

2006/17 (Ref. E/2006/26)

Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995,¹ and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world', held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000,¹ the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development² of 16 September 2002, General Assembly resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002 on the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and its support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Welcoming the conclusions of the African Union Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation, held in Ouagadougou on 8 and 9 September 2004,

Recognizing the commitments made in meeting the special needs of Africa at the 2005 World Summit,²

Cognizant of the link between priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which the international community committed itself to addressing the special needs of Africa, and the need to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those set out in the Millennium Declaration,

Bearing in mind that African countries have primary responsibility for their own economic and social development, that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized and that their development efforts need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, and in this regard recalling the support given by the International Conference on Financing for Development³ to the New Partnership,

1. Welcomes the adoption of the chapter entitled "Sustainable development for Africa" in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation");⁴

2. Emphasizes that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development;

¹ *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995*

(United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8).

² General Assembly resolution 57/2.

³ *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7).

⁴ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

3. Welcomes the progress made by the African countries in fulfilling their commitments in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development⁶ to deepen democracy, human rights, good governance and sound economic management, and encourages African countries, with the participation of stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to intensify their efforts in this regard by developing and strengthening institutions for governance and creating an environment conducive to attracting foreign direct investment for the development of the region;

4. Emphasizes that democracy, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society, and effective participation by civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector are among the indispensable foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development;

5. Welcomes the good progress that has been achieved in implementing the African Peer Review Mechanism, in particular the completion of the self-assessment process in some countries, the hosting of country support missions and the launching of the national preparatory process for the Peer Review in others, and urges African States to join the Peer Review, as a matter of priority, as soon as possible, and to strengthen the Peer Review process to ensure its efficient performance;

6. Welcomes the efforts made by African countries and regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union, in developing sectoral policy frameworks and implementing specific programmes of the New Partnership as well as mainstreaming a gender perspective and the empowerment of women;

7. Emphasizes the importance of African countries continuing to coordinate, on the basis of national strategies and priorities, all types of external assistance, including that provided by multilateral organizations, in order to effectively integrate such assistance into their development processes;

8. Encourages further integration of the priorities and objectives of the New Partnership into the programmes of the regional structures and organizations by African countries;

9. Recalls that the African Union and the regional economic communities have a critical role to play in the implementation of the New Partnership, and in this regard encourages African countries, with the assistance of their development partners, to increase their support to enhance the capacities of these institutions;

10. Emphasizes that progress in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development depends also on a favourable national and international environment for Africa's growth and development, including measures to promote a policy environment conducive to private sector development and entrepreneurship;

11. Recognizes that while social development is primarily the responsibility of Governments, international cooperation and assistance are essential for the full achievement of that goal;

12. Welcomes the efforts by development partners to strengthen cooperation with the secretariat of the New Partnership;

13. Welcomes also the contribution made by Member States to the implementation of the New Partnership in the context of South-South cooperation, and in this regard encourages the international community, including the international financial institutions, to support the efforts of African countries, including through triangular cooperation;

14. Acknowledges the various important initiatives of Africa's development partners in recent years, including those of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Africa Action Plan of the Group of Eight, the European Union, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, including the Africa-Asia Business Forum, the report of the Commission for Africa entitled Our Common Interest and the Africa Partnership Forum, and in this regard emphasizes the importance of coordination in such initiatives on Africa;

15. Acknowledges also the important role of the Africa Partnership Forum, as set out in the revised terms of reference dated 5 October 2005, which include catalysing action on the measures taken to meet the commitments that Africa and its development partners have made and coordinating support for African priorities and the New Partnership, and encourages the Africa Partnership Forum to strengthen its efforts in this regard;

16. Urges continuing support of measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa, including, as appropriate, debt relief, improved market access, support for the private sector and entrepreneurship, enhanced official development assistance, increased foreign direct investment and the transfer of technology;

17. Welcomes the recent increase in official development assistance pledged by many of the development partners, including the commitments of the Group of Eight and the European Union, which will lead to an increase in official development assistance to Africa of 25 billion dollars per year by 2010, and encourages all development partners to ensure aid effectiveness through the implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness: Ownership, Harmonization, Alignment, Results and Mutual Accountability of 2005;⁵

18. Recognizes the need for national Governments and the international community to make continued efforts to increase the flow of new and additional resources for financing for development from all sources, public and private, domestic and foreign, to support the development of African countries;

19. Welcomes the efforts by development partners to align their financial and technical support to Africa more closely with the priorities of the New Partnership, as reflected in national poverty reduction strategies or in similar strategies, and encourages development partners to increase their efforts in this regard;

20. Acknowledges the activities of the Bretton Woods institutions and the African Development Bank in African countries, and invites those institutions to continue their support for the implementation of the priorities and objectives of the New Partnership;

21. Invites the Secretary-General, as a follow-up to the 2005 World Summit, to urge the organizations of the United Nations system to assist African countries to implement quick-impact initiatives, based on their national development priorities and strategies, to enable them to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and in this respect acknowledges recent commitments by some donor countries;

22. Notes that the entities of the United Nations system have been actively using the regional consultation mechanism as a vehicle for fostering collaboration and coordination at the regional level, and encourages them to intensify their efforts

⁵ See

<http://www1.worldbank.org/harmonization/PARIS/FINALPARISDECLARATION.pdf>.

in developing and implementing joint programmes in support of the New Partnership at the regional level;

23. Encourages the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to continue to strengthen further their existing coordination and programming mechanisms and the simplification and harmonization of planning, disbursement and reporting procedures as a means of enhancing support for African countries in the implementation of the New Partnership;

24. Notes the growing collaboration among the entities of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, and requests the Secretary-General to promote greater coherence in the work of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, on the basis of the agreed clusters;

25. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General's Advisory Panel on International Support for the New Partnership,⁶ and looks forward to its supplementary report, including recommendations on the actions to enhance support for the implementation of the New Partnership;

26. Requests the Commission for Social Development to continue to raise awareness of the social dimensions of the New Partnership and its implementation and to provide recommendations on the measures to achieve this during the policy session in 2008;

27. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to take measures to strengthen the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, and requests the Office to collaborate with the Division for Economic and Social Affairs and to include the social dimensions of the New Partnership in its comprehensive reports to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session;

28. Encourages continued focus on the situation of social groups and persons infected with and affected by HIV and AIDS, malaria and other infectious diseases;

29. Decides that the Commission for Social Development should continue to give prominence to the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development during its forty-fifth session.

39th plenary meeting

26 July 2006

* For the discussion, see chap. II, sect. A, paras. 4-8.

⁶ A/60/85.