



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

9 September 2008

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the revised draft political declaration for the high-level meeting on the theme “Africa’s development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward,” which will take place on 22 September 2008.

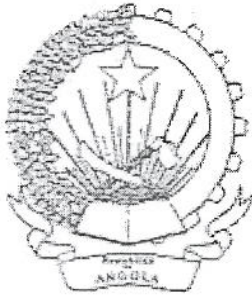
I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the co-facilitators, Ambassador Ismael Gaspar Martins of Angola and Ambassador Frank Majoor of the Netherlands, for their continued dedication and hard work in preparing this draft.

I would encourage delegations to attend the second informal consultations to be convened by the co-facilitators on Friday, 12 September 2008, from 10am – 1pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Srgjan Kerim'.

Srgjan Kerim

All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York



9 September 2008

Excellency,

We write to you in our capacity as co-facilitators for the political declaration to be adopted on 22 September 2008 at the High Level Meeting on "Africa's Development Needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward"

We are pleased to transmit to you a new draft of the political declaration. The changes we made were based on the interventions during the consultation held on 28 August 2008.

This draft will be discussed during the informal consultation on Friday, 12 September 2008, from 10am to 1pm, in the Trusteeship Council Chamber.

We would appreciate if you could distribute this draft to the Member States and invite them for the upcoming consultation.

We would also be grateful if, through your good offices, this new draft could be shared with the incoming President of the General Assembly.

We thank you for the excellent cooperation on this matter,

Yours sincerely,

Ismael Gaspar Martins  
Permanent Representative  
of the Republic of Angola

Frank Majoor  
Permanent Representative  
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

H.E. Mr. Srgjan Kerim  
President of the 62nd session of the  
United Nations General Assembly

*Political declaration of the High Level Meeting on  
"Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments,  
challenges and the way forward"  
22 September 2008*

1. We, heads of State and Government, ministers and representatives of member states gathered at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 22 September 2008 to address Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward. We stress that this high-level meeting represents a unique opportunity to strengthen the global partnership for development in Africa, pivotal to bringing Africa into the mainstream of the global economy.
2. We recommit ourselves to reinvigorate and strengthen a global partnership of equals based on our common values, shared responsibility and the determination to collectively act for our common future and to mobilize the resources, including human, financial, and technological, required to end poverty, hunger and underdevelopment in Africa, with the explicit objective of turning existing commitments into concrete actions.
3. We will strengthen support for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) the overarching framework for development cooperation in Africa, as well as for the implementation of national development plans and strategies.

*State of implementation of various commitments*

4. We stress that eradicating poverty, particularly in Africa, is the greatest global challenge facing the world today. We reaffirm our commitment to address the special needs of Africa, a continent where, despite recent considerable improvements, the full and timely achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, remains elusive.
5. We will support the consolidation of democracy in Africa and assist Africans in their struggle for lasting peace, poverty eradication and sustainable development.
6. We underline that good governance at all levels is essential for sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development. We welcome the progress many African countries have made with respect to implementing pro poor economic policies, deepening democracy and protecting human rights. We stress the importance of African-led initiatives to strengthen political, economic and corporate governance, such as the African Peer Review Mechanism.
7. We recommit ourselves to actively protecting and promoting all human rights, the rule of law and democracy, including through African and international human rights mechanisms.
8. We welcome the efforts of African governments to mobilize domestic resources and attract private capital to finance the investments and expenditures needed to achieve their development goals. We underscore the importance of an enabling environment at all levels, which is vital for mobilizing domestic resources, increasing productivity, reducing capital flight, fighting corruption, encouraging the private sector and attracting foreign direct investment. We underline the importance of human, professional and institutional capacity-building to development.
9. We stress the importance of strengthening domestic financial sectors as a source of capital, by making them truly inclusive thus expanding access to financial services.



10. We underline the importance of increasing foreign direct investment into Africa and its diversification away from the extractive industries for greater employment generation, transfer of technology and knowledge as well as access to international markets.
11. We are concerned that, at the current rate, the goal of doubling aid to Africa by 2010 will not be reached. We call for the fulfillment of all Official Development Assistance commitments, including the commitments by many developed countries to increase their Official Development Assistance to 0.7 percent of Gross National Income by 2015, including the specific target of 0.15% to 0.20% of GNI for Least Developed Countries by 2010.
12. We welcome the increased aid flows from new development actors, such as middle-income countries, global funds, the private sector and civil society organizations.
13. We emphasize the special importance of continued work towards durable solutions to debt sustainability and management of African countries.
14. We recommit to improve the effectiveness of development assistance and stress in this regard the fundamental principles of ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results and mutual accountability. We call for the full implementation of the Accra Agenda for Action.
15. We will promote South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, which have great potential to facilitate the exchange of successful strategies, practices and experiences.
16. We welcome the commitments made by Africa and its development partners in the context of various important initiatives and partnerships in recent years, such as, inter alia, the Africa Partnership Forum, the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership, the China-Africa Partnership, the Africa-European Union Strategic Partnership, the G8-Africa partnership, the Millennium Challenge Account, the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief of the President of the United States of America, the Africa-Turkey Cooperation Summit, the Africa-South America Summit and the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD).
17. We urge the United Nations system, international and regional financial institutions and other multilateral development partners to continue to support African governments in their efforts to implement national development strategies and programs. We stress the need to strengthen the capacities and capabilities of the United Nations in supporting Africa's development.
18. We are concerned that Africa's share of international trade is only 2% and underline the important role that trade plays in promoting economic growth. We call for Africa's share of international trade to be increased through regional integration and greater integration into the global economy and fulfillment of our commitment to a well-functioning, universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system which promotes sustainable development. We commit to redouble our efforts to achieve a successful development-oriented outcome of the Doha Round of trade negotiations. We call for stronger national action and international support to build domestic productive competitive export supply capacities, as well as trade-supportive logistics for African countries.
19. We stress the need for well functioning national and international financial systems, which should have the capacity to help reduce uncertainty and support economic growth. We recognize the need to enhance the voice and participation of developing countries in policymaking in the areas of trade, money and finance



20. We underline that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. We stress that conflict prevention, resolution and management and post conflict consolidation are essential for the achievement of the objectives of the special needs of Africa. We welcome the progress that the African Union and the subregional organizations have made in this regard, inter alia through the strengthening of Africa's Peace and Security architecture.
21. We call for intensified efforts and a coordinated approach between national Governments, the African Union, subregional organizations, the United Nations system and partners with a view to achieving further progress towards the goal of a conflict-free Africa. We stress the importance of and pledge to support peace consolidation mechanisms and processes, such as the *African Union Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development Framework* and the UN Peacebuilding Commission. We welcome the intensification of the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union on peace and security and underline the importance of the implementation of the ten-year capacity-building program for the African Union. We call upon the international community to assist post conflict countries in achieving a smooth transition from relief to development.

### *Challenges*

22. We recognize that Africa faces a number of serious challenges, including poverty, hunger, climate change, energy supply and HIV/AIDS. We commend African countries for their leadership in addressing these challenges and charting the way forward for the region in the context of NEPAD as well as through national development plans and strategies.
23. We stress that climate change has serious implications for poverty eradication, food security, water and energy. We express concern that Africa faces increased risks from the negative effects of climate change, despite emitting the least greenhouse gases. We underline the urgent need to address both adaptation and mitigation, including financing needs related to such effects and appropriate international cooperation mechanisms and policies, as well as by the reduction of global emissions with at least 50% by 2050, in particular by the contributions from all major economies, consistent with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. We are committed to assist developing countries to improve their resilience to climate change and integrate adaptation into their sustainable development strategies and will support the facilitation of transfer of appropriate technology in order to ensure a low carbon intensive economic development in Africa.
24. We are concerned about the consequences of the global food crisis for poverty and hunger. We call for an integrated response by African countries and the international community to invest in integrated and sustainable agriculture and rural development approaches and stress the importance of strengthening the agricultural sector, as set out, inter alia, in the *Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)* of the *New Partnership for Africa's Development*. We call upon all donors and the United Nations system to increase their assistance to Africa, in particular least developed countries and those that are most negatively affected by high food prices.
25. We welcome Africa's commitment to the *African Water Vision 2025*, the Sirte Declaration on agriculture and water in Africa, and the Sharm El-Sheikh commitments for accelerating the achievement of water and sanitation goals in Africa.
26. We recognize the urgent need for large-scale investments in energy infrastructure, as outlined in NEPAD and are committed to promote innovation, clean energy, energy efficiency and conservation.



27. We reaffirm our commitment to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, recognizing that they are key actors in development.
28. We resolve to increase our efforts to reduce maternal and child mortality and reaffirm our commitment to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015.
29. We note with concern that violence against women and children everywhere continues and often increases and resolve to ensure the strict universal adherence to national and international norms regarding violence against women and girls. We commit ourselves to safeguarding the principle of refugee protection and to upholding our responsibility in resolving the plight of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons, especially women.
30. We recognize the commitment by African governments and regional institutions to scale up their own HIV/AIDS responses in order to curb the devastating effects of this pandemic. We reaffirm our resolve to improve health systems and to provide assistance for the prevention, treatment and care, with the aim of ensuring an HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis-free generation in Africa. We also reaffirm our commitment to achieve the goal of universal access to treatment by 2010 for all those who need it. We call upon pharmaceutical companies to provide drugs, including antiretroviral drugs that are affordable and accessible in Africa. We reaffirm our commitment to research on prevention tools, especially on an HIV vaccine.
31. We renew our resolve to fulfill our commitments towards education, using the full range of bilateral and multilateral instruments, including continued efforts to mobilize resources to meet the needs of the *Education For All – Fast Track Initiative Catalytic Fund*. We emphasize the importance of expanded primary, secondary and higher education as well as vocational education and technical training, especially for girls and women.

*Way forward*

32. Meeting Africa's development needs requires coordinated, balanced and integrated actions at all levels, for the full and timely achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and to comprehensively address all challenges to Africa's development.
33. All commitments to Africa should be effectively implemented and given appropriate follow-up, by the international community and by Africa itself. In this regard, we welcome the Secretary-General's comprehensive review of Africa's development needs and the report of the MDG Africa Steering Group.
34. This political declaration is adopted on 22 September 2008 on the occasion of the High Level Meeting on "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments challenges and the way forward". It seeks to reaffirm the commitment of all states to addressing the development needs on the African continent. In adopting this political declaration, member states reaffirm their belief in a prosperous future for Africa in which core human values of dignity and peace are fully enshrined. In this context, member states further confirm their adherence to the spirit of cooperation that defines the United Nations system and that is based on a partnership among equals.