undernourished population (see figure 1a). East Africa has the highest absolute number with 86.2 million followed by Central Africa with 45.2 million, while West and Southern Africa each have approximately 36 million undernourished people.

22. However, in terms of the proportion of undernourished to the total population, the perspective of Africa changes slightly. The highest proportion of undernourished people is found in Southern Africa with almost half the population (48%) undernourished. This is followed by East Africa with 46%, Central Africa with 36%, and West Africa with 21%. North Africa, with 4% of its population undernourished, is still much better off than the rest of Africa (see figure 2a).

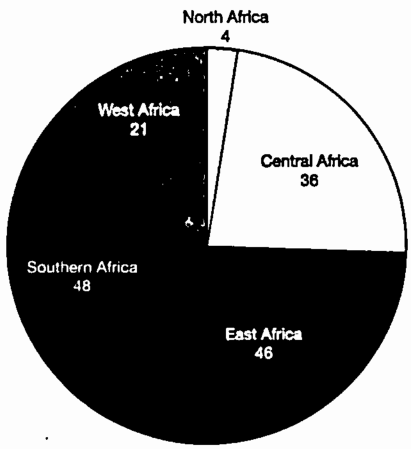
23. However, it is important to consider the trend of undernourished people in Africa. The general trend for Africa shows a slight decrease in the proportion of undernourished people from 36% in 1990-1992 to 33% in 2000-2002. However, the absolute numbers have increased from 170 million in 1990-1992 to 204 million in 2000-2002. If the MDG target of halving hunger is to be achieved, then both of these numbers have to decrease and at a much faster rate.

Figure 1a: Number of Undernourished People in Africa (millions)



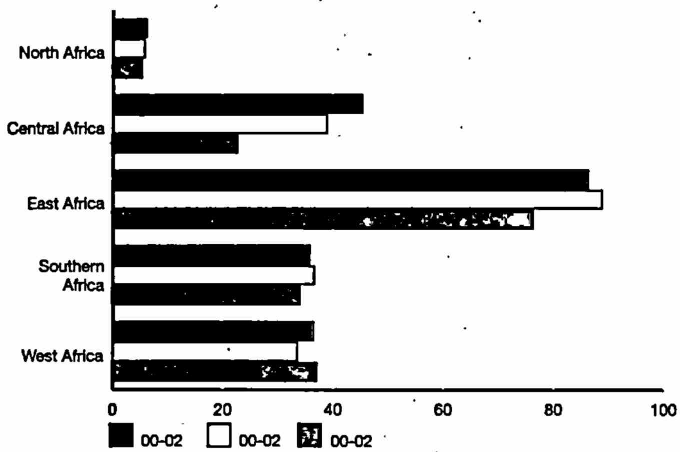
Source: FAO – Database (FAOSTAT)

Figure 2a: Proportion of Undernourished in Total Population (%)



Source: FAO – Database (FAOSTAT)

Figure 3a: Trend of the Number of Undernourished People in Africa



Source: FAO Database (FAOSTAT)

and incorrect diagnosis, overall, however, it is apparent that the sub-region is not likely to achieve this target.

2.3.4.6 MDG 6: *Reverse the spread of HIV and AIDS*

88. The HIV and AIDS pandemic adds to the already heavy disease burden facing the sub-region. The pandemic has been made worse by the conflicts that have ravaged most of the region. In addition, the deepening and spreading poverty, gender inequalities, and the erosion of governments' ability to provide essential services have accentuated the HIV and AIDS problem in many countries. The rate of infection is however on the increase throughout the region, with a prevalence rate in excess of 3 percent. Other ailments, such as malaria, diarrhoea, respiratory infections, other complicated infections and the outbreak of such diseases such as Ebola and recently the Marburg haemorrhagic fever in Angola contribute to the overall burden of diseases, compounding the health situation in individual countries and thus constitute a serious constraint on growth.

2.3.4.7 MDG 7: *Ensure environmental sustainability*

89. The region is enormously endowed with natural resources; the struggle over control on these by various state and non-state actors has resulted in many of the conflicts in the sub-region. Many of these countries' economies rely heavily on the diverse resources, which are in abundant supply. In spite of such a dependence on "nature", the region has been losing her natural resources at a faster pace as a result of encroachment and unsustainable management.

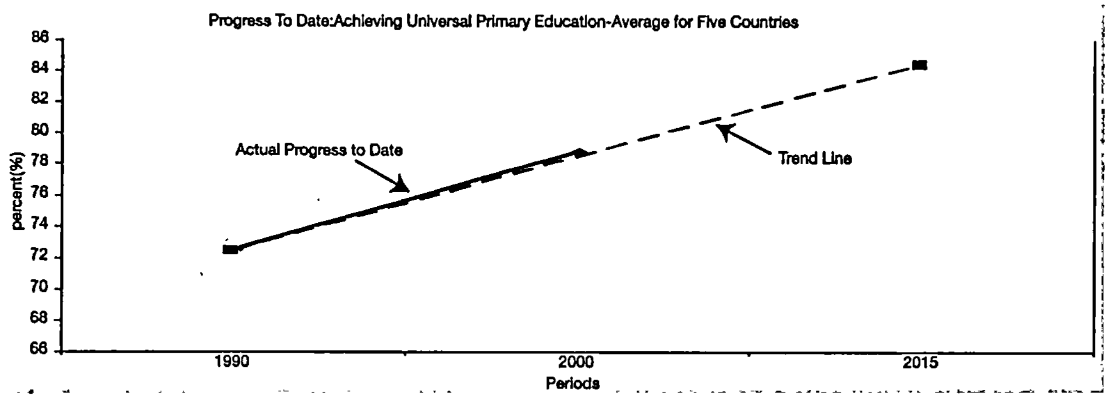
90. Access to improved water in general increased throughout the 1990s, with the urban areas benefiting the most. However, rapid increases in the urban population at a rate faster than the expansion of safe water supply systems, especially in marginal and peri-urban areas have resulted in rapid deterioration of the sanitation situation in many urban and rural regions since 2000. At the current pace of expansion in services, it is unlikely countries would achieve this target.

2.3.5 *The status of MDGs in Southern Africa*

91. Evidence on whether growth rates have improved after the MDGs were adopted in September 2000 by the Southern African countries[1] is mixed. GDP growth in the sub-region averaged 2.8% in 2000 but declined by 0.2 percentage points in 2001, recovered the year after and then declined in the subsequent year. However, some countries have recorded improvements in their economic performance. The growth experience of Lesotho shows a much higher trend in the last few years. Malawi's growth rates have followed upward and downward movements; its GDP growth rate increased from 1.1% in 2000 to 4.2% in 2001 but declined to 1.8% the following year and then recovered to 5.93% in 2003 (Table 2.1). Whereas Mauritius recorded a sharp increase in its growth rate, from 4.0% in 2000 to 6.7% in 2001, its GDP growth rate continues to decline thereafter and in 2003, its growth rate was below the pre-MDG growth rates. On the other hand, Mozambique has recorded remarkable growth rates and although

1 The countries studied are South Africa, Lesotho, Mauritius, and Mozambique.

Figure 16: Achieving Universal Primary Education in Central Africa



2.3.4.3 MDG 3: Eliminating gender disparity

85. In examining progress towards this goal, the ratio of girls to boys' enrolment in primary education is analysed. Rwanda is the only country that has reached this target well before the stipulated year, with Gabon likely to achieve a 100 percent by 2015. The other countries, at the current rates of progress are off-track. In addition to ensuring parity in enrolment rates for boys and girls, the empowerment of women is also important. Generally, women play relatively insignificant roles (in terms of their representation) in decision making at many spheres of public life. Nonetheless, in countries such as Gabon and Rwanda, the roles played by women have become increasingly significant.

2.3.4.4 MDG 4: Reducing under-5 mortality

86. In respect of goal four, nearly one in six children do not live to see their fifth birthday. Although under-five mortality has generally declined since 1990, progress has been rather slow towards achieving the global target of reducing child and under-five mortality by two-thirds in 2015. Indeed, assessing progress based on trends in infant mortality, only Gabon is likely to reach the target. In relation to under-five mortality none of the countries are on track. The effect of conflict on the health infrastructure in the region's many countries appears to have dealt a severe blow to efforts at achieving this target. In addition, the prevalence of HIV and AIDS, as well as other diseases, including malaria, measles, diarrhoea and anaemia have severely impacted on the ability of most countries to effectively endeavour towards achievement of this goal.

2.3.4.5 MDG 5: Improve maternal health

87. At current rates, Angola has the highest ratios with Gabon having the lowest. In Gabon, the improvement in care has been targeted at reducing the incidence of antenatal diseases, and to check the spread of STIs through improved access to health facilities for expectant mothers. On the average progress of Gabon, Rwanda and Congo toward the achievement of this goal appears to be on track. The other two countries are off track. Whilst the reporting of maternal mortality is difficult due to under-reporting

2.3.4 The status of MDGs in Central Africa

81. Economic performance in the Central African region[1] since signing on to the MDGs in 2000 at the U.N. Millennium Summit has been mixed. GDP on the average fell by 5.4 per cent in 1994. In recent times the economic performance for the region as a whole has remained virtually unchanged, even though the growth performance has been better since 2002.

2.3.4.1 MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty

82. The poverty situation is highly uneven across the region. While Cameroon has seen improvements, many other countries have not. In Angola and the Congo, the many years of war, which exacerbated the already fragile economic situation resulted in an increase in the incidence of poverty.

83. In respect of progress towards achieving MDG 1, most of the countries are not likely to meet the target by 2015. Indeed, on the average the proportion of the poor has increased and if the current trend continues, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty would exceed the percentage in 1990. Although many countries are not on track towards halving the number of people living in poverty, the situation in a few countries is hopeful.

2.3.4.2 MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education

84. Here also, the evidence suggests a mixed situation. On the whole, except in a few countries, some progress was made in educating children in the 1990s. This progress was however not enough to meet the target in 2015. While Rwanda and Gabon have made significant strides towards that goal, the remainder of the countries are not likely to achieve the target. Rwanda is nearing the 100 percent mark, although quite significantly, progress in Gabon has stalled at about 94 percent. Disparities in enrolment between urban and rural regions are very common across the region. Although in Gabon for example, the differences are not significant; 93.6 percent urban and 93.2 percent rural, in Angola the percentage of children with no education is 25.6 for urban and 40.6 for rural. Failure to achieve this MDG target will reduce the likelihood of reaching other MDGs because education provides the key to unlocking positive externalities and synergies. On the average however, for the five countries considered, they appear to be only slightly off track. Figure 16 depicts this projection toward achievement of the goal.

1 The countries reported on include Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Gabon and Rwanda

2.3.3.6 MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

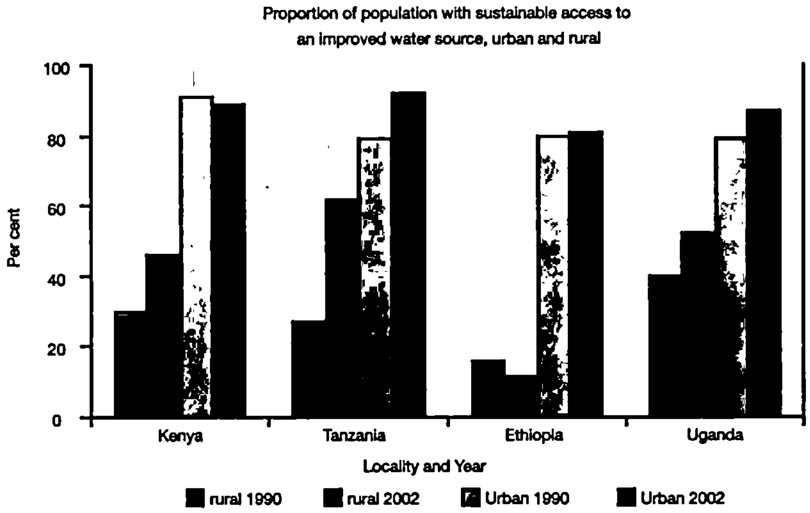
78. The spread of HIV and AIDS and the persistence of malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases have debilitated human capital in the East African region. Estimates indicate that the sub-region is one of the most heavily affected parts of the world and if current trends are not reversed, the effects could be even more catastrophic.

79. Results from various interventions to halt and reverse the trend have been mixed. The story in Tanzania is not encouraging, the picture is not clear in Ethiopia but efforts in Uganda and Kenya are yielding significant outcomes. HIV and AIDS prevalence in Uganda has been declining substantially, from around 20 per cent in 1991 to 6.2 per cent in 2002/03 and in Kenya, there was a steady increase in HIV and AIDS prevalence in the 1990s but the trend is gradually showing signs of reversal. The national HIV prevalence rate, as estimated through sentinel surveillance data compiled by the Kenya National AIDS/STDs Control Programme (NASCOP) doubled from 5.1 to 10.4 per cent between 1990 and 1995 and peaked at 13.4 per cent in 2000 but declined to 9.0 per cent in 2003.

2.3.3.7 MDG 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

80. Ensuring environmental sustainability in East Africa is fundamental to the reduction of hunger, starvation and, therefore, poverty in many of the countries because of their reliance on natural resources for many economic activities. Despite recent efforts towards this goal, lack of water and crop failure continues to be a significant contributor to household food insecurity in many rural areas, particularly Ethiopia. It is rather encouraging to observe that the region is on course to achieve its targets with regard to the provision of safe and sustainable water. Apart from Ethiopia, the other countries have consistently reduced the proportion of the population without access to a sustainable source of water.

Figure 15: Access to Improved Water in East Africa



enrolment ratio in primary schools in the sub-region grew by 1.5 per cent annually between 1990 and 2000. This was much lower than the annual growth rate of 6.8 per cent required for achieving universal primary education by 2015. The fastest annual growth in the region was in Uganda (5.8 per cent) while the progress in Kenya was negative, deteriorating annually by 3.2 per cent between 1990 and 2000. Geographical disparities in enrolment levels are apparent in almost all the countries, implying that the annual rate of increase will need to improve substantially throughout all parts of these countries in order to meet the target.

2.3.3.3 MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

75. There is some reduction in gender disparities in the East African region but the gap is clearly visible in higher education and adult literacy. Enrolment at primary level is nearly at par, with the region making significant progress towards this goal due to the parity and near-parity achieved by Uganda and Tanzania respectively. Given the progress towards the target, the goal of gender parity in education is likely to be met at the primary level in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda while a large gap persists in Ethiopia, even though it is narrowing. Also, enrolment figures show that the gap continues to be wider in higher classes, implying that more boys make the transition than girls.

2.3.3.4 MDG 4: Reduce child mortality

76. Unfortunately, none of the four countries in the region is on track to reach the target of reducing child mortality by two-thirds. On average, the under-5 mortality rate for the sub-region increased by 0.1 per cent annually, mainly due to the relative deterioration of conditions in Kenya and Tanzania. There was, however, a slight decline in annual under-5 mortality rates in Ethiopia and Uganda from 1990 to 2000, by 1.3 per cent and 0.1 per cent respectively. On infant mortality, the rates for Kenya and Tanzania are higher than the rates needed to meet the MDG goal (2.7 per cent reduction per annum) and this implies that for both countries the set goal for 2015 is likely to be met.

2.3.3.5 MDG 5: Improve maternal health

77. Maternal health in the East Africa sub-region improved significantly over the last decade. Among the four countries considered, Ethiopia's maternal mortality ratio[1] declined drastically from 1,800 per 100,000 live births in 1995 to 850 per 100,000 live births in 2000, suggesting strongly that it could achieve its 2015 target before 2015 unless there is a reversal of policy. The country's rate of progress is estimated at a reduction of 5.3 per cent year against the required MDG rate of 3 per cent. Annual progress towards the MDG in Kenya and Uganda is modest but that of Tanzania is rather moving in the opposite direction away from the target and needs to attain well over a 4.0 per cent annual rate of reduction for a meaningful outcome.

1 Information used for the assessment on the maternal mortality was derived from the direct sisterhood method adjusted estimates. The direct sisterhood method is a variant of the sisterhood survey-based technique that obtained information by interviewing respondents on the survival of all their adult sisters.

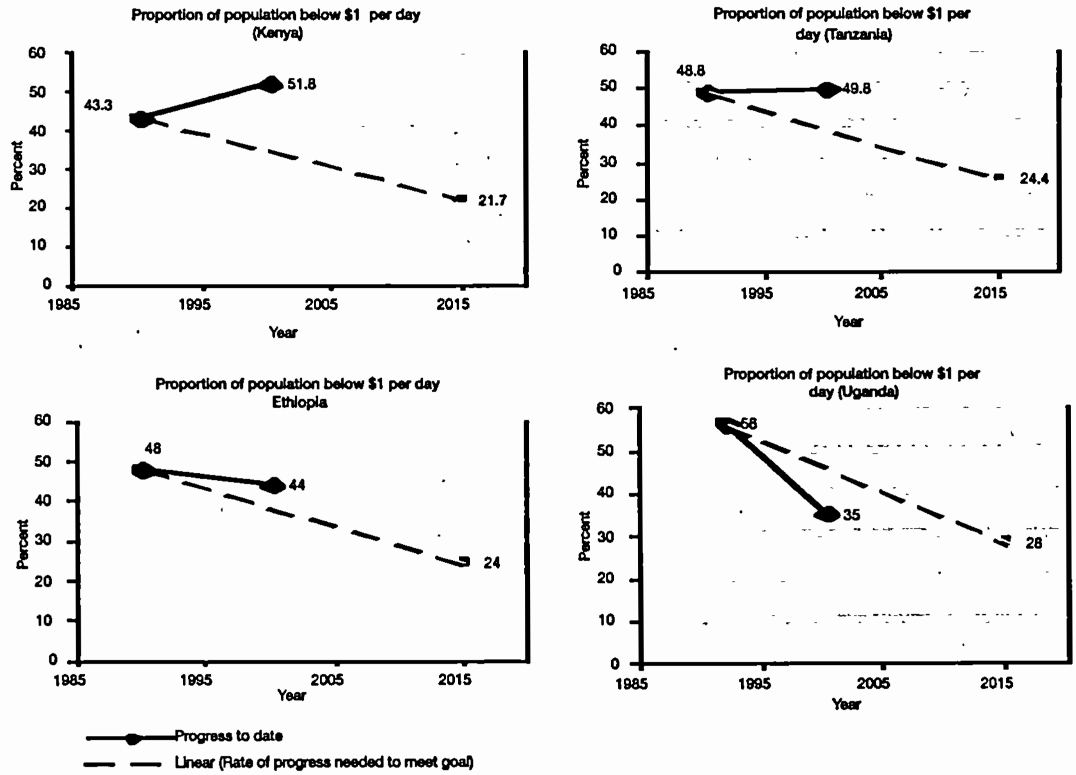
2.3.3 The status of MDGs in East Africa

72. Economic performance since the adoption of the MDGs has been uneven across and within countries in East Africa. While Ethiopia and Kenya recorded relative low growth rates, growth in Uganda and Tanzania for the last five years has been remarkable. Uganda's economy has been growing steadily at 7-8 per cent since 2000 and Tanzania growth rate has also moved steadily from a low of 0.4 per cent in 1993 to 6.3 per cent in 2003.

2.3.3.1 MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

73 Analysis of progress towards the targets in the East African sub-region indicates that eradicating extreme poverty and hunger will be a big challenge for a number of countries. To reach the target of halving poverty, it is estimated that each country should be reducing the proportion of the poor in population by 2 percent annually. With regard to the situation on hunger, while most regions have made dramatic progress in reducing the proportion of underweight children during the past three decades, progress has slowed in the East African sub-region.

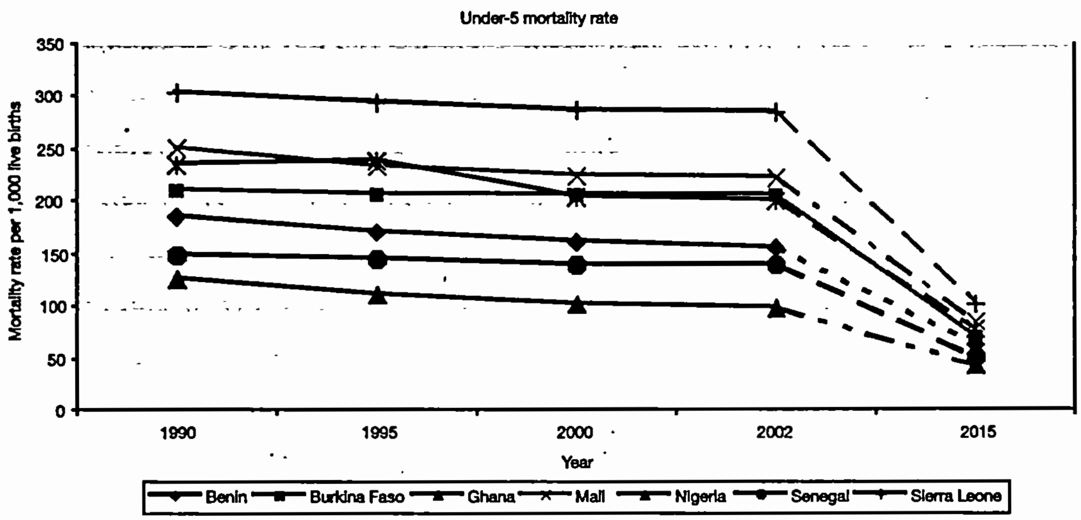
Figure 14: Poverty Reduction Targets in East Africa



2.3.3.2 MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education

74. East Africa made some progress in educating its children during the 1990s, but at a rate that is not sufficient for attaining the 2015 target. On the average, the net

Figure 13: Under-5 Mortality Rates in Selected Countries in West Africa



2.3.2.5 MDG 5: Improve maternal health

69. West Africa has high Maternal Mortality Ratios (MMR), ranging from 740 deaths per 100,000 live births in Ghana to as high as 1,800 deaths per 100,000 live births in Sierra Leone in 1990. By 2000, the MMR in Sierra Leone stood at 2,000 deaths per 100,000 live births compared to 540 deaths in Ghana, 690 deaths in Senegal and 1,000 deaths per 100,000 live births in Burkina Faso (Figure 2.4). Mali and Burkina Faso recorded only minimal reductions over the period. In order to achieve their respective 2015 targets of 400 and 599 deaths per 100,000 live births, Mali and Sierra Leone will require a lot of effort. Ghana, Senegal and Nigeria could achieve their respective targets of 246, 400 and 333 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2015.

2.3.2.6 MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

70. The data available indicates that in 2001, Burkina Faso had the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence rate (9.7 per cent) among females aged 15-24 years among the West African countries analysed in this report. Sierra Leone followed with 7.5 per cent and Nigeria 5.8 per cent.

2.3.2.7 MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

71. In most West African countries, poverty and environmental degradation move together and this tends to undermine the sustainable livelihoods of the poor. Forest degradation is a serious phenomenon in West Africa, of which a substantial proportion is located in the Sahel zone. During the decade, the proportion of land area covered by forest declined by almost 26 per cent in Sierra Leone, 21 per cent in Benin, 23 per cent in Nigeria and 16 per cent in Ghana.

2.3.2.2 MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education

66. The net enrolment ratio in primary school was low for West Africa in 1990, with four out of the seven countries achieving less than 50 per cent and Burkina Faso the lowest at 26.2 per cent. By 2001, the sub-region recorded some improvement, with Benin attaining the highest rate of increase (9.2 per cent). If current rates of increase are sustained, Mali and Ghana could achieve the 2015 target but Burkina Faso will need to make faster progress .

2.3.2.3 MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

67. At the beginning of the 1990s, all the West African countries[1] had girl-to-boy enrolment ratios in primary school of 0.5 and above with Benin and Ghana recording the lowest (0.5, but with a 40 percent increase by 2001) and highest (0.83) respectively. Between 1990 and 2000, the gap between girls' and boys' enrolment in primary schools narrowed, with all countries achieving ratios closer to 0.7 or higher and Ghana and Senegal achieving 0.91. However, none of the West African countries is on course to achieve the 1:1 target set for primary level by 2005. At current trends, this target could be achieved by 2015, however.

2.3.2.4 MDG 4: Reduce child mortality

68. All the countries considered had under-5 mortality rates of over 100 per 1,000 live births in 1990. Though progress has been made, the rates are still high, ranging in 1990 from 125 deaths per 1,000 live births in Ghana and 148 per 1,000 in Senegal to 300 deaths per 1,000 live births in Sierra Leone. While Nigeria achieved a relatively rapid decline, Burkina Faso and Senegal's achievements have been very slow (Figure 13). By 2002, only Ghana had achieved an under-5 mortality rate below 100 per 1,000 while Sierra Leone still had the highest of 284 deaths per 1,000.

1 The countries reported on include Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone

Table 10: Progress of North Africa towards the MDGs

	1990	2001/02
GDP per capita (constant 1995 US$)	1,263	1,484
Under nourishment prevalence(%)	5	4
Net enrolment in primary education (%)	82	92
Ratio of girls to boys in secondary education	0.94	0.96
Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000)	87	41
Maternal mortality (per 100,000 live births)	not available	130
Share of land area covered by forest (%)	1	1
Access to improved water supply(%)	88	90
Access to improved sanitation (%)	65	73
Share of urban population living in slums (%)	38	28

Source: Based on data from UN 2004; GDP data from World Bank, 2004.

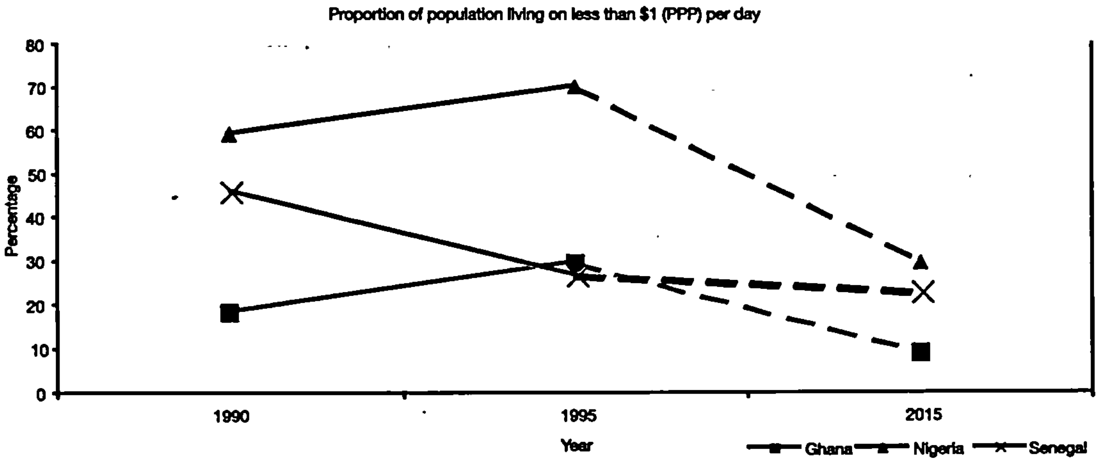
2.3.2 The status of MDGs in West Africa

64. Trends in some of the indicators (e.g. incidence of poverty, under-5 mortality rates, maternal mortality ratios, the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and malaria) show weak prospects of achieving the MDGs by 2015 in West Africa unless major policy and institutional changes take place now.

2.3.2.1 MDG 1: Eradication of extreme poverty and hunger

65. Generally, Poverty levels remain high in West Africa. Figure 12 shows that for Senegal, the effort required in achieving the first MDG is less daunting than for Ghana and Nigeria.

Figure 12: Proportion of Population Living on Less than $1 (PPP) Per Day in Selected Countries in West Africa



2.3 Regional Progression towards the MDGs: Selected Country Case Studies[1]

61. Though there is considerable country-level variation in progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, regional trends often reflect important conditions and challenges common to many countries. It is worth noting the considerable similarity in approach to tackling the poverty problems across the regions. This section provides the status and trendsat a glance towards achieving the MDGs and the situation faced in the various regions.It should be noted from the outset that progress in most of the countries is difficult to summarise .Seected African Country case studies have been analysed. Regional information is not always comparable or up-to date. Hence this review is based on the best data currently available.

2.3.1 The status of MDGs in North Africa

62. While impressive growth in North Africa has contributed much in terms of progress toward the MDGs, institutional factors continue to hinder the pace of progress. High inequality in some of the countries has limited the impact of recent growth on poverty reduction. Nevertheless, the countries in this region have made considerable progress with investment in education, health, water and sanitation, and safeguarding the environment. However, progress in engendering institutions is rather slow and tackling Gender inequality remains a daunting task. The region has also been slow to adapt to scientific and technological developments and making investments in information and communication technologies.

63. The region has seen modest economic growth since 1990 and is on track to reach the target of halving the poverty headcount rate.Net enrollment rates in primary education and the ratio of girls to boys in secondary school show marke improvements as shown in table..below. Immunisation rates are high and coverage is almost universal for some countries which is reflect in low child mortality rates. The prevalence of HIV, TB, and malaria is low, but greater progress needs to be made on maternal mortality and rural access to safe water and sanitation. Gender inequality remains a challenge, reflected in the low share of women in wage employment in the nonagricultural sectors and the low numbers of women representatives in parliaments.

1 Annex II provides a summary of recommendations made at the AU/NEPAD regional workshops.

Table 9: Debt Sustainability Indicators

Countries	Total Debt Service (as % exports of goods and services) 1990	2002	Debt relief committed under HIPC Initiative (USD millions)
Algeria	63.7	19.5	..
Angola	7.1	26.3	..
Benin	9.2	10.0	460
Botswana	4.4	1.7	...
Burkina Faso	7.8	11.1	930
Cameroon	14.7	9.9	2,000
CAR	12.5	11.5	..
Chad	3.8	10.0	260
Congo, Rep.	32.2	3.1	..
Cote d' Ivoire	19.1	8.1	800
Egypt. A.R.	25.7	8.8	..
Eritrea	0.0	4.5	..
Ethiopia	33.7	20.6	1,930
Ghana	34.9	8.9	3,700
Kenya	28.6	11.4	..
Lesotho	4.2	12.4	..
Madagascar	44.4	3.4	1,500
Malawi	28.0	15.5	1,000
Mali	14.7	4.5	895
Mauritania	28.8	16.5	1,100
Mozambique	17.3	2.7	4,300
Morocco	27.9	21.9	..
Niger	6.6	6.6	900
Nigeria	22.3	11.5	..
Rwanda	10.6	7.6	800
Senegal	18.3	9.3	850
South Africa	0.0	6.8	..
Tanzania	31.7	7.3	3,000
Togo	11.5	5.9	..
Tunisia	25.6	13.4	..
Uganda	56.9	9.7	1,950
Zambia	14.6	13.4	3,850
Zimbabwe	19.4	3.4	..

Source: Compiled from UNDP - *Human Development Reports*, 2003 and 2004.

Note: Data are as of March 2003. The Debt Initiative for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPCs) is a mechanism for debt relief, jointly overseen by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. Bilateral and multilateral creditors have also provided debt relief through this framework to heavily indebted poor countries since 1996.

Table 8: Enhanced HIPC Initiative- Status of African Countries as of July 2004

Countries that Have Reached Decision and Completion Points (11)	Countries between Decision and Completion Points (12)	Countries still to be Considered for Decision Points (9)
Benin	Cameroon	Burundi
Burkina Faso	Chad	Central African Republic
Ethiopia	Congo, D. R.	Comoros
Ghana	Gambia	Congo, Rep. of
Mali	Guinea	Cote d'Ivoire
Mauritania	Guinea-Bissau	Liberia
Mozambique	Madagascar	Somalia
Niger	Malawi	Sudan
Senegal	Rwanda	Togo
Tanzania	Sao Tome & Principe	
Uganda	Sierra Leone	
	Zambia	

Source: United Nations Statistics Division - *Millennium Indicators Database.*

59 Although the Initiative is intended to leave the beneficiary countries with external debt that is 'sustainable' in terms of the relationship between export receipts, as well as any worker remittances received from abroad and external debt service obligations, for some African countries, the HIPC process is proceeding too slowly. For others, even after benefiting from the HIPC process, the debt relief provided is proving insufficient to achieve a 'sustainable' debt level (**Table 9**).

60. Therefore, more needs to be done. While there have been important and continued progress in debt relief for the highly indebted poor countries, supported by enhanced HIPC Initiative, a more accelerated debt relief effort and total cancellation of debt are essential if these countries are to avoid slipping back into unsustainable debt positions.

From 1996 to 2002, there have been some reductions in average tariff imposed. For developing countries as a whole, the improvement is marginal in clothing and agriculture, but a positive trend is seen in textiles

(iii) *Support (subsidies) and protection for domestic agriculture in developed countries.*

Agricultural subsides are very damaging to African and other developing countries trade since agricultural products represent a large part of their exports. In 2002, subsidies to agriculture in the developed countries amounted to US$ 318 billion or 1.2 percent of GDP. This amount dwarfs ODA flows, which are now equivalent to about one fifth of agricultural subsidies.

(iv) *Capacity-building in trade.*

At Doha, donors committed to providing increased support to help developing countries, especially LDCs, build the capacity to trade and to integrate into world markets. In this regard, ODA commitments to trade-related (trade policy and regulations) technical assistance/capacity building in 2001-2002 to Africa amounted US$179 millions, which is about 25 percent of the total to developing countries.

2.2.8.3 Debt Relief

57. Beyond increased official development assistance and removal of trade restrictions; a global partnership for development will also require debt reduction. International assistance is required for ensuring that current debt relief efforts, particularly the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Debt Initiative meet the goal of debt sustainability.

58. At the end of 2000, the continent's total debt stock was estimated at $206 billion, up from $177 billion in 1990. On the average, African countries spent twice as much to comply with their external financial commitments than to comply with domestic social services. Among the 38 countries considered likely to be eligible for assistance under the enhanced HIPC Initiative, 32 are in Africa (**Table 8**).

and simplification of operational procedures. In particular, support should be given to infrastructure and sectoral programs of development.

- The PRSP process provides an appropriate framework for identifying effective channels for official assistance and for donor coordination as well as for strengthening the growth and poverty reduction efforts in recipient countries.

- The aid effort should include adequate support to debt relief for the heavy indebted poor countries, and to critical global programs on HIV/AIDS, education and water.

2.2.8.2 Trade (Market access)

53. Trade has great potential for African countries in poverty reduction and in meeting the MDGs. However, these will not materialize if the rules are biased and developing countries are unable to compete because of developed countries' subsidies and barriers to trade on the one hand, and developing countries are forced to open their own goods and services markets to corporations based in developed countries on the other hand.

54. The Doha round of multilateral trade talks was promoted as a development agenda because it was expected to deliver long-sought trade reforms that would help developing countries to export their goods to richer nations, thereby spurring their economic growth. However, these efforts were seriously compromised by the collapse of negotiations at Cancun in September 2003.

55. On the positive hand, there have been some improvements in recent years. The initiatives in 2001 by the world's two largest markets, the European Union's '*Everything but Arms*' arrangement and the United States' *Africa Growth and Opportunities Act*, provided increased trading opportunities for African countries. Countries such as Australia, Canada, Japan, Norway and Switzerland have also opened up their markets to goods from least developed countries.

56. Improvement in market access is monitored through four indicators:

(i) *Proportion of total developed countries imports from developing countries and LDCs admitted free of duties.*

In 2000, the proportion of developing countries exports eligible to enter duty free into developed countries was 62 percent; and in 2002 this figure declined marginally to 57 percent.

(ii) *Average tariff imposed by developed countries on agricultural products, textiles and clothing from developing countries.*

their GNP as ODA to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.2% to the least developed countries'.

- The World Summit on Sustainable Development (September 2002) also urged 'developed countries that have not done so, to make concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7% of GNP as ODA to developing countries.

50. However, by 2003 only five countries of the twenty-three OECD largest donors reached the overall level of 0.7% of their GNP for ODA (**Table 7.**). The five countries include Norway (0.92), Denmark (0.84), Netherlands (0.81), Luxembourg (0.80) and Sweden (0.70).

Table 7: OECD Countries' Percent of GNP for ODA, 2003

Norway	0.92	Switzerland	0.38	Greece	0.21
Denmark	0.84	Finland	0.34	Portugal	0.21
Netherlands	0.81	United Kingdom	0.34	Japan	0.20
Luxembourg	0.80	Germany	0.28	Austria	0.20
Sweden	0.70	Canada	0.26	Italy	0.16
Belgium	0.61	Australia	0.25	United States	0.14
France	0.41	Spain	0.25		
Ireland	0.41	NewZealand	0.23		

Source: UNDP – *Human Development Report* 2003.

51. If members of the OECD donor countries actually delivered ODA equal to 0.7% of their GNP, aid would be $165 billion a year, which is three times the current level and well above current estimates of what is needed to achieve the MDGs.

52. At current levels, there is a large gap between the development ambitions of the international community, that is, MDGs and the resources provided. It was estimated earlier by the U.N. that meeting the MDGs would cost an additional $50 billion in annual aid. At the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development, the United States pledged to increase aid spending by 50%, or $5 billion a year, and the European Union promised an additional $7 billion a year, as its first step toward meeting the target of 0.7 percent of Gross National Income (GNI) for development assistance. While these commitments are surely encouraging, since the Monterrey Consensus to date, progress in several key policy areas, including trade and ODA, has been very weak or
non-existent, in some cases there have been backward steps. Therefore, progress is needed toward a more effective ODA. Specifically:

- Increased ODA is needed to meet the resource requirements of the MDGs; and donors need to respond adequately to African countries' effort to improve their policies and capacities for effective utilization of aid.

- Concerted donor efforts are also needed to increase the quality of aid, through improved aid allocation across countries, closer strategic alignment with national development priorities within country programs and harmonization and sluggish economic growth, Africa is not likely to be able to meet this resources requirement for rural water supply and sanitation except with international donor assistance.

45. In Africa, a few countries did mange to register some progress through the 1990s. An additional 12 percent of the population gained access to improved water in Cote d'Ivoire, followed by Mali (10 percent), Central African Republic (9 percent) and Kenya (9 percent).

2.2.8 Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

46. The key to achieving the seven inter-linked income and non-income dimensions of the MDGs in Africa and other developing regions remains in the eighth goal (developing global partnership for development) through increased external and internal partnership and cooperation, in which stronger reform efforts by developing countries are matched with enhanced support from developed countries and international financial institutions, in line with commitments made at Monterrey, Doha and Johannesburg.

47. A more effective framework for channelling increased development assistance is provided by country-owned Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) at the national level and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) at the regional level.

48. As agreed in Monterrey, the attainment of the MDGs requires a global partnership. For African countries, attaining the MDGs entails greater international cooperation and assistance by the developed industrialized countries, in the key areas of (i) **Official Development Assistance** (ODA), (ii) **trade** and (iii) **debt relief.** Specifically, achieving the MDGs requires doubling the present ODA flows, reduction of agricultural subsidies and removal of remaining protectionist trade barriers by the industrialized countries and enlarging and sustaining debt relief under the enhanced HIPC Debt Initiative.

2.2.8.1 Official development assistance

49. The idea that rich countries should give 0.7% of their GNP for global development was first proposed in 1969 in the Report on International Development, led by former Canadian Prime Minister Lester Pearson. This figure has been widely accepted as a reference target for official development assistance (ODA). Endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 1970, it became part of the international development strategy for the 1970s. Recent developments include:

- The Millennium Declaration (September 2000) calls on rich countries to give 'more generous development assistance'.
- The Monterrey Consensus (March 2002) calls on 'developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7% of

Lack of clean water and basic sanitation are critical causes of the prevalence of disease transmission in developing countries.

2.2.7 Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

43. On environmental sustainability, the MDGs call for to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. According to WHO estimates, between 1990 and 2000, about 900 million people gained access to an improved water source. However, this increase in the number of people served was just sufficient to keep pace with population growth. In 2000, 1.2 billion people were still without access to an improved water source, 40 percent of which live in East Asia and the Pacific and 25 percent in Africa. In all cases, access was far better in urban than in rural areas. Lack of clean water and basic sanitation are critical causes of the prevalence of disease transmission in developing countries. Access to improved sanitation has also increased, but 2.4 billion people world wide still lack these improved sanitation facilities.

44. The target to halve, by 2015, the proportion of Africa's population without access to safe drinking water remains a daunting challenge. Consequently, about 40% of the health bill in Africa is related to water-born diseases affecting 50% of the population (ADB). Africa, according to the ADB, will require huge financial investment (about US$14.2 billion) to be able to meet the MDG for rural water supply and sanitation alone. With the current average annual population increase of more than 2 per cent

in Africa. According to the latest statistics on the world epidemic of AIDS & HIV, published by UNAIDS/WHO in December 2004, the **total number of AIDS deaths worldwide in 2004 was 3.1 million, and Africa accounted for 2.3 million or 74.2% of all AIDS deaths in the world (see Table E1). By December 2004 women accounted for 47% of all people living with HIV worldwide, and for 57% in Africa. An estimated five million people in low and middle-income countries do not have the AIDS drugs, which could save their lives.** It is noted, however, that even in the worst cases, the toll of AIDS related deaths is not expected to lead to declines of population, because fertility in these countries is high. Malaria is also a leading cause of morbidity and mortality in tropical Africa, and many countries have progressed in its prevention and control.

41. Estimates based on malaria cases reported to the WHO show that almost 90 percent occur in Africa, with most of the deaths being among young children. Death rates are highest among children under five. In 2000, there were 906,000 deaths worldwide, 880,000 in Africa. Anti-malaria efforts now focus on reducing human exposure and reducing the health effects on those who become infected. Tuberculosis, because if its linkage with HIV is resurging and becoming a major public health concern in countries hit by the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

42. The tuberculosis incidence rate is highest in Africa, but the largest number of cases occurs in Asia. The directly observed treatment short course (DOTS) strategy has been shown to be effective, and coverage has been increasing, but in 1999 less than half of the population in the 23 countries with the largest number of cases had access to DOTS.

Table 6: Regional Statistics for HIV & AIDS, end of 2004

Region	Adults & Children Living with HIV/ AIDS*	Adults & Children Newly Infected	Adult Infection Rate (%)	Deaths of Adults & Children*
Sub-Saharan Africa	25.4	3.1	7.4	2.3
East Asia	1.1	0.29	0.1	0.051
South and South-East Asia	7.1	0.89	0.6	0.49
Oceania	0.035	0.005	0.2	0.0007
Eastern Europe & Central Asia	1.4	0.21	0.8	0.060
Western & Central Europe	0.61	0.021	0.3	0.0065
North Africa & Middle East	0.54	0.092	0.3	0.028
North America	1.0	0.044	0.6	0.016
Caribbean	0.44	0.053	2.3	0.036
Latin America	1.7	0.24	0.6	0.095
Global Total	**39.4**	**4.9**	**1.1**	**3.1**

* *millions*

Source: UNAIDS/WHO, *World HIV and AIDS Statistics*, 2004.

Infectious diseases threaten to reverse development gains by: reducing life expectancy, cutting productivity (income), deepening and spreading poverty, reversing human development and eroding the capacity of governments to provide essential services.

2.2.6 Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases

38. The MDGs also target HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other major epidemic diseases, which pose significant threats to economic and social progress in developing countries. Infectious diseases threaten to reverse development gains, reducing life expectancy and cutting productivity and income. Throughout the world, 40 million people are (of which 70 percent in Africa) living with HIV and 20 million have died from AIDS. Malaria affects 300 million people in more than 100 countries each year. Tuberculosis is the main cause of death from a single infectious agent among adults in developing countries.

39. In Africa, HIV/AIDS is deepening and spreading poverty, reversing human development, reducing labour productivity and eroding the capacity of governments to provide essential services. According to UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the global adult HIV/AIDS prevalence rate is estimated at 1 per cent, the average for Africa is 8.5 percent at end 2003. In Southern Africa, there are quite a few countries with prevalence rates above 25 per cent, with the highest being Botswana about 35 percent. HIV/AIDS has not only constitute a series of constraints to growth and stability of most African economies and societies, but it has actually began to destroy the hard-won development gains even of countries like Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

40. HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death in Africa and the fourth largest killer worldwide. In 2001, WHO estimates that there were 2.3 million AIDS related deaths

Figure 11: Maternal Mortality Ratios in Western African Countries 1993, 2003

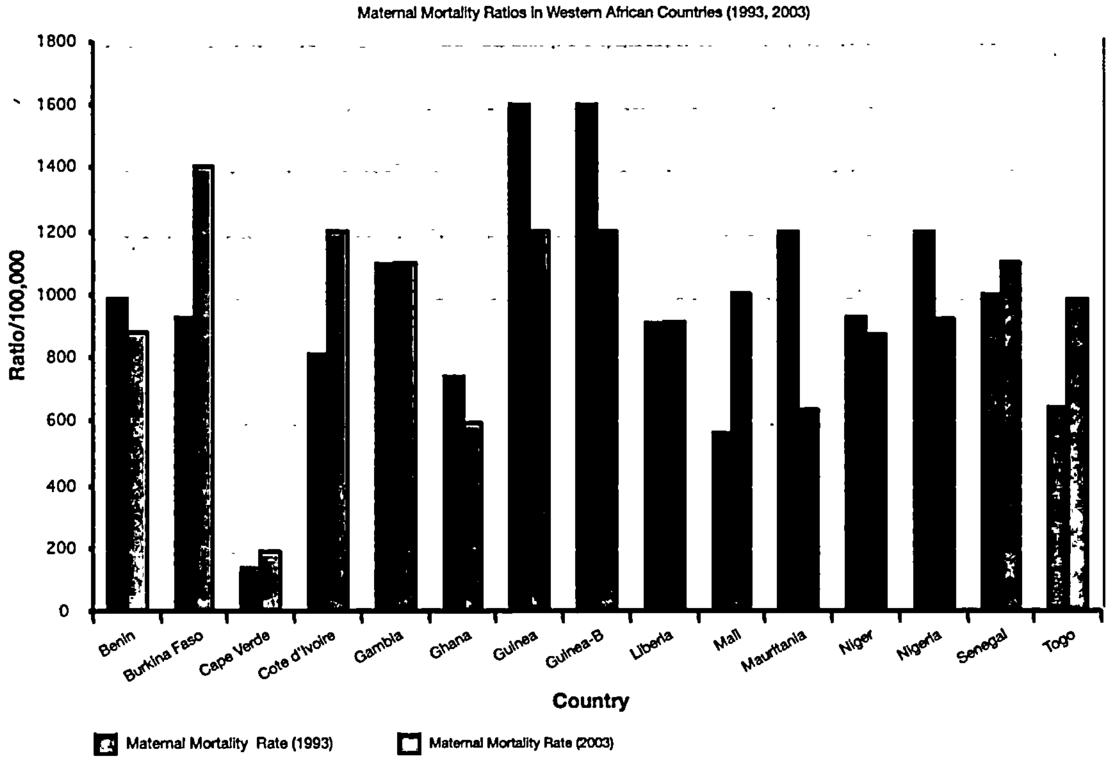


Figure 9: Maternal Mortality Ratios for Eastern African Countries 1993, 2002

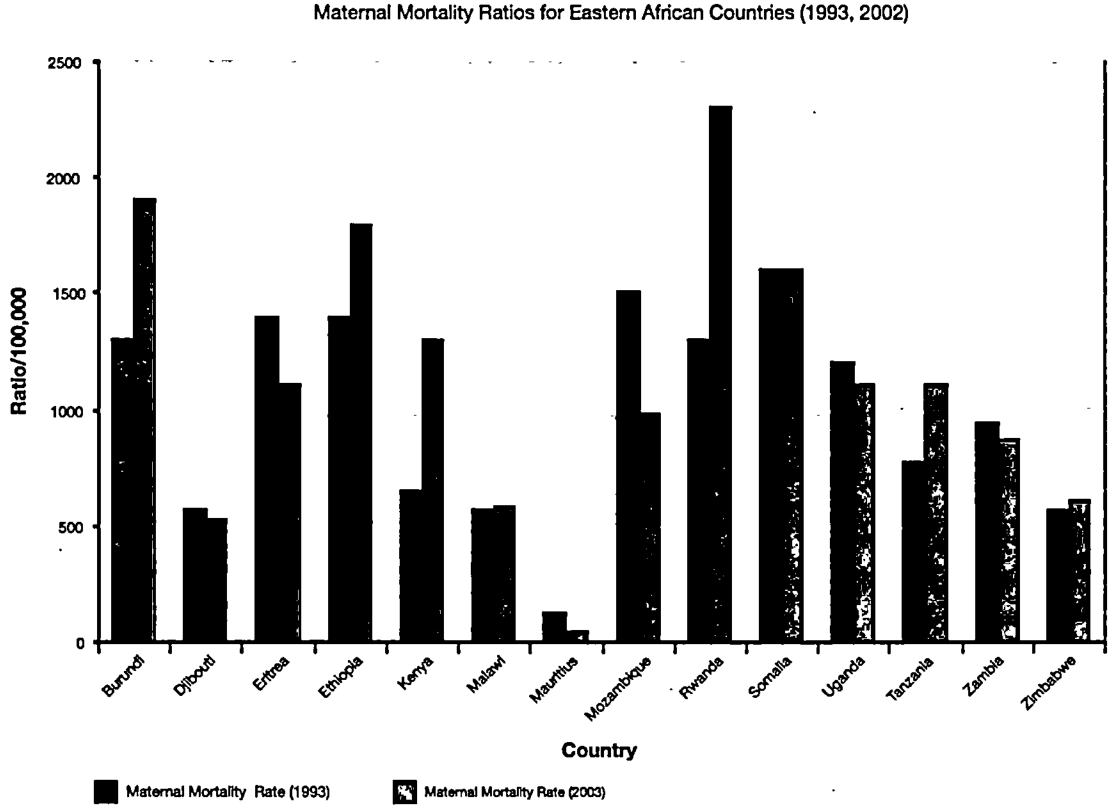
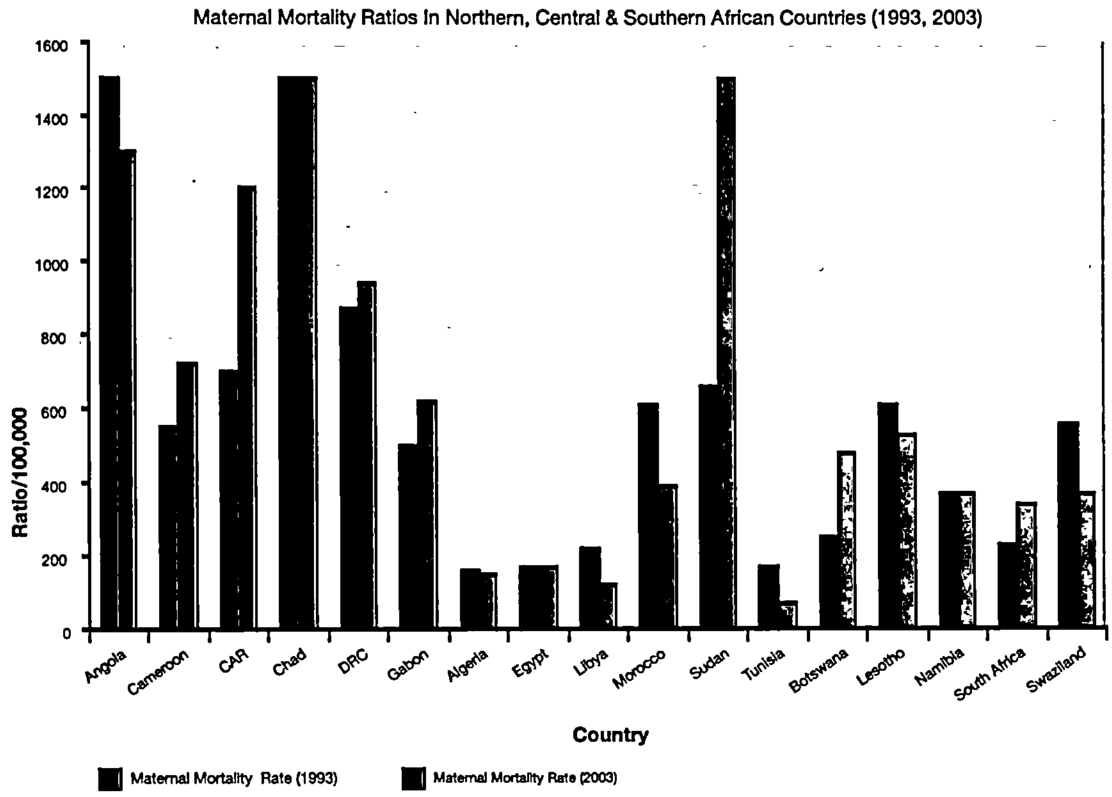


Figure 10: Maternal Mortality Ratios for in Northern, Central and Southern African Countries 1993, 2003



In Africa, a woman faces a 1 in 13 chance of dying in childbirth, compared to 1 in 160 in Latin America and the Caribbean and 1 in 280 in East Asia.

2.2.5 Goal 5: Improve maternal health

36. The fifth MDG calls for reducing maternal mortality ratios by three-quarters of their 1990 levels by 2015. What makes maternal mortality such a compelling problem is that it strikes young women undergoing what should be a normal process. Maternal mortality is very difficult to measure due to under-reporting and incorrect diagnoses. However, there is consensus that the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel is closely correlated with maternal mortality. It is estimated that a women in Africa face a 1 in 13 chance of dying in childbirth, compared to 1 in 160 in Latin America and the Caribbean and 1 in 280 in East Asia. In the developed world, the risk is estimated to be 1 in 4100.

37. In Africa, the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel showed a very minimal change in the 1990s, from 40% in 1990 to 44% in 2000. At present rate, the targeted 85% coverage of births attended by skilled health providers will not be attained by 2015.

Figure 8: Infant Mortality Rates for Western African Countries, 1990,2003

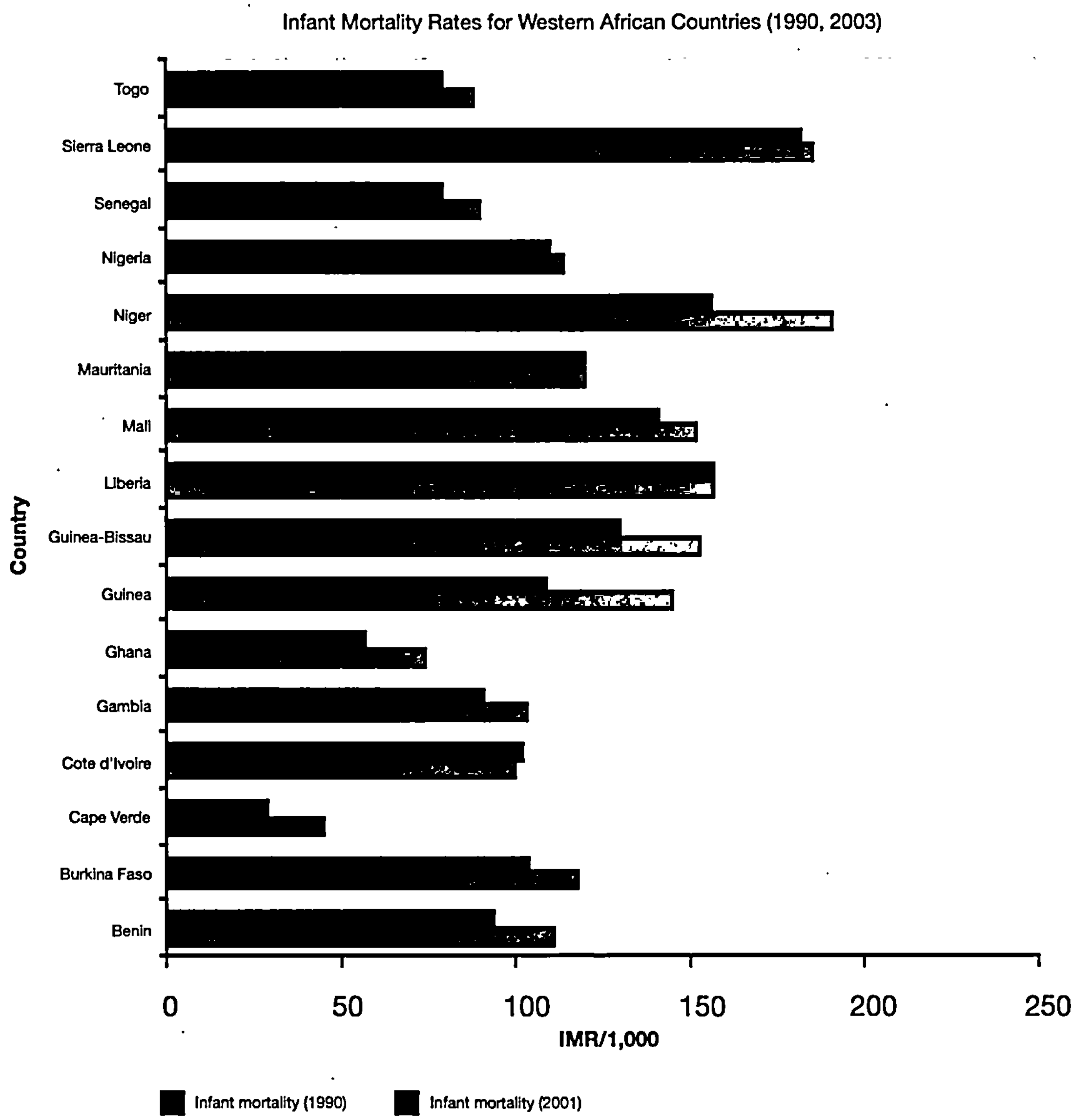


Figure 7: Infant Mortality Rates for Eastern African Countries, 1990, 2000

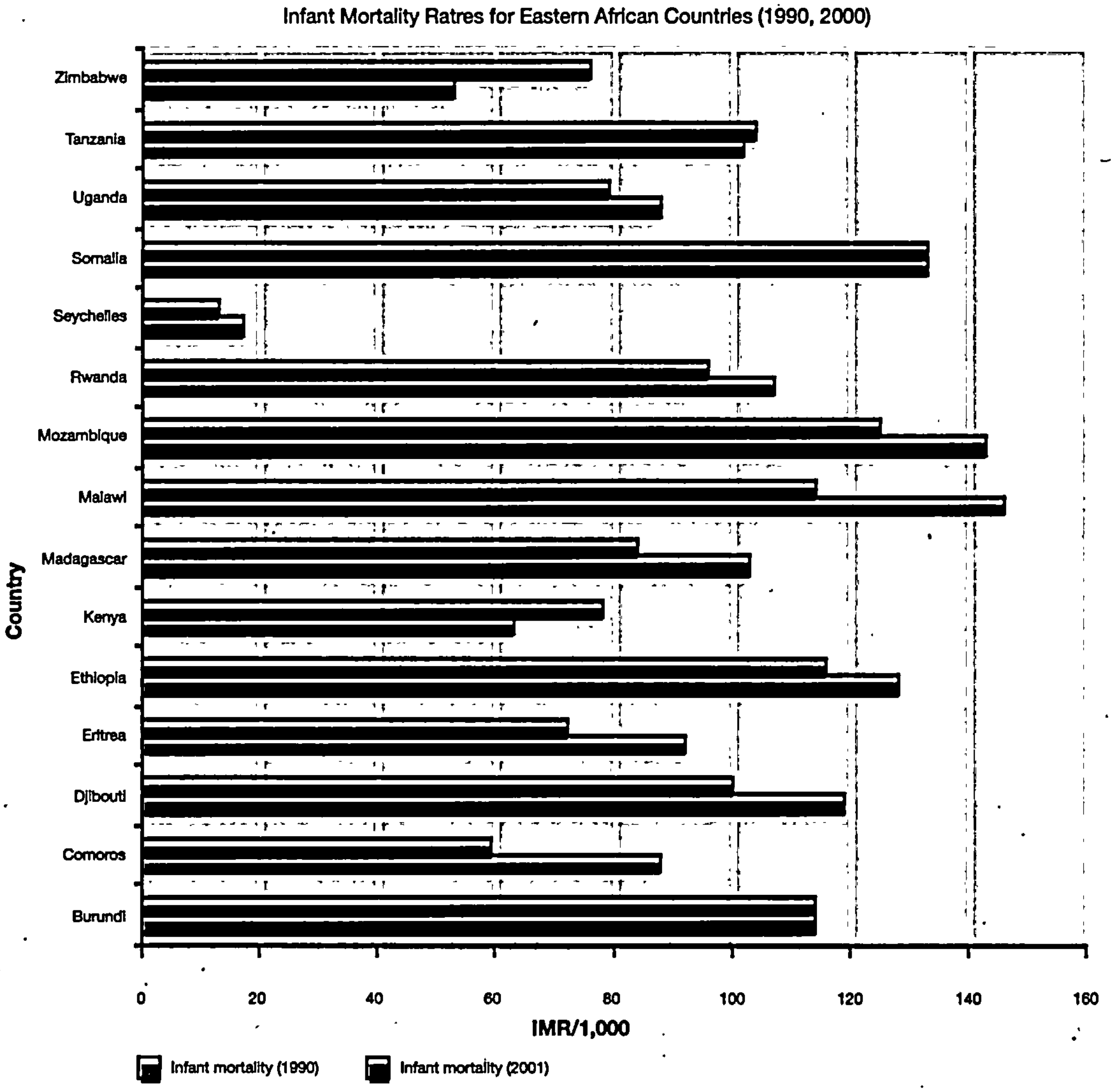
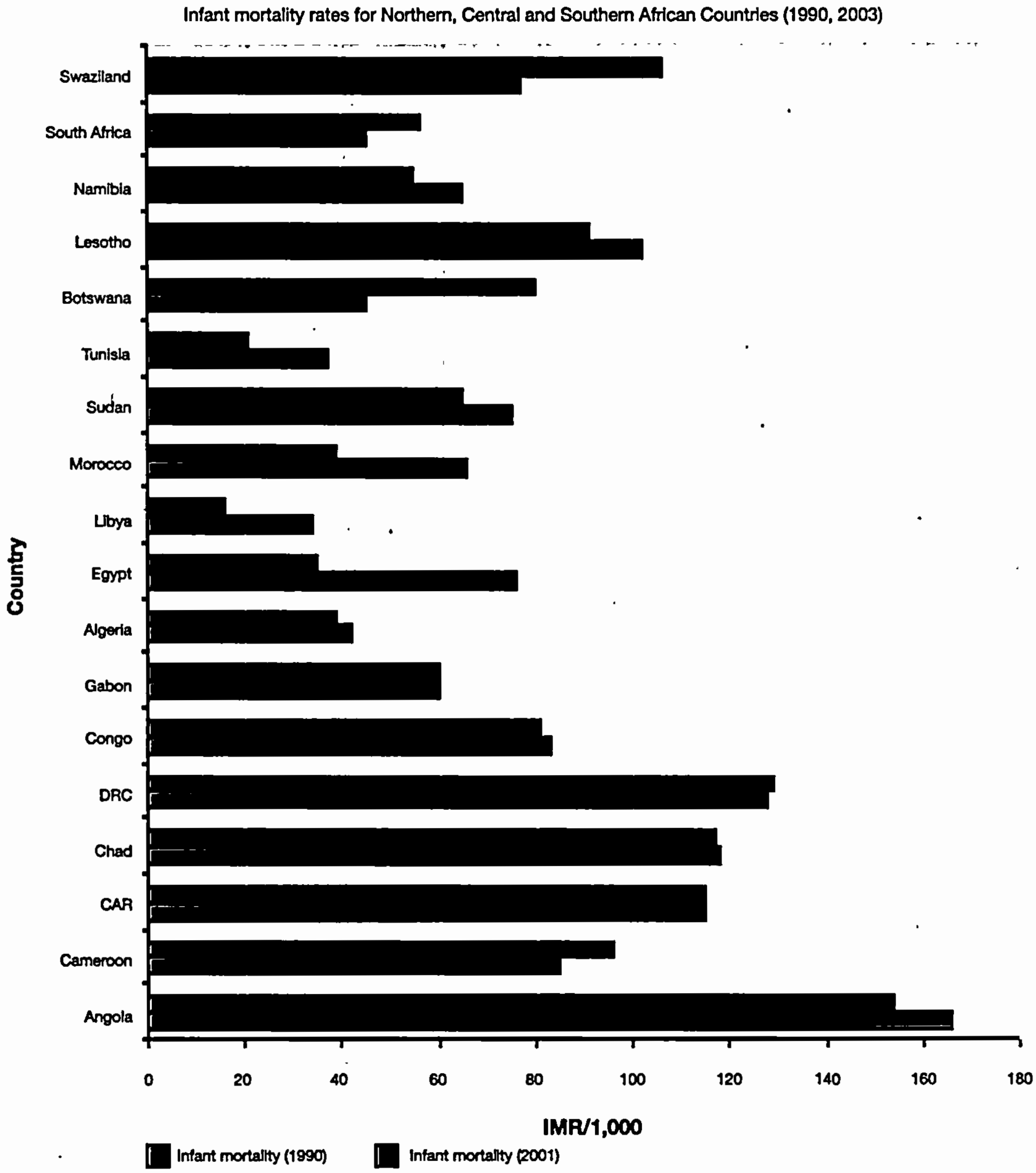


Figure 6: Infant Mortality Rates for Northern, Central and Southern African Countries, 1990, 2003



The overwhelming majority of African countries are seriously off-track for meeting the infant mortality rate (IMR) goal by 2015. In the continent, almost one in six children dies before the age of five.

parts of the developing world. The IMR actually increased between 1985 and 1995 in Congo, Liberia, Rwanda, and Zambia. Population growth is causing a rapid increase in the absolute number of underweight children, from 23 million in 1975 to 35 million. The current infant and child mortality rates in Africa, and the prospect that these rates are rising in many countries as a result of AIDS, are significant because mortality rate is one of the most sensitive and multi-dimensional indicators of social and economic progress.

2.2.3.2 Indicators for monitoring the gender goal

30. The MDG target on gender is not new but is a commitment that was made as an integral part of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action. The adoption of the MDG targets by global consensus presents a renewed opportunity to mobilize political will and development resources to achieve the target within a specified timeframe. Equally important is that mechanisms for tracking progress and accountability have also been established. There are four specific indicators that have been established for MDG 3, namely:

- The ratio of girls to boys enrolled in primary and secondary education.
- The ratio of literate females to males among 15- to-24 year-olds
- The share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector.
- The proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments

31. These indicators are insufficient for measuring all the dimensions of gender inequality. In particular, it should be noted that the indicators do not measure the "quality" of "equality", in terms of the process or outcomes. Reaching parity, however, important and necessary, by itself, is not a sufficient condition for achieving the goal of gender equality.

2.2.4 Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

32. The MDGs call for reducing by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate (U5MR). In Africa, almost one in six children dies before the age of five. U5MR reduction was slower in the 1990s than in the 1980s, 1970s and 1960s. In fact, in parts of Africa the U5MR have increased in the 1990s. For example, in Botswana and Kenya, the spread of HIV/AIDS pandemic has resulted in increased levels of U5MR. At current rate of reduction, the two-third decline desired by 2015 will not happen in Africa.

33. On the positive side, some African countries seem to be on track for meeting the U5MR target. In the 1990s, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea and Guinea achieved reduction of over 20 per cent. Cape Verde and Comoros reduced the U5MR by one-third; even larger reductions were registered in Egypt, the Gambia, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia.

34. Measles is among the leading causes of child mortality that can be easily prevented through immunization. Yet, the proportion of children immunized against measles is much lower in Africa. Unfortunately, the proportion of one-year old children immunized against measles has dropped during the 1990s, from 66 per cent in 1990 to about 55 per cent in 2000. A few countries – Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Namibia and Niger have succeeded in achieving more than 20 per cent growth in the coverage of measles vaccine between 1990 and 2002.

35. The overwhelming majority of African countries are seriously off-track for meeting the infant mortality rate (IMR) goal by 2015. IMR decreased to 92 deaths per 1,000 children born between 1982 and 1999 but this rate remains well above other

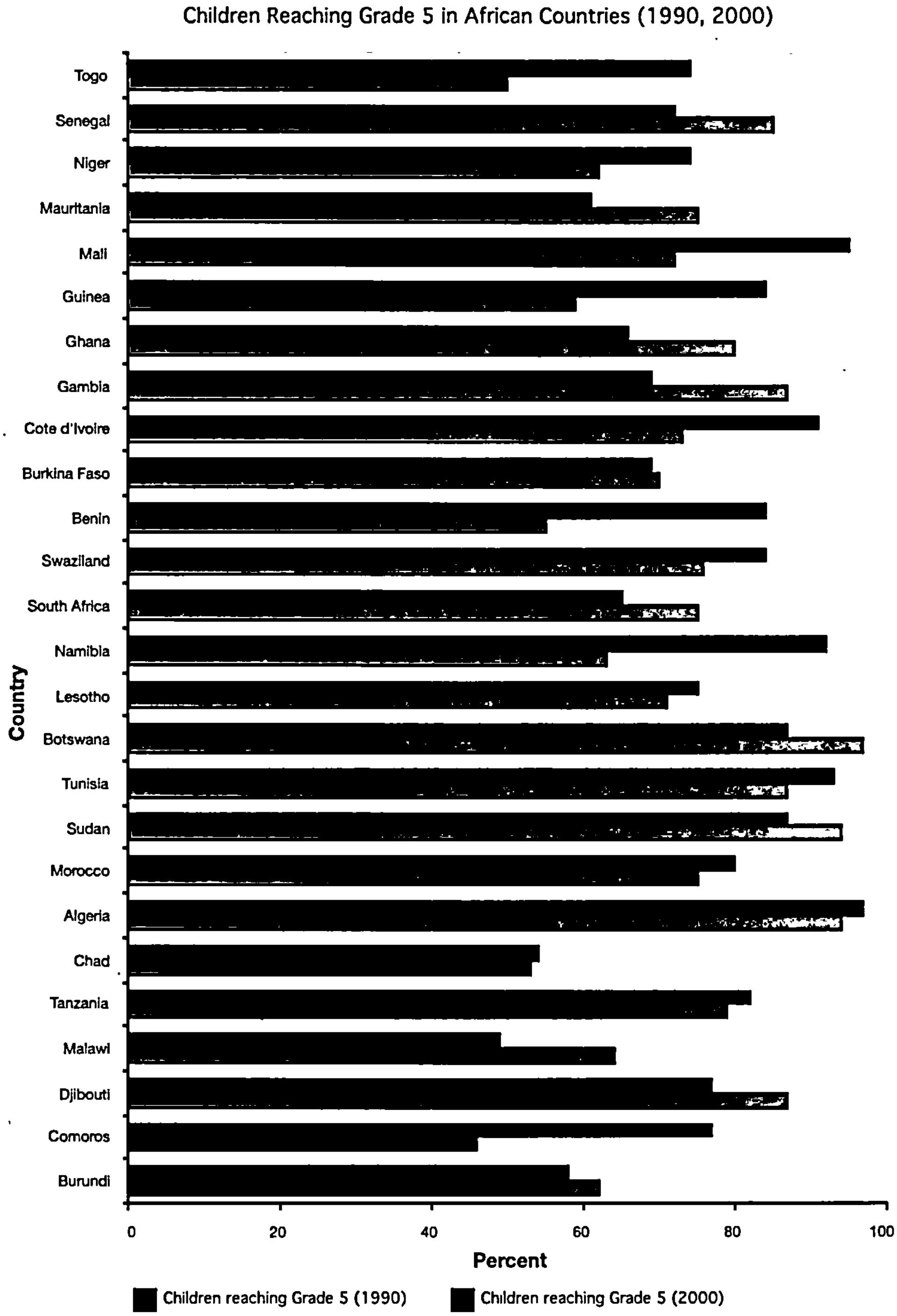
The ratio of literate females to males in Africa rose throughout the 1990s and beyond. However, the pace will need to accelerate.

no later than 2015. However, the essence of Goal 3 goes beyond just parity in numbers. It means the fundamental transformation in social, economic and political roles and relationships between men and women in ways that ensure an equitable distribution of power, opportunities and outcomes. An underlying principle of the MDGs is that gender equality will need to be mainstreamed in all of the other Goals if they are to be achieved within the specified timeframe.

28. In Africa, there has been a decline in the gap between girls' and boys' net enrolment ratios during the 1990s. While only 89 girls were enrolled in school for every 100 boys in 1990, the proportion rose to 91 girls per 100 boys in 2000. In more than half of the countries in Africa, girls' enrolment represents over 90 percent that of boys. In Botswana, Equatorial Guinea, Malawi, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, net enrolment of girls is equal to, or even higher than, boys. In other countries, the net enrolment for girls is very low. It is often the case that the widest gender gaps occur where the overall net enrolment ratio is relatively low.

29. The ratio of literate females to males in Africa rose throughout the 1990s and beyond. For every ten literate men in 1990, less than seven women could read and write. By 2002, for every ten literate men, almost eight women were literate. Despite steady increase improvement in closing the gender gap in literacy, the pace will need to accelerate if the goal of gender equality is to be achieved by 2015. The same applies to the gap between girls' and boys' net primary enrolment, which at current rates will not be bridged by the target year of 2005.

Figure 5: Children Reaching Grade 5, 1999, 2000



2.2.3 Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

2.2.3.1 Gender goal and target

27. Millennium Development Goal 3 aims to "Promote gender equality and empower women." There is one specific target for this Goal; target 4: eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and in all levels of education

Table 5: Effort Required to Achieving the Education Goal

Moderate Effort	Substantial Effort	Massive Effort
South Africa	Benin	Burkina Faso
Botswana	Cameroon	Burundi
Cape Verde	Comoros	Djibouti
Gabon	Côte d'Ivoire	Eritrea
Lesotho	Gambia	Ethiopia
Malawi	Ghana	Guinea
Mauritius	Kenya	Guinea Bissau
Namibia	Madagascar	Mali
Seychelles	Nigeria	Mozambique
Swaziland	Mauritania	Niger
Togo	Uganda	Tanzania
Zimbabwe	Senegal	Sudan
	Zambia	Chad

Source: World Forum – *Regional Agenda, EPT 2001-2006*, P. 9.

Despite some gains, progress will need to be accelerated in Africa in order to achieve the MDGs education target by 2015.

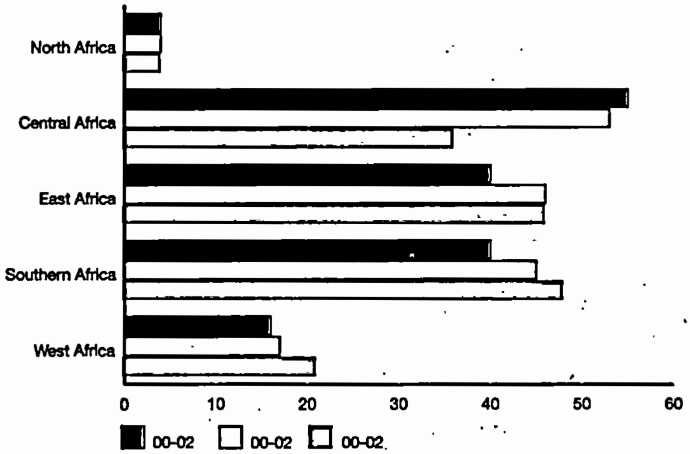
2.2.2 Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

24. The MDGs call for reaching universal enrolment of children in primary schools by 2015, so that every child may be able to complete a full course of primary education. Progress toward this target is commonly measured by net enrolment rate, which measures the ratio of enrolled children of official school age to the number of children of the same age in the population. Unfortunately, data on net enrolment rates are available for fewer than half of all developing countries. In the last decade, progress toward universal primary education was achieved in every region of the world, with some of the fastest growth rates being in South Asia and Africa, where the numbers of children out of school are the greatest.

25. In Africa, the net enrolment rate increased from 54% in 1990 to over 60% in 2002. Moreover, progress in some African countries has been rapid. For example, Malawi and Uganda achieved large increases in enrolments in a very short period of time by removing impediments such as school fees. And Ethiopia, where enrolments remain very low, increased its enrolment rate by a significant 18% a year in the last decade.

26. Despite these gains, progress will need to be accelerated in Africa in order to achieve the MDGs education target by 2015. The average annual rate of increase in enrolment would have to be accelerated to 3% from the 1990-98 level of 1.3%. Moreover, while the enrolment rates increased, the primary schooling completion rates has been very low. Failure to meet the education target will reduce the chances of reaching the other MDGs; because basic education is key to unlocking positive externalities and synergies. The table 5 below indicates the degree of efforts required for African countries to achieve the education goal by 2015.

Figure 4a: Trend of the Proportion of Undernourished People in Africa



Source: FAO Database (FAOSTAT)

Table 4: Basic Economic, Poverty and Hunger Indicators

Countries	Population (millions)	GDP Avg. Annual Growth (1990–2002)	GDP Per Capita (PPP US$) 2001	Poverty Indicator Proportion of Population Living with Less than $1 (PPP) a Day (2002)	Hunger Indicator Prevalence of Under Weight Children Under-Five Years of Age (%) (2002)
Algeria	31.3	2.2	6,090	Less than 2	6
Angola	13.1	3.2	2,040	...	31
Benin	6.6	4.9	1,070	...	23
Botswana	1.7	5.1	8.170	23.5	13
Burkina Faso	12.1	4.2	1,120	44.9	34
Cameroon	16.1	2.7	2,000	17.1	21
CAR	3.8	2.1	1,170	66.6	24
Chad	8.3	3.1	1,070	...	28
Congo, D .R.	51.6	-3.9	680	...	31
Congo, Rep.	3.7	1.8	980	...	14
Cote d' Ivoire	16.5	2.8	1,520	10.8	21
Egypt. A.R.	67.6.6	4.5	3,520	3.1	11
Eritrea	4.3	4.3	1,030	...	44
Ethiopia	68.6	4.6	810	26.3	47
Ghana	20.3	4.3	2,250	44.8	25
Kenya	31.9	1.9	980	23.0	21
Lesotho	1.8	3.5	2,420	36.4	18
Madagascar	16.4	2.1	830	61.0	33
Malawi	10.7	3.1	570	41.7	25
Mali	11.4	4.9	930	72.8	33
Mauritania	2.8	4.4	2,220	25.9	32
Mozambique	18.8	6.9	1,140	37.9	26
Morocco	30.1	2.6	3,810	Less than 2	9
Niger	11.4	2.8	890	61.4	40
Nigeria	136.5	2.7	860	70.2	36
Rwanda	8.4	2.3	1,270	35.7	27
Senegal	10	3.9	1,500	26.3	23
South Africa	45.8	2.3	11,290	10.7	12
Tanzania	35.9	3.7	580	19.9	29
Togo	4.8	3.1	1,650	...	25
Tunisia	9.8	4.6	6,760	Less than 2	4
Uganda	25.3	6.9	1,490	44.0	23
Zambia	10.4	1.4	840	63.7	28
Zimbabwe	13	1.1	2,370	56.1	13

Source: World Bank – *World Development Report* 2005; UNDP – *Human Development Report* 2004 and country sources.

its growth rates have been declining since 2002, it recorded an average growth rate of 9.23% between 2001 and 2003, an enviable growth rate needed to achieve the MDG target of halving poverty.

2.3.5.1 MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty

92. The proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day in South Africa was 9.4% in 1995 and increased to 10.5% in 2002. Malawi and Lesotho have also recorded increases in the incidence of poverty prior to adopting the MDGs but there is lack of up-to-date data to assess the incidence of poverty in the recent period. It is worth mentioning that South Africa and Mauritius have the lowest proportion of people living below $1 a day in the sub-region, whereas the incidence of poverty is high in Lesotho, Malawi and Mozambique.

93. Data from the World Institute of Development Economic Research (WIDER) database indicate that whereas inequality (measured by the Gini coefficient) has improved in Mauritius, it has worsened in South Africa, Lesotho and Malawi.

2.3.5.2 MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education

94. Regarding Malawi, the country had a very low net primary enrolment ratio of 49.7 per cent in 1990 but the introduction of the free education policy saw net enrolment increasing sharply to 99 per cent in 1995. Ironically, the proportion of children reaching Grade 5 declined from 64 per cent to 54 per cent over the same period, indicating that school fees are only a part of the problems of access and retention.

95. Education outcomes as recorded in recent statistics show Mauritius and South Africa will must likely meet the educatiion goal. Mozambique and Lesotho have recorded increases in their net enrolment ratios and the latter has a better chance of meeting the MDG of 100 per cent net primary enrolment rate on condition that it also increases investment in primary education.

2.3.5.3 MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

96. The indicators for this MDG suggest that South Africa, Lesotho and Malawi are likely to achieve the 2015 target of eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education. Although gender parity in primary education in Lesotho fell continuously in the 1990s, it was above 100 per cent in 2001, while Malawi's ratio rose consistently over the same period and is likely to reach 100 per cent by 2015. South Africa has recorded a declining trend that, if not reversed, will fall slightly below 100 per cent by 2015. Similarly, the ratio of girls to boys in primary education in Mauritius has declined and could leave the country way off the 2015 target. Although Mozambique has made modest gains in its gender parity ratio, it is unlikely to meet the MDG.

2.3.5.4 Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

97. None of the five Southern African countries is likely to meet this MDG. Mauritius has the lowest under-5 mortality rate among the group, followed by South Africa, Lesotho and Malawi, while Mozambique has the highest rate. Consequently, the deviation from the 2015 target is highest in the latter two countries . Except for South Africa, the rest of the countries recorded declines in child mortality rates between 1995 and 2001.

2.3.5.5 Goal 5: Improve maternal health

98. With the exception of South Africa, which appears to be on track for meeting this target in 2015, none of the studied countries in the sub-region is likely to meet the target if current trends continue.

99. Although Mauritius has the lowest maternal mortality ratio among the group, there has been a rising trend. On the other hand, Malawi has the highest maternal mortality ratio among the group with a ratio of 1,800 per 100,000 live births in 2001 compared to 25 per 100,000 in Mauritius. Mozambique is second from the bottom with a ratio of 1,000 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2001 while that of South Africa was 230 per 100,000 live births (WDI, April 2004).

2.3.5.6 Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

100. The HIV and AIDS pandmic in Southern Africa presents a serious development challenge. While HIV prevalence rates in Malawi have declined since 1990 and could miss the 2015 target only marginally, Lesotho and Mozambique are off track. The HIV prevalence rate in South Africa was one of the highest among the five countries in 1995; rose steadily to 25 per cent by 2001 and continues to increase. It has been estimated that at the end of 2003, 5.3 million South Africans were HIV-positive, the largest number of individuals living with the virus in a single country (UNAIDS, 2003), though this statistic has been contested.

2.3.5.7 Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

101. Focusing on the access to safe drinking water, it is evident that, if current trends continue, only Mauritius and Lesotho are likely to meet this MDG. Mozambique and Malawi could achieve the target with additional commitment of resources. In South Africa, access to safe water has remained constant at around 86 per cent between 1990 and 2001. This zero growth rate makes it unlikely that the country will halve the proportion of people without access to safe water by 2015.

2.3.5.8 MDG 8: Develop a global partnership for development

102. For almost all of the African countries, the prospects of achieving the seven other MDGs depend largely on their relationships with the rest of the world, in particular the extent to which they can increase their participation in world trade. With a high concentration of exports in primary commodities, declining terms of trade, adverse

balance of payments problems, and rising debt service burdens, it has become imperative for countries to engage actively with development partners in order to adequately secure financing for the achievement of the MDGs. A welcome development in the past few years has been a significant increase in ODA inflow largely due to debt relief. To the extent that the other seven goals can be achieved only with the required financing and political commitment, the achievement of the last goal serves as an anchor to the overall attainment of the goals of the U.N. Millennium Declaration. It is important to note that the internal efforts to attain the MDGs must be supported by greater effort from the international community in terms of development finance, access to global markets and removing the burden of external debt.

2.4 Best Practices towards Meeting the MDGs

103. Despite the inadequate regional record in moving toward the MDGs, Africa has seen some success stories in the last decade at individual country level. Specifically, countries that have implemented sound economic policies, improved their systems of governance and reallocated adequate public resources towards human development have seen acceleration in growth and poverty reduction and are likely to make significant future progress toward the MDGs. A number of success stories include:

- Cape Verde, Mauritius, Mozambique and Uganda have sustained growth rates around 7 percent a year.
- Benin, Cape Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and recently Kenya underwent democratic elections highlighting Africa's aspirations for democratic governance.
- Guinea and Malawi registered major improvements in education.
- Gambia obtained significant reductions in child mortality.
- Senegal and Uganda made significant progress in containing HIV/AIDS.
- Mozambique registered net flows of foreign direct investments of about $200 million at the end of the 1990s, compared to almost nothing previously.
- Mauritania managed to achieve 90 percent primary school enrolments.
- Burkina Faso attained major progress in health, where performance exceeded target for vaccinations in 2001 - tuberculosis vaccination rate of 84 percent against the target of 80 percent; measles and yellow fever vaccinations of 65 percent, against the target of 60 percent.

3.0 The Main Challenges to Achieving the MDGs in Africa

104. The main challenges to achieving the MDGs in Africa can be identified as ensuring peace and security, fostering good political and economic governance, tackling the HIV/AIDS pandemic and other diseases, breaking the poverty-demographic trap and achieving gender equality and empowering women.

3.1. Peace and Security

105. Peace and Security is a key prerequisite for attaining the Millennium Development Goals and overall sustainable development. The prevention of conflict begins and ends with the promotion of human security and human development. The experience in Africa since the 1990s has reinforced the inextricable link between development and peace and security.

106. Throughout the 1990s, the continent was mired in conflicts of all types. Many of the conflicts in Africa had spill over effects on the countries of the region and the continent as a whole. Between 1999 and 2000 there were some 19 major conflicts in Africa, mainly in the form of civil wars. The comparative trend of conflicts during the decade is shown in Table 11 below. The high intensity of conflict in many cases and the protracted nature of conflict in others has resulted in massive loss of human life, displacement of people, high numbers of refugees, child soldiers, high incidence of vulnerability and social exclusion, destruction of socio-economic infrastructure, and erosion of institutional capacity. This has exacerbated poverty across the continent and made it even more difficult to make progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Table 11: Number of Armed Conflicts by Region, 1989-1999

Year	Europe	Middle East	Asia	Africa	America
1989	2	4	19	14	8
1990	3	6	18	17	5
1991	6	7	16	17	5
1992	9	7	20	15	4
1993	10	7	15	11	3
1994	5	5	15	13	4
1995	5	4	13	9	4
1996	1	5	14	14	2
1997	0	3	15	14	2
1998	2	3	15	15	2
1999	3	2	14	16	2

Source: Uppsala University Database.

107. Many of the least developed countries in Africa are either experiencing some form of conflict, instability or post-conflict crisis. This poses serious challenges as to how to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, achieve universal primary education, promote gender and empower women, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health and combat HIV/AIDS and other diseases, as well as to achieve other MDGs in situation of armed conflict, chaos and disorder. In conflict situations, some natural resources such as springs and other sources of drinking water are controlled by combatants, who sometimes use them as weapons of war, to contaminate or destroy populations. The prevalence of disorder, human rights violations and bad governance, and particularly, where state institutions have failed in Africa, pose challenges as to how to achieve MDGs in situations where State's institutions are not well organized and cannot deliver. It must be borne in mind that the cost of achieving MDGs in conflict situations or during political instability is relatively higher than in conditions of normality.

108. The foremost challenge confronting the continent today is in the areas of conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction. The cost of conflicts when they do escalate and their often resistance to management and resolution efforts have emphasized the need for focus on prevention. Consolidating peace in countries emerging from war remains central for achieving sustainable peace and development. In sub-Saharan Africa, it is estimated that one in every five people is directly affected by civil war. Thus, overcoming the conflict-poverty trap is the most basic and most serious challenge facing sub-Saharan Africa. Of critical importance is the continent's ability to undertake successful post-conflict reconstruction and development activities that consolidate peace and pave the way for growth, poverty reduction and sustainable development.

3.2. Good Political and Economic Governance

109. The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) forms a collectively agreed upon mechanism for good political and economic governance on the continent. As an integral part of the AU's NEPAD, the APRM aims at fostering the adoption of policies, standards and practices that lead to democracy and political governance, economic governance and management, corporate governance and socio-economic development.

110. African countries have made considerable progress in improving systems of political and economic governance, but there have also been serious setbacks. Overall the electoral process as indicated by the wave of democratisation across the continent is gaining credibility and legitimacy, and the political space is more inclusive, but daunting challenges remain. Political parties remain weak, the culture of accountability and internal democracy must be nurtured for the continuing existence of political parties, capacities and competencies of electoral commissions should continue to be strengthened for better management of elections, the judiciary is hampered by serious poor remuneration of judges, inadequate infrastructure and facilities, weak technical capacity and funding constraints.

111. In light of the critical importance of good governance for continuing economic and social progress, African countries must forge and continue to deepen effective participatory forms of governance through decentralisation.

112. Economic management is getting better. There has been progress in promoting macroeconomic reforms and stability, promoting sound financial management and accountability systems, improving management of the tax system, reforming financial and monetary institutions, and the rules and regulations that affect the private sector. Yet, much effort is required in improving the commercial justice systems, protecting property rights, and improving the overall business environment.

113. The capacity of the state in administering, regulatory, and technical capacities is still inadequate in many countries. Efforts must continue to establish effective and transparent systems of financial supervision and legal accountability, effective administrative systems, a functioning legal framework, and predictable regulatory structures. E-government is offering public sector new organisational arrangements, with a significant impact on accountability and transparency.

114. But corrupt practices continue to exert heavy economic and social costs. A major issue is how to tackle tax evasion and corruption in tax system, which remain rampant in many African countries. This not only reduces the government's revenue base and capacity to deliver basic services but also thwarts transparency and good economic management. Many African countries are tackling corruption by setting up anticorruption commissions and enacting strict laws to end it. However, this has had less impact than expected.

115. The prime responsibility of tackling corruption rests with Africans themselves, but there is much that Africa's development partners can do to help. Corporate governance in donor countries as it pertains to African countries needs to be improved. Secondly, mechanisms need to be developed for the recovery of assets looted by parked officials and parked in OECD countries. Also necessary, in the context of mutual accountability, is the need for a mechanism to systematically track partner and African actions towards enhanced development outcomes. Mutual review of Development Effectiveness is important for achieving the MDGs.

3.3 Tackling the Challenge of HIV/AIDS and Other Diseases

116. In most recent years the HIV/AIDS pandemic has been the most prominent disease burden wreaking economic and social catastrophe throughout the region. Sub-Saharan Africa has the world's highest level of adult HIV prevalence at 7.5 percent. Approximately 25 million Africans were estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS in 2003, and 2.2 million died from it in the same year (UNAIDS 2004). Today, roughly three-quarters of the world's annual AIDS death occur in Africa, with women now being disproportionately affected.

117. HIV/AIDS pandemic has resulted in erosion of public sector capacity, most noticeably teachers and health workers; low labour productivity, particularly in the agricultural sector; and overall poor performance of social indicators in many African countries. The impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic is acutely reflected in the rapid rise in the number of orphaned children. In 2003, there were 43 million orphans in the region, an increase of more than one –third since 1990. The highest percentages of children orphaned are in countries with high HIV prevalence levels or those that have recently been involved in armed conflict. The twin challenges of HIV/AIDS and conflict loom large in Africa's poor performance in attaining the MDGs.

118. The spread of HIV is fuelling an epidemic of Tuberculosis, which takes its heaviest toll among young productive adults. In some high HIV prevalence African countries, TB infection rates have quadrupled since the mid-1980s, placing overwhelming burdens on existing TB control programs.

119. Malaria is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality in Africa. Of the more than 1 million malaria-related deaths every year, it is estimated that 90 percent occur in Africa, the great majority among them young children. Malaria contributes to a classic poverty trap. Africa alone does not have sufficient resources to control malaria, while the disease reduces productivity, frustrates investment, and delays or stops the demographic transition (by contributing to very high child mortality rates), helping to keep poverty high.

3.4. Breaking the Poverty – Demographic Trap

120. Many sub-Saharan countries are too poor to make progress and are stuck in a poverty-demographic trap. The link between poverty and high fertility is strong for several interconnected reasons among which are high infant mortality rates due to inadequate health services so high fertility provide "insurance" for a surviving child; children are often perceived as economic assets; and women are frequently unaware of their reproductive rights, have inadequate access to reproductive health information, services, and facilities. The challenge is how to achieve fertility transition from high to low levels. The implications of population dynamics for development need to be taken fully into account, that is matching the dynamics of population, particularly high growth rates with available resources; the problem of rural –urban migration and the rapid rate of urbanisation in Africa and the attendant issue of unemployment among the women and the youth; increased pressure on natural resources resulting in unbalanced ecosystems and low agricultural productivity and food insecurity. Without demographic transition the achievement of economic transformation and sustained growth remains a challenge.

3.5. Achieving Gender Equality and Empowering Women

121. The promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women is central to achieving sustainable development. Generally, women continue to suffer deep and

systematic discrimination and exclusion. Girls and women particularly in rural areas receive less schooling than boys and men, have poorer access to health care, are at risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases including HIV, and have little or no control over assets like land, housing and credit. They also have less representation in political leadership and decision-making processes.

122. A review of trends in enrolment and completion rates for secondary school level show that gender parity ratios remains below 0.90 in Sub-Saharan Africa even though girls' primary school enrolment rates steadily rose over the 1990s. Almost 57 percent of the HIV-infected adults are women. For Sub-Saharan Africa as a whole in the 1980s and 1990s women's overall economic activity rates did not follow the general increase experienced in most parts of the world.

123. African leaders need to address gender imbalances because one of the most effective ways of engendering sustainable development is through the promotion of gender equality and empowering women.

3.6 Capacity Strengthening for Achieving the MDGs

124. Africa needs capacity – people, institutions and systems-at the local, national and regional levels top conceive, implement and follow-up development programmes. It also needs to strengthen its capacity for tackling collectively its development challenges. And again, Africa needs increased infrastructural capacity to sustain production, gain more market access and attain much higher levels of economic growth.

125. The dearth of capacity to support development efforts across the board in Africa emanate in part from the educational system in many countries. Africa needs to be assisted to upgrade, and in several cases, its educational institutions and systems to engender an appropriate response to the tremendous demands placed on skilled and qualified human resources on the continent.

126. Capacity in Africa is eroded by domestic policies, deliberate and inadvertent, which have reduced incentives and complicated the environment in which skills and knowledge can be used to the advantage of Africa. Linked to this is the whole issue of good political and economic governance systems which are necessary foundations to create, stabilize, nurture and utilize capacity for development. One other major issue affecting capacity in Africa is that of brain drain. Furthermore, capacity in Africa has been depleted by the HIV and AIDS pandemic as has already been discussed.

4.0 National Policies and Priorities for Achieving the MDGs

127. The Millennium Development Goals are at the heart of human development that is secure, sustainable, equitable and empowering and achieving them forms the basis for the broader economic and social development of Africa. This will require the formulation and implementation of effective economic and social policies at national level. Halving extreme poverty and hunger by 2015 is the primary poverty target of the Millennium Development Goals and is heavily influenced by economic policies. Other social goals related to dimensions of human poverty – such as reducing under-five mortality and malnutrition, improving maternal health or increasing primary school enrolment- are more directly influenced by public measures that are much broader than economic policies.

4.1 The Role of National Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategies in the Achievement of the MDGs

128. Central to the achievement of the MDGs in Africa is the attainment of MDG 1 (halving the rate of poverty by 2015). In other words, it will be difficult to achieve the eight MDGs if goal number 1, the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger is not attained. To this end, the effectiveness of the country-based poverty reduction strategies (PRS/Ps) becomes essential not just to poverty alleviation but also to the attainment of the remaining seven Goals by 2015. It is therefore important that poverty reduction features centrally in the effort to achieve the Goals. Consequently, African countries need to make poverty reduction strategies MDG-relevant or MDG-based, and in fact consider MDGs as the framework or basis for PRS/Ps. This will necessitate a strong alignment between PRS/Ps, national development plans and the MDGs. Some countries have started to integrate the MDGs into their national development frameworks and have them tailored to their national circumstances (examples are Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal, and Tanzania).

4.1.1 Review of current PRSP experience in Africa

129. PRSPs have become the dominant vehicle for development policy in Africa. Thirty African countries have committed to the PRSP process (through full or interim PRSPs) since 1999. A total of 33 countries are potential PRSP candidates by virtue of their HIPC and/or LDC status. By September 2004, 21 countries had completed formulation of full PRSPs – Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique,

Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. Several countries have embarked on PRS implementation and prepared annual progress reports. A few like Tanzania and Uganda have completed preparation of their second generation PRS while others like Mozambique and Zambia are at formulation stage.

130. While recognising macroeconomic stability as essential to growth and poverty reduction, there was little discussion in the first generation PRSPs of the links between macroeconomic and structural policies and poverty reduction. Moreover, analysis of the sources of growth underpinning the ambitious growth targets was lacking. Several PRS/Ps acknowledged the importance of the private sector for growth and poverty reduction but the coverage of related structural issues tended to be perfunctory. While all full PRS/Ps supported trade liberalisation, they were limited in addressing the issues and did not deal specifically with the experience of past trade reforms. The allocation of public spending to poverty reducing activities including health and education though significant was not backed up with a discussion of revenue measures. Gender issues were generally under-emphasised outside the health and education sectors and HIV/AIDS coverage was weak. Also while most PRS/Ps featured governance and corruption, they generally failed to identify major challenges or indicators to monitor progress. Another important concern was the access of the rural poor to economic assets and to health and education. However, the discussion of rural issues tended to be brief and vague on implementation. Social protection programmes received little coverage in African PRS/P programmes.

131. There is therefore a strong case for national development strategies and policy frameworks to include more detailed discussion of macroeconomic frameworks and pro poor growth strategies; deepen efforts to understand the links between policy action and pro poor growth; address social protection and broader social policy; and address the capacity of the state to substantively manage macroeconomic and macro-social processes.

4.2 Towards a Pro-Poor Growth Agenda for Africa

132. Africa will have to sustain a long-term growth rate of over 7% per annum so as to ensure poverty reduction and sustainable development. But the attainment of the MDGs in Africa rests primarily not just on economic growth but also on country – specific pace and character of economic growth. Although in general higher growth reduces poverty, the extent to which growth translates into poverty reduction varies from one country to another. More importantly, this growth will have to be pro-poor by benefiting the poor proportionally more than the non-poor and reaching all in society.

4.3. Policy Priorities

133. The question is: What priority policies should have their implementation accelerated in order for African countries to generate sustainable Growth to Achieve the MDGs?

4.3.1 Deepened and sustained macro economic management

134. The last decade has shown that African governments have pursued prudent macroeconomic policies despite the large exogenous shocks facing many of them in recent years. Africa, as a whole, has registered notable progress. The average growth rate for the region in 1995-2002 is estimated at around 4 percent, up from 1 percent in the early 1990s. The region's average inflation rate stood at 9.3 percent in 2002, down from 41.4 percent in 1994. And fiscal deficits have come down to 3.4 percent of GDP in 2002, down from a high 6.9 percent in 1993. Despite these achievements, the average growth rate for the continent is about half that required to make significant inroads in reducing poverty. Savings and Investment levels remain far too low. Investment to GDP ratios remained below the 25 percent level needed to speed up growth.

135. For pro-poor growth in Africa, there are three essential elements:

i) raising the growth rate well above the rate of population increase;

ii) substantially reducing the variability of growth; and,

iii) fostering a more equitable growth path to ensure that growth reaches all areas of society. To put African countries on a sustainable pro-poor growth path, a key macro policy change ensuring increased fiscal space with a focus on increased expenditures on social programmes and public investment in infrastructure and human capital is required.

African governments should adopt broad-based pro-poor and growth policies beyond maintaining the sound macroeconomic stabilization policy frameworks that many have undertaken.

4.3.2 Growth with employment generation

136. Much of Africa is characterized by a high incidence of poverty, unemployment and underemployment, especially in the urban informal economy and in the rural areas where more than 60 percent of the poor live and work. For Africa, unemployment is estimated at 30 percent and the youth that make up more than half the population of the continent are the worst hit by unemployment. The challenge of youth employment in Africa needs urgent attention. Growth with employment generation is critical for poverty reduction. However, growth does not always translate into employment. It is, therefore, essential to an active labour market policy, as well as employment friendly macroeconomic policies in order to improve labour market conditions. Because productive employment directly attacks poverty, improves human welfare and helps minimize social, political and economic problems, the creation of productive employment must be one of the most important poverty reduction strategies for African governments without which Africa cannot achieve the MDGs.

137. African governments should take high impact employment generation policy actions including:

i) Scaling up public sector investment – public works in road building, slum upgrading and irrigation are examples of employment –related schemes that African governments can integrate in their national poverty reduction strategies.
ii) Strengthening of Public-private partnerships. As strongly emphasized during the AU summit on Employment and Poverty Reduction and the African Social Partners Forum in Burkina Faso, all stakeholders – including youth, employers, civil society and trade unions – need to be involved in the process of identifying employment opportunities and matching people's skills.
iii) Focusing on employment programmes targeted at women and youth as central components of pro-poor and growth strategies; and
iv) Fostering an enabling policy environment that enhances the development of micro, small and medium enterprises, which account for approximately 60 percent of the workforce in urban areas and 25 percent of industrial output.

4.3.3 Private sector development

138. Africa's private sector must be unleashed to realize its potential as an engine for growth and job creation. The private sector can play a critical role in Africa's development and poverty reduction by expanding trade and investment opportunities. The private sector can also contribute to the development of infrastructure and the efficient delivery of social services, including education, health, water and energy.

139. The key challenges to private sector development in Africa that need to be addressed are the following: small size and fragmentation of most African economies with an average size of about $8 billion, compared to $50 billion in other developing regions; the dependence on agricultural export commodities; marginal global trade contribution of 6 percent of world trade; poor infrastructure; poor business investment climate and minimal financial resources.

140. African governments should scale up their efforts in creating an enabling environment for private sector development through appropriate legislative and regulatory frameworks; appropriate infrastructure; appropriate financial and credit policies and minimization of policy related risks, costs and barriers. Furthermore, to realize the private sector's potential, it is essential to create an attractive investment climate for domestic and foreign capital. One important approach is to expand public-private partnerships and innovate financing approaches to support the private sector development.

4.3.4 Trade liberalization and facilitation

141. Trade is vital to realization of Africa's growth potential, poverty reduction and achievement of all the MDGs. Yet trade liberalization has neither improved Africa's position in world trade nor its macroeconomic situation. By 2001, Africa's share of world trade was as low as 1.5 percent. Growth rates of exports have been highly variable reaching a peak of 5.5 percent in the latter half of the 1990s before declining to around 4 percent in the years 2000-01. The bulk of Africa's exports are principally agricultural products and minerals, and the orientation of much of its trade is towards the European Union.

142. It is important to recognize the sharp differences in trade performance between countries. In 2000, only six countries had individual shares above 5 percent of total African exports (South Africa, Nigeria, Algeria, Libya, Angola and Morocco), and together accounted for almost 70 percent of African exports.

143. The persistence of restrictive market access conditions in industrialized countries has worsened supply side constraints in the continent and harmed the export diversification process in Africa. Likewise, continuous subsidy regimes in industrialized countries are hurting Africa's international trade performance in agriculture. Furthermore, commodity price volatility and trade shocks have increased uncertainty and worsened Africa's terms of trade. Internal conditions especially failure to fully integrate trade policy in national and regional development policies and strategies and supply side constraints are equally to blame.

144. African Governments must ensure effective trade policy through well-integrated and harmonious sequencing of policy actions at the national level. Key policy actions include:

i) Prioritisation of export product diversification and establishment of major institutional and financial services established to protect African farmers from low prices and the vagaries of price fluctuations;

ii) enhancing support to the agricultural export sector by improving roads, water and power supply in rural areas which have for too long been excluded from infrastructure development; and
iii) coordinating trade policies with national development policies such as those contained in the PRS/Ps.

4.3.5 Rural development, agricultural modernization and food security

145. In many African countries, the development of rural areas should be at the centre of broad based growth strategies. Recent estimates indicate that the majority of people in rural Sub-Saharan Africa have incomes ranging from $0.33 to $0.80 per day and that the African economies remain essentially agrarian with about 60 percent of the total labour force employed in agriculture. The rural poor are not only income poor. They are deprived of basic necessities. They lack essential capacities, as reflected in low

educational enrolment rates, low literacy rates, high infant and maternal mortality, and inadequate access to sanitation and potable water. They have low access to productive assets like land and credit.

146. *African governments* should:

i) restore policy and budget priority to the agricultural and rural sectors. Because the lack of adequate, affordable, and reliable infrastructure services is pervasive in rural Africa, policies for rural infrastructure development should also be an integral part of the broad based growth strategy. Decisive agricultural development efforts in the areas of water, land and technology are required;

ii) improve the management of the natural resource base of production, invest in productive and market infrastructure and expanding appropriate research, knowledge, and technology for improved farming practices and increased agricultural productivity;

iii) Undertake Land tenure reforms to ensure access to land and security of land rights, which are central to agricultural transformation, employment, income generation, gender equality, food security, poverty reduction and sustainable development; and

iv) strengthen governance of water resources, meeting urgent water needs and allocate financial resources to water resource management.

These measures should speed up the process of rural transformation, employment generation, and the social and economic empowerment of rural households

Box 1. MDGs – friendly pro poor and growth policy recommendations

- Accelerate growth and ensure it benefits everyone in society
- Employment oriented poverty reduction and growth strategies
- Scale up public investment
- Unleash the private sector
- Mainstream trade policy in national development strategies and address supply constraints
- Rural and agricultural transformation
- Mainstream gender into national development strategies
- Attack the HIV/AIDS pandemic and other diseases
- Scale up Post conflict reconstruction for sustainable peace and development
- Ensure social protection and social inclusion of all vulnerable groups

4.4 Policies for Attaining the Social Development Goals

147. The Millennium Development Goals set quantitative targets for poverty reduction and improvements in health, education, gender equality, the environment and other aspects of human welfare. Investments in health, education and environment have high rates of return and contribute to poverty reduction. Likewise the sustainability of improved social indicators can only be guaranteed when there is less poverty. Sub-Saharan countries are unlikely to meet the poverty reduction goal fully, while progress on the social development goals is more varied, with a number of countries poised to meet them.

4.4.1 Social sector investment

148. African governments over the past decade have made progress in shifting public resources towards the key social sectors as a primary poverty reduction strategy. According to the World Bank/IMF Progress Report on PRSP implementation (IDA/IMF, 2003) the Africa region has shown the most rapidly rising poverty reducing spending as a percentage of GDP. Much of this public expenditure is on primary education, basic health and water and sanitation, however the continued reliance on user fees to finance social services provision restricts access to services by the poor. However, Public spending alone does not always translate to outcomes because the delivery of public services, which is the vehicle of translating policies into desired outcomes, is often highly inefficient in many African countries.

149. Containing the HIV/AIDS, the leading cause of death in Sub-Saharan Africa should feature prominently in policies for achieving the MDGs. The pandemic has contributed to deaths of teachers, health workers, and farmers – forcing the closure of schools and health clinics, eroding public sector capacity and undermining food security. Malaria also demands urgent action. Ninety percent of malaria cases occur in Sub-Saharan Africa, with most of the deaths among young children. So efforts to control malaria should be an integral part of the MDG-related policies. Similarly, with the incidence of tuberculosis highest in Africa, specific policies need to be developed and implemented to address it.

150. *African governments* should:

i) improve the overall policy and institutional framework for delivery of public services. Some of the key policy actions for effective and efficient service delivery are promotion of public private partnerships and decentralization of service provision. Improvements in service delivery, which reduce waste and increase the effectiveness of interventions, can greatly impact the likelihood that the Goals are met; and

ii) have an integrated menu of policy actions that should be implemented in education and health to include: Human resource development in education and health (teachers and health workers) is critical. Investment in education at all levels including ensuring high quality universal primary education, expanded post primary and higher education are key policy actions. Investments in health should include interventions in child and maternal health; prevention, care and treatment of HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria; access to essential medicines; measures to strengthen health systems management; and sexual and reproductive health.

4.4.2 Promoting social protection to address vulnerability and social exclusion

151. There is a growing recognition that public social safety net systems and social protection programs can play a crucial role both in supporting society's poorest and most vulnerable and assist individuals, households and communities better manage risk.

Over the past few years the policy debate on reducing poverty and improving levels of social and economic well being have broadened from a sole focus on income poverty to a multidimensional reality including insecurity, vulnerability, insufficient capabilities to participate meaningfully in economic activity, powerlessness, and social exclusion.

152. In Africa a region hardest hit by HIV/AIDS and by conflicts acute destitution is a common socio-economic characteristic of many communities. Hence, the need for integration of social protection and social reintegration programmes of vulnerable groups within the national development strategies as well as ring fencing of adequate financial resources. A serious policy challenge is the need for the scaling up of well-designed integrated socio economic programmes for post conflict countries.

153. Orphans and Vulnerable children constitute one of the most vulnerable segments of African population today, largely as a result of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, as well as displacement because of civil conflict, wars, drought and tropical diseases. In 2003, there was an estimated 43 million orphans in the region, an increase of more than one-third since 1990. One of the main consequences of orphaning is withdrawal from schools. Several countries have embarked on scaling up assistance to orphans and vulnerable children through targeted assistance (in the form of bursaries and conditional transfers) to access schooling.

154. Africa's 135 million youth (15-24 years – or.20 percent) form a formidable asset for its economic transformation. This is not realized because of the high unemployment and low skills base. There is a need for developing policies focusing on youth employment and inclusion in the economic and social spheres. Social protection and safety net programs all too often exclude women by failing to account for gender differences in labour market participation, access to information, unpaid care responsibilities, and property rights.

155. In Africa social protection and safety net programme interventions include public works programs, universal primary education, social and economic programs targeted at the vulnerable groups, social funds for health and education infrastructure construction and maintenance and community oriented social protection programs. Key challenges such high administrative costs and leakages to the non-poor remain a constraint to effectively implementing some of these programmes in Africa.

156. *African governments* should:

i) address the issues of social protection and safety net program design within a broader national social policy framework;
ii) give priority to HIV/AIDS orphans and vulnerable children in national policies, plans, budgets and legislation; in collaborating with nongovernmental organizations to ensure efforts are well coordinated; and in monitoring progress toward national and global goals;
iii) assess their resource commitments to urgently increase and sustain financial support for an adequate response over the long term. With regard to vulnerability and social exclusion much more can be done to design programmes to better transfer resources and pull households out

of destitution particularly in cases of HIV/AIDS and conflict-affected communities; and

iv) For post conflict reconstruction, *governments should* in partnership with external partners design and finance well sequenced medium to longer term integrated/multi sectoral programmes that offer targeted assistance to the war-affected, facilitate sustainable reintegration of returning refugees, returning IDPs, and demobilisation and reintegration of ex-combatants; ensure revitalisation of local communities most disrupted by the conflict; and support for vulnerable groups like women, orphans and child headed households.

4.4.3 Gender inequality

157. The poverty and human capital dimensions of the MDGs involve women, both directly and indirectly. The promotion of gender equality is therefore expected to contribute to the achievement of several goals at the same time. Accordingly, at national level policy frameworks are required to reduce the marginalisation of women, helping them participate effectively in economic, political and social life and increasing their involvement in the development of policies that affect their lives.

158. The majority of African countries have adopted plans of action for implementing the Beijing Platform for Action and recorded some successes, notably increased primary school enrolment of girls, establishment of national gender machineries, enactment of gender equality laws and adoption of national and regional gender policies and higher representation of women in governance structures. However, these fall far short of the promises made in international and regional agreements. Moreover, the gains made have not translated into substantial changes in the lives of the majority of women.

159. The face of poverty across most of Africa is quintessentially female. The persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women in the region is a critical area of concern requiring strategic action as it relates to goal 3. Although there is acknowledgement that gender equality is essential for eradicating poverty in Africa, the number of women living in poverty continues to increase and women constitute the majority of the poor. As described above the HIV/AIDS epidemic disproportionately affected women and has its roots in the denial of human, sexual and reproductive rights of women.

160. *African Governments* should focus on the following five strategic priorities as the minimum actions necessary for African countries to address gender discrimination and inequalities:

i) Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education.
ii) Guarantee sexual and reproductive health and rights;
iii) Invest in infrastructure to reduce women's and girls' time burdens;
iv) Guarantee women's and girls' property and inheritance rights; and,
v) Combat violence against girls and women. These actions should be prioritised in poverty reduction strategies and allocated adequate financial resources.

4.4.4 Natural resource management

161. In many African countries the natural resource base is eroding fast. The major causes: deforestation, desertification, and overgrazing, causing rapid soil erosion and making clean water scarce. Although many African countries have included environmental issues in their national poverty reduction strategies many have yet to make environmental issues important national policy development concern. Given that environmental resources such as water, forest and other forms of biodiversity are at the core of sustainable livelihood systems in the continent, ensuring environmental sustainability is essential for poverty reduction and sustainable development.

162. *African governments* should implement the following key policy actions:

i) ensure security of land tenure for the poor so as to encourage environmental protection;
ii) mainstream environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, especially forestry development, in the national development strategies;
iii) promote and implement more integrated water resources management, particularly, at the transboundary level; and
iv) promote public - private partnership in water supply and sanitation as well as biodiversity conservation and tourism development.

Box 2: Examples of Progress in Africa

A sampling of African countries shows what a difference better economic and social policies can make for progressing toward the MDGs.

Uganda

- GDP growth rate averages 6 percent in the 1990s
- GDP growth per capita averages 3.3 percent
- Proportion of poor comes down from 56 % in 1992 to 35 percent in 2000
- Primary enrolment rises from 2.5 million in 1995 to 6.7 million in 2000
- Proportion of children stunted comes down from 51 percent in 1992 to 40 percent in 2000
- Seroprevalence (HIV) rates come down from 30 percent in 1992 to 8.3 percent in 2000

Mozambique

- GDP growth averages nearly 6 percent a year in the 1990s
- Net flows of foreign direct investment shoot up from almost nothing to average about $200 million a year by end 1990s

Mauritania

- Primary enrolment reaches 90 percent, and school access 93 percent
- Most social indicators up in the past few years

Burkina Faso

- Tuberculosis vaccination rate of 84 percent of infants, against the target of 80 percent
- Measles and yellow fever vaccinations at 65 %, against the target of 60%

Chad

- Girls' gross primary enrolment rate rises to 58 percent in 2001, up from 31 percent seven years before

Source: AfDB and World Bank. Global Poverty Report 2002.

4.5 Capacity Building for Monitoring Development Results and Strengthening Evidence-Based Policy Making

163. The emphasis on quantitative targets in the Millennium Development Goals and the growing attention to measuring development results has increased the demand for readily available and reliable statistics. They have also increased our awareness of the poor state of statistical systems in many African countries.

164. The acute lack of basic regional and country statistics poses a major challenge to the implementation of the MDGs. Development progress in over 50 countries in Africa is difficult to summarise and at times regional information is not always reliable, comparable or up-to-date. A major challenge to the implementation of the MDGs lies in the weakness of basic statistics. It is critical that this weakness is overcome and that a strong focus is placed on institutional capacity strengthening for policy formulation, analysis and implementation.

165. *African governments* should strengthen national capacities to produce, analyse and use reliable statistics. Some of the key actions that can be undertaken include the following:

i) Mainstreaming strategic planning of statistical systems into national development processes and preparing national statistical development strategies by 2006.

ii) Increase financial support for statistical capacity building. In many cases countries will need to increase their own financing for statistics, but they will also require external assistance.

iii) Set up well integrated national monitoring and evaluation systems so as to enable regular MDGs performance tracking and monitoring of other essential development trends required for evidence-based policy making; and

iv) Support the adoption of a Regional Strategy Framework for Statistical Development in Africa.

166. *African governments* should recognise the imperative of embedding capacity development schemes within comprehensive and long-term development programmes right from the planning stage and link them to the attainment of the broad development goals.

5.0 Enhanced Regional Integration for Achieving the MDGs1*

167. Recent changes within Africa and outside the continent, however, are forcing significant changes in how Africa relates to itself and its economic relations with the rest of the world. The emergence of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD); the emerging new trade geography in which rich countries, through bilateral trade agreements, are seeking greater integration with poor countries; and the new institutions of international trade such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) are all factors that affect African regional integration. According to the ECA, many factors are driving the regional integration process in Africa. These include, inter alia, the following:

i. ***Economic (and political) integration as a longstanding aspiration of African countries:*** Developments in the global trading and political environment have contributed in developing Africa's integration aspirations. The emergence of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the long drawn out nature of some of the WTO negotiations and the fact that these negotiations have required African countries to negotiate as a group, had integration-promoting centripetal consequences. Furthermore, development of regional integration arrangements since the mid 1980s reinforced the consensus around regional integration in Africa. Add to this the successful negotiation of the North American Free Trade Association (NAFTA) and the ongoing negotiations; flowing from the Enterprise for the America's initiative, to create a Free Trade of the America (FTAA) has not been unnoticed in Africa.

ii. ***Globalisation:*** Globalisation within which nations, businesses and people are becoming more and more connected and interdependent across the globe through increased economic integration and communication exchange, cultural diffusion and travel, is another factor driving Africa's regional integration agenda. However, it must be pointed out that for Africans, globalisation is a process that is increasingly resulting in the marginalisation of their continent for various reasons including:
   - The decline of Africa's share in world trade and investment to almost insignificant proportions although the economies are the most open in the world.
   - The volume of the region's exports has grown less rapidly than GDP, and it is yet to be favourite destination of foreign direct and equity investment.

1 *This chapter is based on ECA's report on "Annual Report on Integration in Africa (ARIA)" 2002

- WTO trading rules is making it difficult for African countries to rely on internal mechanisms of economic management to achieve growth.

iii. *To transform Africa's economies:* Regional integration is indispensable for the transformation and growth of African economies—and for Africa's integration with the global economy. Efficiency in production would rise in accord with the law of comparative advantage, while bigger markets would permit better exploitation of economies of scale. The attendant changes would increase the quantity and quality of factors of production, progressively upgraded through technological advances. Furthermore, factor mobility across borders and the coordination and harmonisation of monetary and fiscal policies would spill over into faster economic growth and enhanced welfare for participating countries.

iv. *To unleash industry and business:* One of the strongest justifications for regional integration in Africa is its longer-term effect on industrial and business organisation. First, the increased tempo of competition among firms would force some inefficient business units to improve their operational procedures—while others, unable to change in the light of new realities, would fade away. The emerging competitive atmosphere will be healthy for business growth and profitability—and good for the consumer. Second, a wide range of manufacturing activities would be able to operate on a larger scale, expanding the industrial base so necessary for transforming Africa's economies. Third, wider opportunities for investment (domestic and foreign) would increase the volume and deployment of investable funds to exploit the continent's ample natural resources and tap its enormous reservoir of human resources and potential savings. The promise of attracting superior technology through private foreign investment could also be a big instrument of competitive production and integration.

v. *To become part of the world economy:* Regionalism in Africa can also promote multilateralism through the promotion of foreign investment, human capital and technological development; infrastructure development, efficient exploitation of natural resources, and encouraging competition in domestic markets, thereby lowering prices and improving quality, to make products more competitive in global markets.

vi. *To promote the African Union:*Regional integration is also perceived as a rallying platform for establishing an African Union. The OAU Charter and the Constitutive Act establishing the African Union establish the anchoring ideals. The Lagos Plan of Action and the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community spell out the economic, political and institutional mechanisms that ensure the attainment of this goal.

vii. *To address Common Political Problems:* Regional integration arrangements can also promote political cooperation, as members commit themselves to common objectives. The arrangements provide a platform for addressing common political problems and external threats. The ECOWAS partners have launched initiatives to consolidate peace, stability, and security through joint efforts with ECOMOG. The framework for such activities was reinforced by a permanent Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, and Resolution, including protocols establishing a regional mechanism for mutual assistance in defence. SADC also has a peace and security arrangement for Southern Africa.

5.1 The Role of Regional Economic Communities

168. The signing of the Abuja Treaty in 1991 served as the first major concrete sign that there was common desire to have a common African Economic Community. The Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community (AEC), which was entered into force in 1994, provides the modalities for the progressive processes of continental economic integration in which regional economic communities (RECs) play an instrumental role in the integration process. Furthermore, Africa's leaders have also decided that the many regional economic communities, known as RECs, will be the building blocks for integration. However, the extent to which individual RECs can be truly considered as building blocks depends on the political commitment collectively displayed by the member states in moving integration forward. With their treaties, protocols, and agendas, the RECs are logical institutions to jumpstart Africa's integration.

169. The desire to maximise the benefits of integration and minimise losses by spreading risk as well as the aspirations of some members of a larger bloc to proceed at a much faster speed in a separate smaller group persuaded African countries to choose to create and belong to several RECs to pursue their integration on multiple tracks. Especially for economically weaker countries, this may have been a strong incentive for clinging to several blocs. Africa has 14 RECs of varying design, scope, and objectives. The following seven RECs dominate the integration landscape:

- The Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), with five members.
- The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), with 20 members.
- The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), with 10 members.
- The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), with 15 members.
- The Southern African Development Community (SADC), with 14 members.
- The Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), with seven members in eastern Africa.
- The Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), with 18 members.

170. In addition, the following seven RECs are geographically limited or subsets of larger RECs:

- The West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), with eight members, all also belonging to ECOWAS.
- The Mano River Union (MRU), with three members, also belonging to ECOWAS.
- The Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC), with six members, also belonging to ECCAS.

- The Economic Community of Great Lake Countries (CEPGL), with three countries, also belonging to ECCAS.
- The East African Community (EAC), with three members, two belonging to COMESA and one to SADC.
- The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), with five members, four belonging to COMESA and one to SADC.
- The Southern African Customs Union (SACU), with five members, all of which belong to SADC and two to COMESA.

171. The integration process in almost all the sub regions is currently managed by two or more groupings as most countries belong to two or more blocs. Of the 53 African countries, 27 are members of two RECs and 18 others are members of three RECs. One country (DR Congo) is a member of four. Only seven countries belong to one REC, (ECA, 2002a).

172. The AEC Treaty devotes an entire chapter to the need for the RECs to march in unison. The Constitutive Act of the African Union reiterates the competence of a harmonious approach to realising the Union.

- The growing rapport between ECOWAS and UEMOA has borne fruit in a common program of action on trade liberalisation and macroeconomic policy convergence. Both have agreed to adopt new common rules of origin to enhance the flow of trade. Other important aspects for harmonisation are customs declaration forms (to be a single document) and compensation mechanisms (ECOWAS has already agreed to adopt the system applied by UEMOA).
- In Central Africa, ECCAS is adopting a trade regime that takes into account the dispensations in CEMAC.
- IGAD and IOC are applying most of the integration instruments already adopted within COMESA, while the EAC and COMESA have concluded a memorandum of understanding to foster the harmonisation of their policies and programmes.
- COMESA and SADC have agreed to set up task forces to deal with common issues and invite each other to their policy and technical meetings.

173. These initiatives increase the prospect for narrowing the discrepancies among the RECs. Even so, the RECs' efforts will need the support of a strong continental coordinating mechanism.

174. The African integration indicators developed by ECA are the first empirical assessment of regional integration, based on an examination of how each REC is performing in relation to its goals, the pace of advance, and the progress in relation to other RECs (table 1). The coverage of the indicators starts in 1994, the year the Abuja Treaty came into force. Overall, there is a discernible move towards greater integration, with a burst through 1996, and a general slowdown thereafter (table 12). The average pace towards integration in 1994-99 was 4.7%, faster than the region's economic growth. But 1994 may have been a trough year, setting up rebounds in 1995. If so, the real pace of integration was only 1-2%. Also clear is the backsliding since 1997.

ble 12: Composite Regional Integration Index

Averages	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
imple average	100.0	113.1	121.4	124.1	123.0	120.1
Veighted average	100.0	115.8	126.4	128.4	126.3	124.6

ource: ECA – '*Assessing Regional Integration in Africa,* 2004' and official sources.

75. The individual RECs, SADC, COMESA, CENSAD and ECOWAS appear to ave made good progress through 1997, with their momentum weakening with the rest f the continent after that (table 12). UEMOA, the clear star in integration, appears to have been consolidating and building on earlier success, particularly in macroeconomic discipline. Lagging behind were CEPGL, ECCAS, IOC and MRU, given the instability in those regions (table 13).

Table 13: Composite Integration Index by REC

REC	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
CEMAC	100.0	127.5	133.8	134.1	132.5	122.0
CEPGL	100.0	91.0	89.9	95.1	91.0	87.3
COMESA	100.0	110.1	123.0	125.2	127.2	118.3
EAC	100.0	114.7	120.3	118.5	120.5	119.2
ECCAS	100.0	124.6	128.1	132.0	126.8	121.7
ECOWAS	100.0	117.3	132.2	131.0	137.7	134.2
IGAD	100.0	112.4	116.4	119.5	120.8	119.2
IOC	100.0	116.2	126.2	118.3	123.8	109.6
MRU	100.0	90.2	96.4	119.3	109.3	117.1
SADC	100.0	113.7	124.8	127.2	133.2	132.9
UEMOA	100.0	117.4	130.5	132.3	134.7	136.2
UMA	100.0	112.3	125.0	124.8	119.2	121.7
Average	100.0	113.1	121.4	124.1	123.0	120.1

Source: ECA – '*Assessing Regional Integration in Africa*, 2004

Table 14:.Pace of Integration by REC

Above average	Average	Close to average	Erratic
UEMOA 6.6%	CEMAC 4.7%	EAC 3.7%	CEPGL
ECOWAS 6.3%	CENSAD 4.6%	IGAD 3.7%	ECCAS
SADC 6.0%	UMA 4.2%	COMESA 3.6%	IOC
			MRU

Source: ECA – '*Assessing Regional Integration in Africa*, 2004'

5.2 Regional Infrastructure Development

176. The poor quality of Africa's infrastructure, compared with the other regions, has impeded the continent's ability to compete in the global market. This is very obvious if one takes into account the following facts:

- Less than half the people in Sub-Saharan Africa have access to safe drinking water.

- Over a third of Africa's population lack adequate sanitation.
- Telephone lines serve primarily urban areas in Africa; few villages have single telephone. The average disparity in telephone density between urba and rural areas in Africa is as high as 25:1.
- Only about 5% of Africa's rural residents have access to modern electricit while over 95% are dependent on traditional fuels such as wood and co dung for cooking, lighting and heating; and
- Recent studies in Burkina Faso, Uganda and Zambia show that walking i the principal means of transport for 87% of the rural households; in mos Sub-Saharan countries women account for about 65% of the time spent i movement for household and agriculturally-related chores.

177. A major problem in Africa is the movement of exports (often raw materials) to ports because of the poor quality of the national transportation networks that they must transverse. Consequently the c.i.f. prices may be 50% to 70% higher than f.o.b. prices and delays between production and delivery to final customers (and hence payment) can be extensive on the overland leg of movements. The overall trading situation of Africa is hardly likely to improve with many other parts of the world moving towards large integrated trading blocks (e.g., the European Union, the North American Free Trade Area and Mercosur).

178. Limited infrastructure availability and networks, particularly in energy and transport and communications, emerges as a serious bottleneck in achieving regional integration in Africa. That adds even more to the high cost of doing business, undermining the competitiveness of African products, domestically and internationally, and pushing away foreign investment. The African leaders were very aware of Africa's infrastructure problems when they initiated and adopted the New Partnership for Africa's Development – NEPAD – in 2001. A key element of the NEPAD initiative is the NEPAD Infrastructure Programme, which aims at:

- Improving access to and affordability and reliability of infrastructure service for both firms and households.
- Enhancing regional cooperation and trade through the development of inter-connected infrastructure and harmonised transport procedures.
- Increasing the size of Africa's markets through regional integration.
- Increasing financial investment in infrastructure by lowering risks facing private investors, especially in the area of policy and regulatory frameworks; and
- Building adequate knowledge and skills in technology and engineering with a view to installing, operating and maintaining "hard" infrastructure networks in Africa.

179. NEPAD infrastructure programmes, which will be guided by the Millennium Development Goals, were identified in NEPAD Action Plan as an important element of promoting regional integration and thus creating larger markets in Africa.

180. In November 2001, the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee of NEPAD requested the ADB to assist NEPAD in preparing and implementing a

rogram of action in infrastructure development through the provision of advisory services, echnical assistance, and mobilisation of resources. The Program comprises a Short Term Action Plan (STAP) to kick-start the NEPAD infrastructure development process, and a Medium to Long Strategic Framework (MLTSF), which will define a coherent strategic framework that will service as the basis for defining, implementing and monitoring the medium to long-term infrastructure development of the continent.

181. In the same year, the Infrastructure Short Term Action Plan (STAP) was prepared, in consultation with regional economic communities and development partners including the World Bank and European Union based on a survey of priority infrastructure projects and initiatives under preparation by African countries and by the RECs.

182. The STAP consists of priority physical investment projects and programs for the period 2002-2007 in the energy, transport, water and sanitation and ICT sectors. These are complemented by capacity building, policy, regulatory and institutional measures aimed at improving the efficiency of the existing infrastructure on the continent, as well as studies to prepare new projects for financing. The estimated total investment cost of the projects included in the short term action plan is $8b, of which half is envisaged to be financed by the private sector. The STAP also includes a sub-set of 10 projects that were considered as Flagship projects that would serve as visible indicators of progress of NEPAD. In this respect, it is worth mentioning that implementation of the NEPAD infrastructure program has brought a new vigour to the development and implementation of regional infrastructure projects on the continent. The Program has received financing, either as stand-alone financing or co-financing, from a number of development partners such as the World Bank, the European Union etc.

183. Infrastructure projects within the STAP have wider linkages to socio-economic development of African countries particularly in the sectors of agriculture, tourism, industry and rural development.

184. In December 2003, ADB set up the NEPAD-Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility, aimed at supporting RECs and countries in the preparation of projects. This is being transformed into a multi-donor facility. Implementation reviews of the STAP carried out in 2003 and 2004 identified implementation challenges and actions to be taken relating to the following:

- Role and responsibilities
- Institutional capacity
- Policy, regulation and institutional reforms
- Coordination and monitoring mechanisms, and
- Financial capacity

185. Parallel to the Short Term Plan of Action on infrastructure, ADB has launched a study to draw up a Medium to Long Term Strategic Framework for regional infrastructure in close collaboration with the NEPAD Secretariat, the RECs, the World Bank and the European Union. It is expected that the output of the study, would form the basis for the development of a coherent strategy and a road map for sustainable infrastructure development in Africa.

186. One of the NEPAD add value to the transport programme is to ensu under good governance that member States will fulfil their commitment toward full implementation of policy framework adopted at regional and sub region levels; establishing conducive environment for the participation of the private secto mobilizing internal resources; removing non physical barriers for the movemen of goods and people; etc. While upgrading the infrastructure for energy, transpor and telecommunication is essential for developing Africa's economies and reducin poverty much remains to be accomplished in completing various missing links withi RECs and across Africa, especially in roads, and in exploiting the potential of trad in energy. African RECs recognize that gains from integration will be limited o eroded by inefficiencies arising from fragmented transport networks. Although there is reasonable commonalty among the RECs with respect to objectives in the area of transport - improvement of infrastructure linkages among countries in the sub-regions; harmonization of policies and practices; simplification of standards, regulations and procedures to facilitate smooth cross-border transport movements; and mobilizing investment for infrastructure construction and rehabilitation and improvement – there is very little convergence of programs and efforts.

187. There are still significant problems in transport services across regional economic communities and across Africa— raising the cost of doing business and impeding factor mobility, investment, and competitiveness. The transportation system in Africa is plagued by cumbersome administrative and customs measures, lack of appropriate maintenance of the road system, and inappropriate policies for managing and regulating services. All these factors hamper the flow of goods and services. As a result transport costs in Africa are among the highest in the world. This means a high cost of doing business, part of the reason why African products are not very competitive in international markets. For landlocked countries transport costs can reach as high as 77% of the value of exports. It costs about US$1500 (including insurance) to ferry a car from Japan to Abidjan. It will cost over three times as much to ship that same car from Addis Ababa to Abidjan.

188. The current road density in Africa is estimated at 6.84km/100sq.km, indicating the inadequacy of the region's network compared to Latin America (12km/100sq.km) and Asia (18km/100sq.km). Moreover, only 29.7 percent of the region's total 2,064,613km road network is paved. The fact that three railway gauges predominate in Africa, i.e. 1,067m, 1,000m, and 1,453m, causes severe limitations in the physical integration of the railway networks in various sub-regions. In addition, the quality of infrastructure is a major problem as most roads are dilapidated due to lack of proper maintenance.

189. The problem is more pronounced in landlocked countries as these countries incur high transaction costs not only from their own poor infrastructure but also from that of their transit neighbours. As a result, keeping distance constant, transport costs for landlocked countries are on average $2000 higher than for non-landlocked countries (cost of shipping a 40 feet container to Baltimore in the US). A study on the status of implementation of the Trans- African Highways network showed that the vast majority of missing links of the network are cross border links that integrate

member states within and between the RECs. This constitutes a major constraint to the free movement of goods and services.

190. It must, however, be noted that some efforts have been exerted to improve the infrastructure in the continent. Railway interconnection projects in West Africa and Eastern sub regions have been conceived, and resource mobilisation is under way to undertake feasibility studies. The road network has been improved through better road management initiatives and the establishment of appropriate institutions. SADC's development corridors and the spatial development initiatives view transport in a holistic manner—and could be replicated in other sub regions to open land-locked countries.

191. The decision to gradually liberalise the access of the air transport markets in Africa - the Yamoussoukro Decision - has been adopted at regional level and reinforced at sub regional level with the view to increase air passengers and freight linkages across Africa's sub regions. Air transport market access liberalization was seen as a main impediment to the expansion air transport network and services. The African Open-Sky Decision has precedence over any contradicting bilateral or multilateral agreement and removes most of the restrictions on granting of traffic rights, fixing aircraft capacities, and regulating tariffs. This will improve intra–African connections and services, introduce competition in a larger market, and offer better choices to consumers. It will also increase private participation and multilateral donor investment in the air transport industry.

192. The Almaty plan of Action and the African Action plan of landlocked developing and transit countries are the basis for the joint action of all partners. All the RECs have their implementation status of the transit corridors that are being implemented in collaboration with partners. In October 2003 US$ 4.6 million was mobilized to fund SSATP activities, out of which US$895,000 has been distributed to RECs. In all the RECs for which funds have been allocated, transit transport facilitation accounts for a substantial part of the planned activities. Examples of transit transport facilitation activities promoted by SSATP include: establishing observatories of abnormal practices along transit corridors such as the Northern Corridor, Dar-es-Salaam-Lusaka Corridor, Douala-Ndjamena-Bangui corridor, Lagos-Abidjan Corridor, etc; Port Security audits in Mombassa and Dar-es-Salaam; port facilitation in Douala; road safety along the Dar-es- Salaam-Lusaka corridor; legislation review for selected Corridors; axle load control implementation in the North-South Corridor (Zambia-DRC-Durban passing through Beit Bridge); harmonization of transit transport documents (CEMAC, ECOWAS, COMESA, UEMOA); and capacity building for transport planning specialists in ECCAS and CEMAC.

193. As part of its activities to facilitate transit transport in Africa, the ECA in collaboration with the RECs has organized, from 27 to 29 October 2003, an Ah-hoc expert group meeting on multimodal transport development in Africa. The objective of the meeting was to assist African countries in improving the quality and reducing the costs associated with international transport.

194. Presently, the communications networks of the regional economic communities are at different stages of regional integration. The ECOWAS network has developed significantly under the Pan-African Telecommunications Network (PANAFTEL) programme of the African Union, and ECOWAS Intercom. In general, the RECs possess very limited capacities to drive infrastructure and other sectoral programmes, if not aided by other external players. So the extent to which RECs should continue to involve themselves in massive infrastructural undertakings needs to be addressed.

5.3 Regional Trade

195. A major challenge facing all of Africa is the challenge of trade and market integration. In the context of Africa, regional integration has emerged as a framework through which obstacles to intra-African and international trade could be addressed. By addressing the intra-African trade barriers, it is envisaged that the small African markets defined by national boundaries will be opened up leading to larger regional markets that can enable economies of scales to be realized resulting in sustainable production systems and markets. Eventually, with expanded regional markets and efficient production structures African competitiveness will be enhanced, enabling the continent to compete for its fair share in the global market. But regional integration in Africa is not just about trade and market integration. The integration schemes deal with issues ranging from sectoral issues such as agriculture, water, gender among others, to matters of peace and security in the continent.

196. Although all RECs aim to create a common market starting with the establishment of free trade areas and custom unions, progress has been very slow. The major problem in this area is the dependence of most African countries on foreign trade taxes for revenues to finance public sector expenditure. Many fear the significant revenue losses that will arise from the removal of barriers to intra-community trade and have as a consequence; countries have been reluctant to lower these barriers very significantly. But tariff and nontariff barriers are vital for promotion of intra-regional trade.

197. An ECA study on Regional Integration in Africa (ECA, 2002a) found out that the endurance of tariffs and quotas, the lack of physical connectivity, the heterogeneity of policies and trade represent significant fetters on progress towards trade and market integration. The removal or attenuation of these fetters will contribute significantly to fostering intra-regional trade. But the persistence of high tariffs and other policy constraints is not the only impediment to trade and market integration. Structural deficiencies, limited product diversification, similarity of products and production structures, lack of market information on member States, and production and supply-side constraints are also impediments to trade and market integration. These "hard" constraints are much more difficult to address/attenuate and are serving to secure Europe's and North America's trade with Africa. The challenge is for African counties to take active measures to overcome these constraints.

198. The Abuja Treaty calls for a six-stage approach lasting 34 years (from 1994) to form the African Economic Community. The first stage involves the phased elimination

of tariffs on intra-REC trade, thus establishing free trade areas. Simultaneously, or subsequently, nontariff barriers would be eliminated and a common external tariff adopted, forming a customs union. Deeper reform would provide for free movement of goods within the community, free movement of factors of production, thus forming a common market. Finally, economic, social, environmental and other key policies would be harmonised and an economic union or community would be formed.

199. All the RECs have made significant efforts to move ahead with the first stage by adopting staged elimination of their tariffs on internal trade. Although there has been some variation in performance, REC members are for the most part adhering to their commitments COMESA has already achieved the legal launching of an FTA, and some other RECs have made substantial progress ahead of the implementation timetable. UEMOA, SACU, and CEMAC are already fully functioning customs unions. But COMESA, ECOWAS, SADC, ECCAS, and UMA have lagged behind.

200. According to the ECA a mere 10 percent of the exports of countries belonging to RECs go to other REC members (table 15). SADC countries have the greatest trade among themselves, 31% for exports and 24% for imports, influenced by South Africa. Other strong export-oriented economies within SADC, such as Mauritius and Zimbabwe, contributed as well. Countries such as Malawi and Mozambique were equally impressive in direct exports to the SADC market. SADC tops the other RECs despite the fact that it began implementing a trade protocol only in September 2000. As most SADC countries also belong to COMESA, the COMESA trade liberalisation program could have helped them. As the implementation of SADC's own trade protocol gathers momentum, there is likelihood that intra-SADC trade will increase further.

Table 15: Exports to Other REC Members and the World

	EXPORTS					
	Intra-REC Exports as Share of Total Intra-REC Exports		Share of Intra-REC Exports in Total Africa Exports		Intra-REC Exports as a Share of its Total Exports	
	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank
CEMAC	1.1	10	0.1	10	1.9	11
CENSAD*	12.8	3	1.3	4	3.6	8
CEPGL	0.1	12	0.0	13	0.5	12
COMESA	9.3	4	1.0	5	6.0	6
EAC	4.7	7	0.5	7	18.1	1
ECCAS	1.3	9	0.1	9	1.9	10
ECOWAS	19.9	2	2.1	3	10.2	5
IGAD	4.4	8	0.5	8	13.5	2
IOC	0.7	11	0.1	11	4.0	7
MRU	0.0	13	0.0	12	0.3	13
SACU						
SADC	31.3	1	3.3	2	12.8	3
UEMOA	5.9	6	0.6	6	11.2	4
UMA	8.6	5	8.6	1	3.1	9
Total	100		10.5			

Source: ECA – '*Assessing Regional Integration in Africa*, 2004'

201. ECOWAS ranks second with its intra-REC exports and imports of 17%. It has progressed well on its trade liberalisation program on traditional and artisan goods eliminating all tariffs, but not so well on industrial commodities, where the tariff reduction schedule is still facing problems. Its trade performance could thus have been boosted only by greater traditional and artisan trade. And given the 30 years that ECOWAS has been in existence, this performance cannot be considered very satisfactory. Many believe that much higher rates are possible if substantial progress can be made on the trade liberalisation program for industrial goods and if complete harmony can be established between UEMOA and ECOWAS to secure a more unified West African sub regional economic market.

202. CEN-SAD's internal trade ranks third in exports (12.8%) and fourth in imports (10.5%). A fairly recent creation whose membership straddles several RECs, CEN-SAD has yet to develop full-fledged trade. COMESA ranks fourth in Africa's total exports (9.3%) and fifth in imports (7.4%). These rankings may come as a surprise, given COMESA's reputation for its protrade measures.

203. It must be noted that the RECs have supported intra-industry trade through trade liberalization programs and other measures. But intra-REC trade in manufactures has remained infinitesimal (2–7%), and in some cases has declined as a proportion of total trade. RECs' measures to support the industrial sector are largely subsumed under their trade liberalisation programs.

204. Another African reality is that much trade is in the informal sector, not captured by official records. If such trade were accounted for, intra-African trade would likely be much greater than the current 10%. There may also be more informal movements of

capital than meets the eye. For these reasons, Africa's integration agenda needs to go beyond the formal economic links to capture the dynamics of the informal sector. The RECs should thus be encouraged to mainstream the informal sector in their policies and activities.

5.4 Science and Technological Development

205. Today there is little controversy regarding the contribution of science and technology to development as it is well acknowledged that science and technology education not only contribute to the formation of open and critical thinking but also to the general improvement of peoples ability to meet the challenges of modern society. Investment in science and technology education is therefore critical to economic and social development and for promoting sustainable development and improving the capacity of people to address development issues.

206. The current global polarization into Developed and Developing Countries is partly attributed to different levels of science and technology development between countries in the North and those in the South. In this respect, technology development continuously offers substantial opportunities that can be exploited to enhance development through achieving improvements in productive efficiency and productivity. Furthermore, technological development has profound and long-term impact on income distribution, economic growth, employment, trade, environment, industrial structure and defence and security matters. The acquisition and use of science and technology are therefore, critical in raising food production and extend productive opportunities outside the traditional land resources and in ensuring food availability, affordability and stability of access (ECA, 2003). Science and technology is also indispensable in the following four issues that form the basis for food security:

- Production to meet increasing consumption needs;
- Invariability of food supply;
- Poverty reduction through fostering economic growth; and
- Making more efficient use of world resources.

207. Despite the increasing awareness on the role of science and technology for development, African countries are still lacking behind. The continent's contribution to scientific and technological knowledge is negligible. Even those African countries that managed to develop modern scientific and technological institutions have failed to establish indigenous scientific base. Furthermore, many African countries have developed science and technology policies for development but too often these policies have not been implemented properly. As a result, the contribution of the institutions has almost always been below expectations in terms of enhancing the social and economic development. This has forced African countries to rely on the importation of turnkey industrial projects that are often badly managed (ECA, 1997).

208. Clearly, current production methods and technologies cannot solve the immense food insecurity problems in Africa even if more land is brought under cultivation. In this regard, various science and technology issues must be tackled to enable Africa achieve

food security and sustainable development. Equally, the lack of technological learning and implementation of technological policies that are in line with domestic economic problems and the challenges of globalisation is overwhelming. Also overwhelming is the continent's continuous failure to learn from the Newly Industrialized Countries (NICs) and to address properly the key issues that have shaped the development paradigm in these countries. Over and above, there are weaknesses and deficiencies in the science education curricula and their delivery in the education system.

209. It would be very difficult for the African countries to achieve the transition to sustainable development without a dramatic contribution from scientific and technological knowledge. Indeed, scientific knowledge is increasingly required for understanding, developing and managing terribly complex human-environment systems, such as infinitely intricate African systems, which are embedded in a highly unbalanced, unjust and unsustainable larger global system. And technological knowledge is required for addressing the acute environment, poverty, hunger, health and unemployment nexus of crises that plagues large parts of the continent. Therefore, integrated investment in the fields of education, research and human capital development will be essential to reverse Africa's marginalisation in global higher education and research, to enable the continent to address its scientific and public policy challenges.

210. Over the last few years several regional centres dedicated to scientific research and technological innovation have emerged. UNECA's Science and Technology Network – ESTNET - is a collaborative policy research network promoting the dissemination and exchange of information related to science and technology management and policy issues in Africa. Moreover, the ECA, and its five sub regional development centres (SROs), coordinates activities in the areas of advocacy and policy analysis, consensus building, and technical cooperation and capacity building. NEPAD established African Forum on Science and Technology for Development –AFSTD- to promote the application of S&T for economic growth and poverty reduction. African Economic Research Consortium –AERC- is a public non-profit organization based in Nairobi, Kenya, devoted to strengthening the local capacity for independent policy research relevant to the management of economies in sub-Saharan Africa. This is in addition to a number of centres of excellence established all over the continent.

5.5 Recommendations for Regional Integration

211. The following recommendations should be considered for policy action:

(i) Regional Integration

- Most RECs seem to be operating as if they are independent entities rather than different arms of the same corporate body. Stage 2 of the AEC implementation scheme, expected to last to 2007, emphasises the need for coordination and harmonisation.
- There is the problem of multiplicity of regional integration arrangements within the same region. This inevitably results in multiple country memberships, with the attendant burden of multiple membership costs and complications in applying rules of origin and the like.

(ii) Regional Infrastructure Development
African nations should increase their efforts of strengthening the infrastructure in different sub-regions and between the sub regions. Convergence of rules and regulations governing the operation of transport services in African countries is needed.

(iii) Regional Trade

a) African countries need to enhance cooperation at intra-regional and inter-regional levels for trade facilitation. This could be done through the harmonisation of RECs facilitation programmes. to ensure that the Yamoussoukro Decision for the liberalization of air transport in Africa is fully implemented.

b) Implementing community protocols on trade and market integration may be undermined by concerns about diminishing national sovereignty and the independence of national policymaking—as well as possibly losing customs revenue and other intercountry trade-related charges.

c) The issue of nontariff barriers to intra-REC trade needs to be more seriously addressed across all the regional communities. Because of the diverse nature of what constitutes a nontariff barrier, there is less transparency in the implementation of this potentially important obstacle to intra-community trade.

d) African countries must reinforce and accelerate the implementation of FTAs in the sub-regions. RECs that are already FTAs should consider implementing customs unions. Countries should also move quickly to reduce non-tariff barriers and have common definition of "rules of origin."

e) African leaders have to start a programme of convergence of trade liberalization schemes at the continental level.

f) African countries need to develop E-commerce infrastructure in Africa, and also enhance the usage of new trade financing mechanisms.

g) Need to evolve more effective sub-regional and regional-wide insurance mechanisms for intra-African and international trade, including risk arrangement mechanisms.

5.6 Recommendations for Science and Technology

212 The following are the recommendations for science and technology:

i) Africa should identify and promote regional centres of excellence in higher education and research, especially in science and technology, strengthen its links with the Diaspora, and establish strategic partnerships with international partners to promote priority areas for research.

ii) African governments should mobilize resources to be dedicated to science and technology development, and apply some of this to support the science popularisation program.

iii) National strategies should place priority on:

- Restructuring science education
- Science and technology literacy and utilization of scientific culture

- Use of familiar materials and processes
- Teaching of science through indigenous science and technology, and
- Transfer of skills to national experts through study visits and South-South cooperation.

iv) National professional associations become pro-active and utilize their professional standing to improve career development in the sciences.

v) Noting that donor support for science and technology development in Africa has been dwindling in recent years, donors should recognize the new opportunities that are arising from the unprecedented commitment of African nations through programs like NEPAD. They should commit themselves to collaboration on broad-based science popularisation programs in which the entire society is the beneficiary.

vi) The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has comparative advantage through its convening power that can link focal point institutions. It can also provide countries with a knowledge base of international experiences and best practices that is not usually available at the country level. It is recommended that the ECA assist African countries to introduce a dynamic science and technology approach into the NEPAD program in order to facilitate the application of technological tools in their development.

vii) African countries must encourage creativity and innovation in everyday scientific and technological activities, and provide incentives for participation.

viii) African countries should provide opportunities for the general public (especially the youth) to appreciate science and technology and participate in its development.

ix) African countries should give visibility to successful projects and research results that impact on society's progress and development; and

x) African governments should honour and recognize scientists and technologists who make significant contributions in their fields.

6.0 The Role of the AU in Providing an Enabling Policy Environment for the Socio-Economic Development of Africa

213. The African Union has set for itself the ambition of building an integrated Africa driven by its own citizens representing a dynamic force in the international arena. As such this chapter highlights some of the main actions and recommendations of the African Union that will enable the achievement of the MDGs.

6.1 Actions on Achieving Peace and Security

214. One of the greatest achievements in Africa at the dawn of the new millennium was the adoption of the Constitutive Act, establishing the African Union, which was officially launched in July 2002. The creation of the African Union was a manifestation of the commitment of African leaders to endow the continent with the ideal and robust institutions to meet the challenges of a new era in the history of the continent, laying greater emphasis on economic development. The Constitutive Act itself underlines the linkage between peace and security and economic development by stressing in its preamble that, the scourge of conflicts in Africa constitutes a major impediment to the socio-economic development of the continent and the need to promote peace, security and stability as a prerequisite for the implementation of development and integration agenda.

215. Since its inception, the African Union has made peace and security one of its cardinal priorities and emphasises the importance of peace and security as a priority of the Union. Furthermore, the Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan of the African Union have identified peace and security as one of the four Axes for building the Union, stressing that "Armed conflicts contribute immensely to the deterioration in socio-economic development, with attendant sufferings of civilian populations, increase in refugees and displaced persons, denial of basic human rights, and diminished hope for African People."

216. The activities of the Union have focused on promoting and encouraging efforts at the national, regional and continental levels as well as harnessing the much-needed international cooperation for peace and security in Africa. Between 2000 and 2004, African leaders individually and collectively took far-reaching and bold initiatives to

promote and maintain peace and security on the continent. Within the time period, many instruments are adopted establishing common values and new standards for both the conduct of statecraft and interstate cooperation in Africa in the area of peace and security. These included the Declaration on the Framework for an OAU Response to Unconstitutional Changes of Government; the Solemn Declaration on the Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa (CSSDCA); and the Memorandum of Understanding on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa.

217. The most significant achievement in Africa's commitment to reverse the pattern of conflict and insecurity that prevailed in the continent throughout the 1990s has been the adoption of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union, in Durban, South Africa, in July 2002. The Protocol, which replaced the Cairo Declaration of 1993, on a Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, provides for a robust and proactive framework for promoting peace and security in Africa, and for translating into action the relevant provisions of the Constitutive Act. It establishes institutions such as the Peace and Security Council, the African Standby Force (ASF), the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS), the Panel of the Wise and the Peace Fund.[a] The Protocol including the Solemn Declaration on a Common African Defence and Security Policy, the African Union Non-Aggression and Common Defence Pact and other decisions and instruments constitute the pillars of the Continental Peace and Security Architecture, anchored on the PSC.

218. The Peace and Security Council of the Union, since its operationalization in March 2004 and its solemn launching two months later, has risen to the challenge of conflicts on the continent, by playing a leadership role and taking landmark and decisive actions to ensure peace and security in Africa. The PSC has of date (25 April 2005), held 27 meetings to deal with crises and conflict situations such as in Burundi, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, the Darfur region of the Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Somalia, Southern Sudan and Togo. In many cases, the PSC has encouraged the appointment of Special Envoys and Special Representatives by the Chairperson of the AU Commission, as well as the opening of liaison offices on the ground to maintain AU's visibility

219. In order to meet the challenges of responding effectively to conflicts in Africa and to the overall challenges to peace and security, the AU has been building and strengthening partnerships in Africa and with the international community as well as with civil society organizations. Regional mechanisms such as the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) have been instrumental partners for peace and security in Africa. In the context of the Constitutive Act and the PSC Protocol, they are the building blocks and part of the overall security architecture of the Union. In this context, the AU has worked closely with the RECs in the areas of conflict prevention, management and resolution. Consultations are ongoing to finalize a MoU between the RECs and the AU to consolidate their relationship in the area of peace and security.

220. One of the important partners for peace and security has been the United Nations. The UN of course has the primary responsibility for peace and security in Africa and has made tremendous achievements in the promotion of peace and security on the continent since independence. In this context, the AU has strengthened cooperation and close collaboration with the UN and its agencies in areas relating to the promotion and maintenance of peace and security in Africa, particularly in designing policies and building institutions of the Union, conflict prevention, management and resolution, peace support operations (including AMIB and AMIS I & II) as well as post-conflict reconstruction and peace-building such as the process of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. The UN has been supportive in providing expertise and logistical facilities. Within the context of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, there has been a remarkable increase in cooperation between the UN and regional and sub-regional organizations in the promotion of peace and security in Africa. The Table below summarizes some of the major interactions between the UN, the OAU/AU and Regional Mechanisms in responding to conflict situations in Africa.

221. In addition to these achievements, African countries have signed and ratified relevant regional, continental and international instruments for the promotion and strengthening of international peace and security, particularly, in the areas of combating terrorism and transnational organized crimes, drug control, anti-corruption and money laundering and disarmament. In conformity with the commitment made under the Millennium Declaration, to accede to the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, 49 of the 53 Member States of the African Union have acceded to the Convention, making it almost universal in Africa.

6.1.1 Conflict prevention, post-conflict reconstruction and peace-building

222. Prevention is enshrined in the Constitutive Act, which authorizes the Union to intervene in a Member State pursuant to a decision of the Assembly in respect of grave circumstances, namely, war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity.[b] By virtue of Article 7(a) of its Protocol, the PSC has the authority to anticipate and prevent disputes and conflicts, as well as policies that may lead to genocide and crimes against humanity.

223. The waning of conflict in Africa underscores the crucial need for efforts to focus on post-conflict reconstruction and peace building in war-torn societies. The end of active conflict is not peace by itself but a transitional fragile stage in the conflict continuum, which could either lead to peace or fall back into the abyss of a vicious conflict. African conflicts are known to be recurrent if not recycled in neighbouring countries due to lack of appropriate post-conflict reconstruction and peace-building strategies. Societies such as Angola, Burundi, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Somalia and Southern Sudan, which are emerging from conflicts, need support now more than ever before to consolidate the peace dividends. It is therefore of paramount importance for Africa and the international community at large to dedicate more efforts and resources toward post-conflict reconstruction and peace-building to assist societies emerging

from conflict consolidate peace and security. Helping such societies rebuild basic life-supporting infrastructures such as pipe-borne drinking water, homes for returnees, hospitals, the agricultural sector, schools, electricity, communication and transport network and de-mining, help eliminate the tendencies for conflict to reoccur. Post-conflict is actually the stage where engineering development can contribute enormously to peace and security.

224. The demand for post-conflict reconstruction in Africa is fast growing. It is now clear, given the current trend, that in the near future, post-conflict reconstruction will be the most serious challenge to the continent. The complex nature of post-conflict reconstruction challenges requires an assessment of the priorities of each society, however, promoting national reconciliation and unity; respect for human rights; encouraging the safe return of refugees and displaced persons; ensuring disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration (DDRR) of combatants into normal civilian life, and promoting democracy should not be sidelined.

225. Building security should constitute one of the priorities of post-conflict reconstruction to create an enabling environment for reconstruction activities. It is therefore important for post-conflict reconstruction to address the often-prevalent problems after active conflict, such as small arms and light weapons, anti-personnel landmines, armed robbery, money laundering and drugs. Post-conflict reconstruction efforts must also focus on the implementation of the peace agreements signed by parties.

226. The AU has put a renewed emphasis on post-conflict reconstruction. The PSC Protocol authorizes the PSC to undertake peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction.

6.2 Actions for Achieving Good Governance in Africa

227. The African Union Commission has identified governance as being of crucial importance to the sustainable development of Africa and has translated its firm commitment by emphasizing ensuring a well governed Africa as a priority objective in line with its vision, mission and strategic plan adopted by all Member States.

228. The following declarations adopted by the Heads of State and Government since 1990 show their levels of concerns in respect of deteriorating situations and their political will to effective states with strong democratic institutions that protect interests and rights of all citizens and the declarations are:

- *Declaration adopted by the 26th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government 11 July 1990 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*: AHG/Decl.1 (XXVI)
- *Declaration adopted by the 31st Ordinary Sessions of the Assembly of State and Government 26-28 June 1995 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia AHG/Res.236 (XXXI)*
- *Algiers Declaration OAU 35th Assembly of Heads of State & Government Algiers, 12-14 July 1999 AHG/Decl.1 (XXXV)*

6.2.1 The agenda for the promotion of good governance and the rule of law

229. The African Union is acting simultaneously on the rules and the actors of good governance, in view not only to improve the contents, the effectiveness and the legitimacy of the standards and rules of governance, but also to reinforce the capacities of adequate institutional and organizational structures that will facilitate good and democratic governance in terms of relations between civil societies and the states. In addition, the ongoing exemplary partnerships with international development partners will support and streamline the process of resources mobilization to respond adequately to the financial, economic, and political costs of the expected institutional changes and choices generated by the implementation and monitoring of the African Union governance agenda. The main elements of this agenda include:

a) The African Union Convention on preventing and combating corruption and related offences adopted by Heads of State and Government in Maputo Mozambique in July 2003 as a landmark in the fight against corruption on the African continent; the only anticorruption convention that includes implementation and monitoring mechanisms.
b) Promoting and implementing the AU Convention on preventing and Combating Corruption through establishment of National anti-corruption commissions, AUC Advisory Board on corruption, Civil society partnerships for the enhancement of good governance.
c) Formulating a Charter on Elections, Democracy and Governance in Africa that will enlarge dialogue and debate across the African continent on the components, constraints, principles, indicators and methodologies that should be applied to ensure stability and socio-economic integration.
d) Building the African Union Commission capacity in the field of observation and monitoring of electoral processes with the focus on the creation and operationalisation of the Africa electoral monitoring unit and Trust Fund for Electoral Observation and Assistance.
e) The AU programmes for a well governed Africa addressing the issues of decentralization and deconcentration of states service policies, reinforcing the capacities of parliaments to deliver their core functions, strengthening judiciary systems, improve transparency and effectiveness of civil service procedures and mechanisms, fostering independence and smooth functioning of civil society organizations and media...
f) The establishment of the Pan African Parliament and its reinforcement will enable better coordinate and lead potential changes in African legislations.

6.2.2 Improving achievement of MDGs through the integration of the AUC governance agenda in respect of the following domains of intervention

230. The following Objectives/indicators that are derived from the vision, mission, and the strategic plan of the African Union Commission could impact the quantity, quality and speed of achievement of the MDGs in Africa.

a) Advocating and implementing the AU convention on Preventing and combating corruption by all African Union member States by the end of 2005 would be a concrete way of transforming intentions and political will and commitments into actions. This will promote access to information and develop adherence to principles of transparency and integrity and reinforce national anticorruption commissions, budget tracking, and public procurement;
b) Mechanisms that provide citizen voice and participation in the design, implementation and monitoring of public policies. Involvement of civil society organizations and media required establishment of legal regulatory framework of ethics, adherence to principles of transparency and integrity, and strengthening of structure, skills and professionalism. Civic education and training constitutes an essential instrument that can reinforce and reconstitute the civil society capital. A close and fair collaboration between civil society and media would contribute to promote the level of transparency in the management of the public affairs by informing the public on the procedures and the decisions taken by governments.
c) Strengthening Judicial and Parliaments capacities is required. The independence and autonomy of the judicial power helps to promote the rule of law, defend the constitutional principles and the civil rights, appoint judges based on competencies, facilitate access to courts and legal services, and modernize judiciary structures. Parliaments should ensure accountability and transparency in decision-making as well as in cost effectiveness of public expenditures. They must have competencies and knowledge required to oversight these activities. There is a need to improve the capacity of the professional staff, the relationship between Pan African Parliament, national parliaments and civil society organizations, and enhance the quality of lawmaking and information base on governance issues;
d) Enforcement instruments to support effectiveness of public administration and promote political and economic: This will require a clear definition of roles and responsibilities of actors, effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to reinforce human resources competencies through continuing education, adequacy post offices and qualifications, and providing structures with necessary equipments and materials; Guidelines for strengthening public institutions and a charter on public administration in Africa will help harmonize and assess accurately.

6.3 An Action Plan for Promotion of Employment and Poverty Alleviation

231. The African Union Plan of Action for Promotion of Employment and Poverty alleviation has as its primary goal to reverse the current trends of pervasive and persistent poverty, unemployment and under-employment on the continent; and to have tangible

improvement in the living standards of the people and their families at the national and community levels in Africa. Accordingly the following are the key priority areas are:

i) Ensuring political leadership and commitment to create an enabling of good governance for investment, development and poverty alleviation in the context of NEPAD and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals;

ii) Promotion of the agricultural sector and rural development, sustainable management of the environment for food security and development of support infrastructure;

iii) Development of an appropriate framework for integration and harmonization of economic and social policies;

iv) Improving and strengthening the existing social protection schemes and extending it to workers and their families currently excluded, as well as occupational safety, health and hygiene;

v) Empowerment of women by integrating them in the labour markets and to enable them to participate effectively in the development of poverty reduction strategies, policies and programmes;

vi) Human and institutional capacity building for public and private institutions in charge of employment promotion and poverty alleviation, including the social partners and other relevant actors of civil society;

vii) Utilising key sector with high employment potential to generate more jobs and allocate adequate resources for that purpose;

viii) Building International cooperation, fair and equitable globalisation, and partnerships for an enhanced international support to Africa's efforts towards achieving sustainable development, putting emphasis on the employment agenda, poverty alleviation, regional integration and a better participation in globalisation process;

ix) Promoting regional and economic cooperation among the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in order to expand the economic space, intra and inter-regional trade, markets and exploit the economies of scale;

x) Targeting and empowering vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, aged persons, migrants, children, youth and people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases, internally displaced persons, refugees, migrants and the working poor; and

xi) Mobilisation of resources at national, regional and international levels.

6.4 Towards a Social Policy Framework for Africa

232. The global objective of the present Social Policy Framework is to foster sustainable human and social development in Africa. To attain this goal, the Framework incorporates all the values set out in the African Union Vision and complements the above mentioned Action Area by pursuing a global integrated strategy which welds together the two strategies contained in the 2004-2007 Strategic Framework of the African Union Commission, and comes up with specific programmes, including the four defined in the Strategic Framework

233. The strategy is anchored on social integration, as well as on investment promotion for employment creation and poverty reduction. It regards social integration as a prerequisite for African countries, and sees employment no longer as a consequence of economic growth and social well being but rather as a catalyst for the latter. Indeed, integration of the active population into the labour market enables them and the households to meet their basic needs. This strategy relies on the following pillars

- Social protection;
- Basic infrastructure;
- Education (including vocational training);
- Health (including endemic diseases);
- Population and Development (including Gender);
- Community participation;
- Agrarian reform; and
- Labour market.

6.4.1 Quality education for Africa's sustainable development

234. The mandate of the African Union as continental political rallying force dictates that the Education, Science and Technology programme to focus on the following key areas:

- Quality Basic Education for All
- Expansion and Diversification of Secondary Education
- Higher Education for the Knowledge Economy
- Human Resources for the Management of Educational, Science and Technology Development
- Transversal Issues in Educational and Techno-Scientific Development
- Strengthening Regional and Sub-regional cooperation and exchange mechanisms

235. Furthermore, the six programme areas outlined above are considered as most likely to have the desirable impact of:

- Raising the level of stakeholder commitment to, and involvement in promoting human development based on education, science and technology at the national level.
- Reversing the trend of decay in national education systems.
- Enhancing sub-regional and regional cooperation for the development of Education, Science and Technology.
- Integrating the Youth into the development process.
- Refocusing external assistance; and
- Creating an African learning society that should fit Africans into the global knowledge economy dominated and engineered by science, technology and driven by ICT.

6.4.2 Promotion of gender equality and empowering women

236. The African Union Commission has provided global leadership in adopting and implementing its gender parity policy as well as its gender mainstreaming approach in its Strategic Planning Framework. The challenge is to convince member states to adopt this model at the national levels. New policy initiatives such as the MDGs are an important means for the AUC to mobilize political support at the national level for gender equality and women's advancement at all levels. The RECs have also made substantial progress in moving the gender agenda forward in the region especially in the area of policy formulation. The MDGs present a rallying point, and the RECs should play a key role in underscoring the value-added dimension of the goals to their particular sub-regional gender and development priorities.

6.5 Promoting Good Natural Resource Management and Environmental Sustainability

237 Ensuring environmental sustainability is a sine qua non for poverty reduction and sustainable development in Africa. Since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration, the African Union has taken a number of measures aimed at achieving this objective. The Commission of the Union joined the inter-agency partnership – the "African Stockpiles Programme ASP", which has the objective to rid Africa of its existing stockpiles of obsolete pesticides and to institute measures to prevent future occurrence, with a view to enhancing environmental and human health in the continent. .

238 In July 2004, the AU Commission revitalized its "Programme for the integrated Management of the Fouta Djallon Highlands. This programme, which began in 1984, covers 6 West African countries and includes land and water resources management in the Fouta Djallon massif. Also in 2001,the African Union Commission revised the 1968 "African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources" in order to make it responsive to current African environmental and natural resources realities and to align it with the Millennium Development Goals. The revised Convention was adopted by the African Union Assembly of Heads of State in July 2003. The Convention has since been signed and ratified respectively by 32 and 4 Member States, and it would require 15 ratifications to enter into force.

239 The Commission has continued to provide support to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in the continent through grants to some Member States and to the UNCCD Secretariat to implement land degradation and desertification control measures.

240 For Africa to be able to meet the target of reducing by half the number of poor, and the number without access to safe drinking water, the continent and her development partners must promote and put political energy and increased financial resources in implementing joint integrated water resources management (IWRM) at the trans-boundary level between and 2015. In response to this need, the Extra-

Ordinary Summit of the Heads of State of the African Union, held in Sirte in February 2004, adopted the "*Sirte Declaration on the Challenges of Implementing Integrated and Sustainable Development in Agriculture and Water in Africa*", which among other thing, encouraged Member States to enter into bilateral agreements on shared water resources and appropriate regional protocols to guide integrated water resources management. Furthermore, the Declaration calls for strengthening existing river and lake water basins organizations where they exist and establish new ones wherever appropriate in order to protect, develop and sustainable use the water resources.

241 The Commission of the African Union has consequently included the promotion of trans-boundary water resources management in its first 3-year (2005-2007) development programme. Regional Economic Communities (RECs), such as SADC have adopted a sub-regional protocol for integrated water management, while others are currently looking into the issue. These efforts are most likely to release a significant portion of the potential of the continent's surface waters for economic development purposes such as supply of water for irrigation, drinking and energy, thereby contributing to poverty reduction.

6.6 Transport and Infrastructure for Accelerated Socio-Economic Development

242 The AU Ministerial Meeting on transport and the Millennium Development Goals made key recommendations on transport infrastructure related indicators and on policy actions.

6.6.1 Targets

- Access to inputs and markets and generation of employment opportunities, improved by halving the proportion of rural population living beyond 2 km of an all-season mode of transport by 2015.
- The difference in average transport cost within Africa as compared to Asia is narrowed down by 50% by 2015.
- Rural access and urban mobility improved and cost reduced to eliminate constraints on the time, which all children have to participate in education and to enable effective education to be delivered and reached safely by 2015.
- Rural access and urban mobility improved for reliable supply of inputs to health facilities, to provide affordable access for all households and to enable cost effective outreach health activities by 2015.
- Emergency transport response for medical emergency and catastrophe in rural communities improved through community communication facilities linked to improved transport services by 2015.
- Ensure that transport sector ceases to be an agent for spreading HIV / AIDS by 2010.

- Rate of accident fatalities arising from road and other means of transport reduced by half by 2015.
- Urban and rural residents for whom mobility problems severely constrain access to employment and essential services halved by 2015.
- Environmental sustainability promoted in all transport operations and development programmes by 2015.
- Production and use of leaded petrol ceased by 2015.
- Transport cost for landlocked and transit countries reduced by half and their access to global markets improved by 2015.
- All physical and non-physical transport barriers that increase journey time; customs clearance and border delay and impede the flow of goods and services dismantled by 2015.
- Axle load limits, as well as technical standards for equipment and infrastructure for all modes of transport harmonised and implemented by all RECs by 2015.
- Services of all modes of transport improved, fares reduced and movement of persons and goods facilitated in all African countries by 2015.
- Compliance with and adherence to international transport conventions on safety, security and trade facilitation.
- Consideration of the phenomenon of desertification and sand movement in the transport policies and programmes.
- Consideration of the gender issues in transport polices and programmes.

6.6.2 Implementation strategies

i) The AU, RECs and member states should adopt a clear implementation approach that articulates the effective institutional structure at the continental, regional and national level.
ii) The AU should take clear responsibility for coordinating delivery on the programme in the regions.
iii) Implementation at the level of Member States should be coordinated by regional economic communities (RECs), which should be required to report to the African Union regularly.
iv) The implementation institutions need to focus on three key pillars for programme implementation namely, Institutional strengthening and integration; Formulation and implementation of clear and practical strategies and plans; and Ensuring that there is adequate delivery capacity in terms of human capital, funding, administrative systems and research support.
v) The AU should develop a strong implementation oversight mechanism, within its current institutional structure in order to ensure real time assessment of progress towards the achievement of the MDGs.
vi) The AU should adopt a -set of clear criteria to prioritised projects.
vii) The key priority projects, related to MDG 8, should aim at connecting the continent, completing the missing links thus integrating infrastructure across modes, REC's and member states.

viii) The AU and REC's should play a greater role in mobilizing finance fo[r] projects that meet the criteria of the programme.
ix) The AU, RECs and member states should focus on expanding the role of th[e] private sector participation in such schemes as public private partnership[s] (PPP) in transport funding; and
x) Introduce specific fiscal interventions to yield more revenues for transport.

6.6.3 Support to the African Union, RECs and Member States

i) The UNECA, AfDB, World Bank, the European Union and other partners should support transport strategies and programmes of the African Union, RECs and the member states in the attainment of the targets related to the MDGs.
ii) The UN-OHRLLS should continue its coordination effort to mobilize international support and awareness for transit transport cooperation, advocating for transit transport programmes, including Almaty programme of actions, for Africa elaborated and implemented within the framework of the African Union/NEPAD and the

6.7 2005: Towards a Year of Assertiveness on Debt Cancellation for Africa

243. The issue of Africa's huge external debt burden is of major concerns of the African Union Commission and it has been recognized as one of the major obstacles to human development with Africa's external debt being probably the most unsustainable in the world compared to that of other developing countries. The recent agreement by the G8 Finance Ministers Meeting to cancel debt of 18 highly indebted poor countries, including 14 African countries[1] is highly commended. However, more needs to be done to cancel debt for the remaining African countries244. The African Heads of State and Government have committed the AU to collectively demand debt cancellation on behalf of Africa. The AU will map out a common African position on debt cancellation that should recommend the following:

- African states should call for total and unconditional debt cancellation for Africa;
- This position should not be accompanied by broad fiscal policy or macroeconomic conditionality; and
- A new arrangement for contracting loans should be envisaged which would not put African countries in indebtedness in the future.

1 The 14 countries are Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

6.8 The AU Commitment to Enabling Africa Achieve the MDGs

245. Since its inception the AU has exerted substantial efforts in establishing a conducive environment of the socio economic development of the continent. The adoption of the constitutive act of the AU in 2000 coincided with the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals as the global framework for measuring progress made in accelerating development. In the African context attaining the MDGs becomes exigent and thus the African Union's activities focus on those critical issues impeding the attainment of the MDGs. These activities the promotion peace and security, good governance, promotion of employment and poverty alleviation, promoting quality education for Africa's sustainable development, promotion of gender equality and empowering women, promotion good natural resource management and environmental sustainability and continent wide infrastructure development.

7.0 Financing Options and Partnerships in Support of the MDGs

7.1 Resource Requirements to Achieve the MDGs

246. Estimates of additional financial resources required for the achievements of the MDGs globally range between US$50 billion – US$100 billion annually Africa's share of this cost might be estimated at US$50-75 billion per annum.[1] These estimates include what is needed as direct investments for the achievement of individual goals and targets such as investments in medical facilities required for reducing under-five mortality rates. They also include indirect investments such as in building human and institutional capacity to formulate and deliver MDG-related programmes and activities efficiently and effectively.

247. The following are the main sources of finance for this additional requirement:

- Domestic private and public savings as well as surpluses from external trade,
- Foreign direct investments,
- Official development assistance,
- Debt relief, and
- Partnership between governments and private sector, civil society and local communities.

248. In Africa, notwithstanding its impressive recent progress, currently there exists an investment deficit, with savings rate falling below investment requirements, which amounts to at least 10% of Africa's GDP. Therefore external sources of financing the MDGs remain critical.

7.1.1 Domestic resource mobilization

249. Domestic resources, mobilization and its efficient utilization is a necessary condition for African countries to achieve the MDGs. Notably savings and export surpluses, are a prime component of development financing in Africa. However domestic resources mobilisation is not sufficient and therefore needs to be highly complemented by international funding. Therefore, an increase in ODA to the target of 0.7% of GNP is vital.

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1 Report of the UN High-Level Panel on Financing for Development and World Bank estimates.

250. The kind of actions required in order to increase domestic resource mobilization are primarily the responsibility of African leaders and policy makers. African countries are putting in place policies to ensure macroeconomic stability and growth, efficient functioning of the financial system, and improved governance. So far the main benefit has been improvement in the macroeconomic environment, which is yet to translate into higher household incomes.

251. In order to ensure broad access to financial services, measures adopted by African countries have underscored the importance of micro finance institutions especially in reaching the rural poor. The development of micro finance institutions has been hindered by high transactions costs associated with their small size, information requirements for monitoring clients, a constraining regulatory environment, and a weak property rights regime.

252. Though improved macroeconomic stability has supported efforts at financial sector reforms aimed at resource mobilisation in the private sector, the financial sector is still weak and face potential risks due to capital flight and vulnerability to external financial and economic vicissitudes. Furthermore, privatisation of the financial sector has resulted in reduced presence of the modern banking units in the rural areas and urban peripheries.

253. It is recommended that governments support micro finance development by establishing stable and predictable property rights regimes, and rationalizing the regulatory environment, as well as supporting the links between formal and informal financial systems, providing the requisite public services and removing regulatory constraints in order to reduce the cost of doing business in the rural and informal sector.

254. *African Government* effort needs to be intensified in the following areas:

a) Sustaining macroeconomic stability;
b) Supporting a gradual liberalization of the financial sector; and strengthening informal financial institutions through operational and learning networks and concrete national and regional policies;
c) Expanding tax base and improving tax administration; improve national awareness of tax responsibilities and the corresponding responsibility of the state to meet the basic needs of the public; and
d) Increasing sponsorship of regional and national forums, especially for mobilising resources for the social sectors, and ensures active private sector involvement in these forums.

7.1.2 Foreign direct investment

255. To the extent that foreign direct investment (FDIs) can substitute for the public sector in activities such as utilities and commodity production, the external borrowing requirements of the government will be reduced and prospects for achieving the MDGs could be enhanced. Besides, FDIs in export sectors can increase the volume of exports

and contribute to diversification of export base and, through this, enhance external debt sustainability. However, low-income countries never attract foreign direct investments, except to their mining enclaves. Thus, unless there are concerted policy interventions, coupled with foreign support, as envisaged in the recent Africa's NEPAD, there might not be enough FDIs to enhance the external debt sustainability of the countries.

256. Africa has been largely bypassed in the global expansion of foreign direct investment, with her share in global FDI inflows remaining below 5%. Furthermore, only a few African countries, notably oil producing countries, receive significant FDI inflows. For the majority of African countries FDI has been declining in contrast with increases in inflows to Asia and other developing regions. This lack of investment translates into job stagnation, continued poverty and limited access to education and health care.

257. Returns are considered a major determinant of investments. Yet while Africa offers the highest return in the world on direct foreign investment, it attracts the least. Some empirical studies attribute this poor response to the overall volatile economic and political situation in African countries, weak financial and legal systems and smallness in market size, which increase institutional uncertainty. Perhaps, the more fundamental reason for the low FDI inflows into Africa is the image and regional contagion effect of this image of Africa, as an unstable and poor economy with unskilled labour force and weak governance systems. The slow growth of African economies, registering less than 1% in terms of GNP per capita per annum in the least decade, also accounts for the lack of response to profitability of investment in specific sectors of the economy. However, economic growth picked up to an average of 4.6% in 2004[1], offering new opportunities for investors.

258. In addition, several African countries have gone a long way in putting into place investment promotion programmes and policy frameworks to address these weaknesses, including ensuring stable and predictable macroeconomic environment.

259. Transnational Corporations on the continent remain largely unresponsive to their greater social responsibilities and should be encouraged to invest in MDG-related programmes and activities in their host countries.

7.1.3 Official Development Assistance

260. ODA flows to Africa declined by 38% between 1991 and 2001, at a time additional resources were needed to meet the MDGs as well as other internationally agreed development such as the Brussels Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries (of which 34 are in Africa), the Copenhagen World Summit on Social Development.

261. However, although remaining well short of what all acknowledge is required to meet internationally agreed goals, development aid has begun to pick up again. Donor

1 United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, *Survey of Economic and Social Indicators 2004-2005*, April 2005, p.1

commitment to Africa has grown in tandem with evidence that development assistance can and has worked, greater world concern for the poor and discernible change in Africa's governance, ownership of its own development agenda and its planning for effective and accountable use of funds. It is now generally agreed that a significant increase in development assistance as soon as possible is an imperative. However, considering current levels of support, this will require consideration of new mechanisms that can mobilise funds with little delay as an adjunct to an agreement to progressively increase budget-based development assistance as a percentage of GDP between now and 2015. The mechanisms proposed for mobilising additional funds with little delay include the International Finance Facility (IFF); International Taxation, such as on financial transactions; and the allocation of Special Drawing Rights by the IMF. The main challenge is to make predictable resources rapidly available. In this regard, the IFF does offer an option that could make increased development assistance an immediate reality, as other options, while offering real prospects, will require time-consuming negotiations.

7.1.4 Quality of aid remains an issue

262. Aid has at times was used to promote donor` foreign policy interest and/ or their cultural values and to respond to political pressure from interest groups in donor countries, undermining its development potential. This has inter alia resulted in pressure to spend allocated resources with an unrealistic time frame on parallel projects. This architecture of funding, especially when directed to countries where the political and institutional conditions for its effective use had been lacking and had sometimes overwhelmed the absorptive capacity of the recipients.

263. Even when aid was used for development purposes, it had not always been effective due to aid tying, and lack of co-ordination among donors. Donor assistance is often over-laden with conditionalities, which create onerous and bureaucratic work for recipients and generates uncertainty. Moreover different donors have different administrative procedures that increase the workload on recipients, with no clear criteria for compliance, and thereby undermining prospects for project success, including through lack of national ownership.

264. Furthermore a high proportion of the aid was in the form of technical assistance, which did not have a good track record. Another important aspect is that most of the aid delivery mechanisms involved assistance that had a short planning horizon, is unpredictable, and subject to unilateral change or disruption without consultation with the recipient. Projects with intermittent, stop/go decisions often achieve little and this encourage a cynical short-term view of aid by recipients leading to low levels of commitment to outcomes. What Africa needs is long-term and stable development assistance. The key changes required in the architecture of funding are towards streamlined applications based on national plans to pooled funds, with harmonisation of resources. Substantial portions of development assistance should go to core budget funding to build the delivery capacity on which all public services and economic growth depend

265. *African governments* should put in place measures to eliminate aid dependency in the longer term by effective use of aid, supported by debt cancellation and access to markets, amongst other measures. More important, aid should be used for development purposes and in particular for poverty reduction. African governments and their development partners need to work together to substantially improve aid effectiveness by addressing the shortcomings identified above.

266. Improving the effectiveness of aid required changed behaviour by recipient and provider alike. In this regard, improved governance and macro-economic management and the implementation of pro-poor policies will be required from African governments. On the other hand, donors need to address the shortcomings of aid co-ordination and to support African owned development programs. Also they need to adopt a long-term approach to aid programming to with more flexible disbursement procedures in order to assist in strategic prioritisation across sectors as well as in ensuring an appropriate balance between capital and recurrent expenditures.

267. The institutional and administrative costs of aid delivery, monitoring and program implementation need to be minimized, which would require better co-ordination mechanisms to ensure that aid allocation is integrated within the national strategic expenditure framework and budget execution cycle; integrate donor reporting and accountability systems into a national system developed on the basis of agreed standards; and putting in place a mutually agreed system of financial monitoring.

7.2 Need for African Partnership in the Allocation of Additional Resources

268. An agreement to increase and pool development assistance to improve aid effectiveness would mean that direct bilateral processes between a donor and recipient country would be superseded by a collective mechanism. For this, there need to be mechanism for the responsibility of setting policies for their use and allocating funds from the administrative responsibility of managing them.

269. Allocation decisions pose a different challenge. African countries need a stronger say, including for the purposes of appropriateness and peer accountability, while donors will not be ready, understandably so, to hand over money and not be party to deciding how it is used. An *AU/NEPAD Partnership Fund Oversight Committee* whose terms of reference and composition would be jointly determined by Africa and development partners is considered a solution to this.

7.3 Debt Relief

270. Africa's external debt payments can be considered substantial relative to resource inflows with the stock of debt outstanding at the end of 2004 estimated at $275 billion in nominal terms. Of this total, long-term African debt excluding North Africa was

about $222 billions in nominal terms Debt relief on its own will be woefully insufficient to allow African countries to finance the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and achieve long-term debt sustainability. So far, fifteen African countries[1] have reached the completion point under the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative process. Even after the HIPC Initiative process is completed, several recipient sub-Saharan African countries will still have unsustainable debt burdens, while most of the others will still not be able to sufficiently accelerate their development agenda to achieve the goals mutually agreed with the international community. For those countries that need it most to achieve the MDGs, 100% debt cancellation must be provided hand in hand with increased development assistance and strengthened African governance.

7.3.1 Strategy for Africa's debt re-negotiations

271. One general argument is that in order for Africa to be able to face the challenges of globalisation, it needs abundant financial resources, which are presently not available. *Debt cancellation* will release additional resources to African countries, thereby enabling them to accelerate economic growth, diversify the composition of their outputs, create new employment opportunities and reduce poverty.

272. It is recommended therefore that given the urgent need for a permanent solution to the debt overhang of most African countries if they are to make meaningful progress in attaining the MDGs the following approaches be pursued:

- Debt relief should be linked to poverty reduction and long-term sustainability.
- Increase grant flows (partly via the increase in ADF and IDA grants) to allow HIPCs to borrow less to fund the MDGs.
- Ensure a more equitable balance of country grant/aid allocations.
- Increase grant flows where the country has higher domestic debt burdens.
- Provide adequate grant contingency financing to protect against (or compensatory financing to respond to) shocks, to avoid new borrowing; and
- Debt cancellation especially for the African LDCs be considered based on economic incapacity, economic justice, necessity and the principles of international law.

7.3.2 Steps required after debt cancellation

273. Africa's debt problem should not be seen as a panacea. In order to avoid a repeat of the current debt crisis.bold steps will have to be taken by African countries. In that regard, African *governments* should:

1) reform and diversify the economies of their countries;
2) create a favourable environment for private sector business;
3) reduce the vulnerability of the economies vis-à-vis external shocks; and

1 IMF, World Economic Outlook, September 2004

4) improve debt management as a high priority by governments across Africa after debt cancellation.

7.4 Strategic Partnerships

274. Enhanced partnership at the domestic, continental and international level is required if Africa is to meet the MDGs. Effective use of resources would require concerted actions and constructive synergy among governments, local communities and civil society, the private sector, continental and regional development institutions as well as the global community.

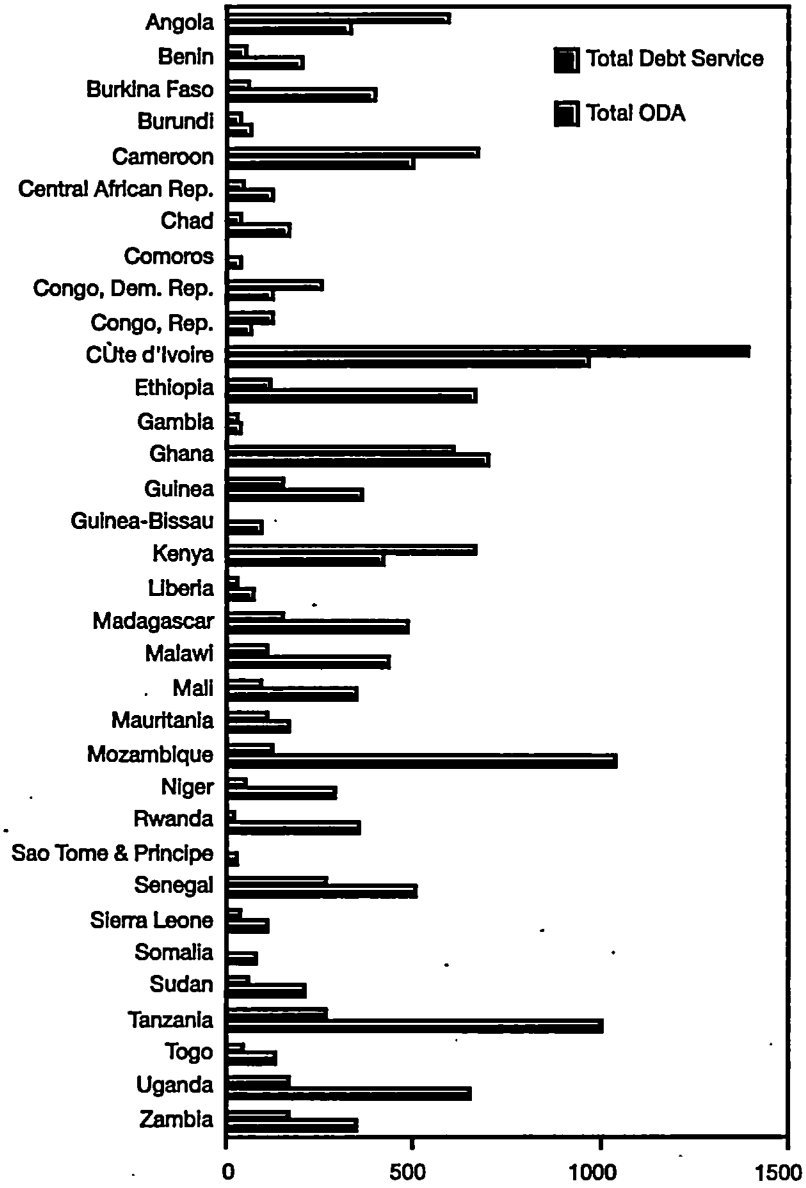
275. The achievement of the MDGs requires more than the capacity of any single agency or country. Cooperation and collaboration arrangements among multilateral, bilateral and regional agencies need to be strengthened. Development agencies can collaborate at the country and continental level in terms of:

- Exchange of information and good practices.
- Institutional and human capacity building.
- Co-financing of projects and programmes, and
- Harmonisation and alignment of policies, procedures, guidelines and practices.

276. At the domestic level, local communities, civil society and private sector can play a critical role by supporting policy processes and by providing material support for specific MDG-related programmes and activities. Partnership in the provision of social services, consultation and collaboration in the development of projects and programmes, and participation in policy formulation, implementation and monitoring are also positive approaches to meeting the MDGs.

277. The private sector, for example, can support the achievement of the MDGs by generating employment and incomes for households. Incentives have to be developed, however, for private sector firms to invest in sectors that can generate the greatest impact in terms of employment and poverty reduction such as agriculture and food security. The private sector can also supplement public efforts in the provision of social services, including education, health, water and energy. For all these to happen effectively, corporate governance needs to be improved.

Figure 17: ODA and Debt Service in HIPC Countries, 1998



8.0 Strategic Actions for Africa to Achieve the MDGs and Long-Term Development beyond 2015

278. This report presents a road map for collective action for enabling Africa to effectively address the challenges it faces in achieving the Goals by 2015. North Africa is progressing well toward the MDGs but can accelerate faster and like the rest of Africa more attention needs to be paid to good governance and promoting gender equality. The rest of Africa still faces other serious mitigating factors of peace and security, the high prevalence of HIV, TB and malaria and breaking the poverty-demographic trap.

279. If the Millennium Development Goals are met, poverty in all its dimensions will be dramatically reduced. However, Africa needs not only to address the significant challenges it faces but also to look beyond meeting the goals, which represent the minimum requirements for ensuring a better life for all. Addressing other long-term development issues beyond 2015 is essential. The Millennium Development Goals should be situated within medium term national development plans and longer-term strategic visions.

280. African leaders in partnership with all national stakeholders and with the international community will need to move with urgency and act swiftly to ensure progress. It will take a combination of National policies and priorities, enhanced regional integration, continental response under the auspice of the African Union and the NEPAD socio-economic programme and effective financing and strategic partnerships to make a difference. The main pillars for strategic action include: Peace and Security; Broad based pro poor growth and social policy; regional integration and harmonisation, regional infrastructure development, science and technological development and regional trade; effective domestic resource mobilisation and utilisation, increased ODA, debt relief and debt cancellation, and removal of trade barriers.

281. The Africa Common Position paper outlines the key action oriented policy recommendations for accelerating progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. This will act as the basis for African leaders to take decisive action in propelling the continent forward at the Heads of State Summit in July 2005.

282 African leaders remain determined to act together to eradicate poverty in Africa and to 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. Nonetheless, they recognise that the Millennium Development Goals provide a global framework for working together. Africa will need all the assistance it can get

from the international community as it walks the path of achieving the Millennium Development Goals and achieving sustainable development and poverty reduction beyond 2015.

Annex I Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Goals and Targets (from the Millennium Declaration)	Indicators for monitoring program
Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	
Target 1: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day	1. Proportion of population below $1 (PPP) per day 2. Poverty gap ration [incidence x depth of poverty] 3. Share of poorest quintile in national consumption
Target 2: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	4. Prevalence of under weigh children under-five years of age 5. Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption
Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education	
Target 3: Ensure that, by 2015, Children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.	6. Net enrolment ratio in primary education 7. Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5 8. Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds
Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women	
Target 4: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and to all levels of education no later than 2015	9. Ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education 10. Ratio of literate females to males of 15-24 year-olds 11. Share of women in wage employment in the non agricultural sector 12. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament
Goal 4: Reduce child mortality	
Target 5: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate	13. Under-five mortality rate 14. Infant mortality rate 15. Proportion of 1 year-old children immunized against measles
Goal 5: Improve maternal health	
Target 6: Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio	16. Maternal mortality ratio 17. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	
Target 7: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.	18. HIV prevalence among 15-24 year old pregnant women 19. Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate 20. Number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS

Target 8: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases	21. Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria 22. Proportion of population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures 23. Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis 24. Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course (DOTS)
Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability	
Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources	25. Proportion of land area covered by forest. 26. Ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area. 27. Energy use (kg oil equivalent) per $1 GDP (PPP) 28. Carbon dioxide emissions (per capita) and consumption of ozone-depleting CFCs (ODP tons). 29. Proportion of population using solid fuels.
Target 10: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water	30. Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source, urban and rural.
Target 11: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers	31. Proportion of urban population with access to improved sanitation. 32. Proportion of households with access to secure tenure (owned or rented)
Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development	
Target 12: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system	*Some of the indicators listed below are monitored separately for the least developed countries (LDCs), Africa, landlocked countries and small island developing States.*
Target 13: Address the special needs of the least developed countries Includes: tariff and quota free access for least developed countries' exports; enhanced program of debt relief for HIPC and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction	**Official development assistance** 33. Net ODA, total and to LDCs, as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national income 34. Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation) 35. Proportion of bilateral ODA of OECD/DAC donors that is united 36. ODA received in landlocked countries as proportion of their GNIs 37. ODA received in small island developing States as proportion of their GNIs
Target 14: Address the special needs of landlocked countries and small island developing states (through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly)	**Market access** 38. Proportion of total developed country imports from developing countries and LDCs, admitted free of duties 39. Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries 40. Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as percentage of their GDP 41. Proportion of ODA provided for trade

Target 15: Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term	**Debt sustainability** 42. Total number of countries that have benefited from HIPC 43. Debt relief committed, US$ 44. Debt service as a percentage of exports
Target 16: In co-operation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth	45. Unemployment rate of 15-24 year-olds each sex and total
Target 17: In co-operation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries	46. Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis
Target 18: In co-operation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications	47. Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 population 48. Personal computers in use per 100 population and internet users per 100 population

Source: United Nations.

Annex II: Recommendations of the AU/NEPAD Regional Workshops

North Africa Regional Consultation

In the light of the presentations and the ensuing discussion, the participants in the AU NEPAD MDG regional consultations agreed on the following recommendations:

1. At national level:

- Ensure the integration of MDG in economic, educational and cultural development policies and set up of national and regional targets relevant with the needs of each country.
- The need to give real priority to labour related issues, such child and migrant labour, to achieve MDGs and elaboration of mechanisms for the management of international contribution in MDGs and poverty reduction.
- Grant more importance to agricultural development and environment protection.
- Give necessary attention to SME and integrate informal sector in formal economy.
- Elaborate a policy for social cohesion.
- Strengthen the participation of all social categories and women empowerment.
- Develop institutional and human capacities.
- Improve and harmonize data at regional and local levels, and develop good economic and social information through its adaptation to international indicators.
- The need to make labour a central factor in the fight against poverty and in development policies.
- Foster good political and economic good governance.
- More equitable repartition of development outcomes.

2. At regional level:

- Develop macro-economic policies, social cohesion and political integration that are consistent with regional integration dynamics.

- Develop common complementary policies namely in the field of agriculture, infrastructures, new technologies of information (NTIC).
- Set up policies favourable to the development of intra-regional trade exchange.
- Enhance intra-regional and inter-regional trade.
- Extend the basis for a common production and import.
- Strengthen policies related to migration.
- The need to coordinate and harmonize policies.
- Harmonize applicable legislations (tariffs, customs).
- Develop social sector policies and harmonize social legislations.
- Settle conflicts by peaceful means and avoid armed conflicts.
- Ensure the protection of environment.

3. At international level:

- The approach of debt cancellation must be consistent with MDGs achievement.
- Promote the effectiveness of development public assistance, improve its predictability and provide data according to a time-bound schedule (the recommendations of the Commission for Africa are considered as relevant).
- Accelerate the negotiations to reach Doha-round development targets.
- Remove agricultural subsidies.
- Extend international market access to African exports and suppress non tariff barriers.
- Promote Africa as FDI receiving region.
- Organize international assistance to capacity building.
- Promote south-south cooperation.

East and Southern Africa Regional Consultation

1. At National level :

- Consolidate gains in politics and governance: - Although considerable progress has also been made in improving governance – through initiatives to curb corruption, improve transparency and accountability in the public service, decentralization of governance and greater participation by non-state actors in decision-making, it is imperative that more efforts continue to be directed in this area. Such efforts should also include initiatives to enhance effective participation of local constituents from` the local government level and enhanced collaboration between the government, the donor communities and other stakeholders involved in the development process.

- With regard to viewing Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers as a means of achieving Goal 1 (eradicating extreme poverty), the Group was concerned by the fact the PRSP framework has been prescribed by international institutions. Instead, the Group perceived a need for African-owned strategy papers that deal with poverty.
- The critical role of the state in achieving the MDGs in Africa (as in other regions/continents) should be emphasised.
- Accelerate programme implementation: - Some countries have made considerable progress in formulating various policies and in establishing supportive frameworks for their implementation. Nevertheless, implementation continues to lag behind. This is partly attributed to financial constraints, capacity constraints in government machinery, weak monitoring and evaluation for many of the MDGs and poverty indicators, and limitations that continue to plague the institutional environment for effective poverty reduction. The measures that need consolidation in most countries include: Overcoming slowness in policy implementation; Improving implementation capacity and strengthening frameworks for policy monitoring and evaluation; and More efficient management and use of existing resources.
- It was recommended that despite the good intentions of the cash transfers schemes, there was a need to consider other social protection programmes that generate employment opportunities since this would be the most suitable manner to assist people to move away from the poverty trap and guarantee sustainable livelihoods. The expansion of other social protection programmes such as education, healthcare etc. was vital to address social inequalities as well as endemic poverty.
- Child Mortality and maternal deaths continue to be a major problem facing the Southern African region. It is therefore suggested that the immunization programmes pursued in these countries should be stepped up. In addition, food supplements should be made available to mothers in addition to providing access to affordable health services. The educational campaigns on basic health care should also be intensified and this should be done in different languages. Also, in order to reduce maternal deaths, TBAs should be trained to provide child delivery services at the local communities.
- It was recommended that the role of the media around the MDGs was under-emphasised and, therefore stressed that participatory media could be quite useful in terms of creating a register of communities that are deprived, and could provide policy makers and donors with a point of entry in terms of targeting areas. It could also be important in terms of accountability with respect to resources. The meeting called on all stakeholders to maximize the role of the media as an information and communication tool for assisting social protection programmes and strategies.

2. At Regional level:

- Consensus on common actions relating to the MDGs could be developed. At the regional level, there is a need for countries to interact and work as regional blocs. COMESA, NEPAD, SADC come together and find out why targets have not been achieved. From a continental perspective, little effort has been made to look at achievements, failures and the reasons for such failure.

- Resource mobilisation was a critical area of consideration, especially human resource mobilisation which is important in the fight against poverty as well as in enhancing partnerships

3. At International Level:

Types of partnership for progressing towards global commitments were classified as follows:

- There is a need to consider partners and linkages at different levels particularly South-South co-operation.
- Mutual accountability and improved aid management are critical and both donors and African government should adhere to agreed upon principles.
- Apart from government and multilateral agencies, one suggestion was to recognize that multinational corporations may also become potential allies in development.

West and Central Africa Regional Consultation

1. At National level :

- Deepen macro-economic reforms, increase pro-poor spending and enhance domestic competitiveness and efficiency as foundations for a favourable investment climate and pro-poor growth.
- Strengthen democratic institutions and systems of public accountability;
- Countries in the region must invest in human capital development;
- Reform of existing social systems, particularly those relating to gender and children, as well as the right to own property – land, especially by women would enable an empowerment of the majority of the population. This can release a potentially powerful source of growth within countries and also result in a rapid re-distribution of wealth, which policy alone is impotent to effect.

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