



Provisional Program for the African Development Bank
2003 Annual Meetings Symposium:
Jointly Sponsored with the UN Economic Commission for Africa

*“Poverty Reduction, Social Development, and the Millennium
Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa: Are We Making Progress on the
Ground?”*

United Nations Conference Center, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
2 June 2003

Over the last decade, most African countries have implemented far-reaching reforms in their economic and social policies. Turning away from the state-centered development paradigm of the past, there is now a broad consensus that the proper role of the state is the creation of an enabling environment for private sector led growth. There is also agreement on the importance of adopting prudent macroeconomic policies to promote stability and predictability and thereby encourage greater levels of investment from both domestic and external sources. Most African governments have in addition set poverty reduction as a central policy objective. This is evidenced by the formulation and adoption of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) by a large number of countries.

These policies have on the whole led to higher rates of economic growth for many African countries, although there is considerable variation in individual country performance. Greater amounts of public resources have also been devoted to the social sectors. Despite these advances, there is still a widespread view that actual progress on the ground -- measured in terms of tangible improvements in the standards of living of the populace -- is quite limited. The Symposium -- by bringing together senior policy makers, researchers and academics, representatives of civil society organizations, as well as representatives of Africa's multilateral and bilateral development partners -- will examine these issues. Further, It will seek to identify the additional steps that African countries and their development partners could consider to reduce poverty significantly and make tangible progress towards meeting the MDGs.

Program

9:00 – 10:30 **Opening Session: Welcome and Keynote Speakers:**

- Welcoming Address: **Mr. Omar Kabbaj**, President of the ADB
- Welcoming Address: **Mr. K.Y. Amoako**, Executive Secretary, UN Economic Commission for Africa
- Keynote Address: **H.E. Mr. Mamadou Tanja**, President of Niger
- Keynote Address: **H.E. Mr. Meles Zenawi**, Prime Minister of Ethiopia

10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:00 – 13:00 **Plenary Session:** *Taking Stock: Is Africa Making Sufficient Progress Towards Meeting the MDGs?*

The Plenary Session will examine where African countries currently stand in terms of their efforts to meet the MDGs. In addition to examining the progress at the continental level, the Panel will also seek to determine if there is indeed increasing differentiation among African countries in terms of policies and actual progress on the ground. Further, the Panel will seek to draw up lessons from best practices across the continent and arrive at a consensus on the additional policy measures that African countries could consider to accelerate progress towards reaching the MDGs.

Chair: Ms. Luisa Dias Diogo, Minister of Finance, Mozambique

Speakers:

- **Mr. Ali Badjo Gamatie**, Minister of Finance and Economy, Niger
- **Mr. Abdoulaye Diop**, Minister of Economy and Finance, Senegal
- **Mr. Donald Kaberuka**, Minister of Finance and Planning, Rwanda
- **Mr. Abdoulie Janneh**, Asst. Administrator and Regional Director for Africa, UNDP
- **Mr. Henock Kifle**, Director, Development Research Dept., ADB

13:00 – 14:30 **Lunch Break:** Luncheon Keynote Speaker. **Mr. Donald Kaberuka**, Minister of Finance and Planning, Rwanda

14:30 – 16:30 **Panel Sessions**

Panel 1: **Reducing Poverty by Half and Accelerating Pro-Poor Economic Growth: What More Should Be Done?**

Raising the GDP growth rates of African countries to levels of between 7-8 percent per year is generally regarded as essential for reducing poverty and for making progress towards the MDGs. It is, moreover, also clear that the growth will need to be pro-poor – i.e., utilize more effectively the labor and other resources of the poor – if it is to result in the reduction of poverty. The Panel will examine the progress that African countries have made in raising their economic growth rates and reducing poverty. It will also discuss what additional measures they could consider.

Chair: Mr. Bassary Touré, Minister of Finance, Mali

Speakers:

- **Mr. Ambroise Fayolle**, Deputy Director, Debt, Development and Emerging Markets, Ministry of Economy, Finance and Industry, France
- **Mr. Patrick K. Asea**, Director, Economic and Social Policy Division, ECA
- **Mr. Ermias Amelga**, Executive Director, APEX Bottling Co. Ethiopia
- **Professor Charles Soludo**, University of Nigeria
- **Professor J.C. Berthelemy**, University of Paris 1

Panel 2: Expanding Education Opportunities: the Challenge of Sustaining the Progress

Over the last decade, a number of African countries have increased significantly their investments in education and have taken measures to improve the access of the poor, as well as improve the quality of the education offered. The challenge facing most countries is to continue on the path of expanding this essential service while at the same time ensuring that resources are used efficiently. The Panel will examine these issues and come up with proposals on how African countries can best meet the challenge of sustaining progress in the education sector.

Chair: Ms. Anne Therese Ndong-Jatta, Minister of Education, the Gambia

Speakers

- **Mr. Pius Ngwandu**, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Tanzania and President of MINEDAF, VIII
- **Chief (Mrs) Amina Titi Abubakar**, Founder, Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF), Nigeria
- **Mr. Mamadou Ndoye**, Executive Secretary, Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA)
- **Mr. Michael Sarris**, Director, Regional Capacity Building for Africa and MENA, World Bank Institute
- **Ms. Zeinab El-Bakri**, Director, Social Development Department, West and Central Region, ADB

Panel 3: Improving Health Services and fighting The HIV/AIDS Pandemic and other Communicable Diseases

Three of the eight MDGs relate to health issues: reducing child mortality; improving maternal health; and fighting the HIV/AIDS epidemic and reversing the incidence of malaria. Aside from the direct health benefits, achieving these goals would also have many other beneficial social and economic consequences. For example, the enormous economic toll that the HIV/AIDS pandemic, malaria, and other communicable diseases are taking on African countries is now generally well known. These health problems are preventing many countries from achieving their potential economic growth rates. The HIV/AIDS pandemic in particular has become the primary cause for a lowering of social welfare indicators such as life expectancy, morbidity and mortality in many countries. Clearly, more effective strategies are required to make progress towards the MDGs. The Panel will discuss these issues and will seek to come up with recommendations on the additional courses of action that African countries could consider.

Chair: Mr. Samb Badara, Responsible Officer for Africa, HIV Department, WHO Geneva

Speakers

- **Professor Alan Whiteside**, University of Natal
- **Mr. Godfrey Sikipa**, Deputy Associate UNAIDS Africa Division, Director for East and Southern Africa, Geneva
- **Ms. Hayet Zaara**, President, Women Association 'Tunisie 21', Tunisia
- **Mr. Alex de Wall**, Coordinator, Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance (ECA)

Panel 4: External and Internal Partnerships and Achieving the MDGs

In the context of recent international fora (Monterrey, Kananaskis, Johannesburg), the donor community has acknowledged that Africa will need the support of its development partners in order to make progress towards the MDGs. And in the context of NEPAD, African countries have called for a new partnership based on mutual benefits and accountability. In addition, there is a need to forge stronger partnerships at the regional and national levels. The Panel will examine the progress made in these different areas of partnerships and suggest ways of strengthening them to boost the prospects of attaining the MDGs.

Chair: Mr. J. Braga de Macedo, President, Development Center, OECD

Speakers

- **Hon. Peter Anyang Nyongo**, Minister of Planning, Kenya
- **Mr. Seigi Hinata**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary for TICAD III, Japan
- **Mr. Theodore Nkodo**, Vice President, North and East Region, ADB
- **Mr. Hassan Ziady**, Chief Editor, Groupe Jeune Afrique

16:30 – 17:00 **Coffee Break**

17:00 – 18:00 **Closing Session: Summing Up**

Chairs: Omar Kabbaj and K.Y. Amoako
Panelists: Chairs of Panels and Invited Speakers