

# Financing For Development In Africa Abuja 2006 Conference

21st & 22nd Of May

Abuja, Nigeria

...from commitment to action

[www.financingmdgsconference.org](http://www.financingmdgsconference.org)

On 21 and 22 May 2006, over 200 delegates from more than 30 countries, including many African Finance and Education Ministers, gathered in Abuja, Nigeria, for the *Financing for Development: From Commitment to Action in Africa* conference. The conference was called to operationalise the G8 and World Summit commitments in support of the **Millennium Development Goals** (MDGs) in Africa.

The conference dealt with issues surrounding the macroeconomic impacts of scaling up aid, aid architecture, and mechanisms for monitoring financing commitments. The conference was hosted by President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria. Speakers included African Ministers of Finance, the UK Chancellor of the Exchequer, members of the International Finance Institutions and civil society.



Some of the key messages arising from the conference were:

- The **human and economic costs** of failing to scale up development assistance at this critical time far outweigh the costs associated with the potential macroeconomic risks.
- The **MDGs are achievable** in Africa provided the appropriate **planning, funding, and management** mechanisms, underpinned by strong governance structures, are in place.
- Countries need to develop **ambitious, costed plans** that aim to achieve the MDGs.
- The **aid delivery architecture** must be restructured. The Paris Declaration provides a powerful platform for this task.
- **Monitoring of aid commitments** will be critical to the achievement of the MDGs. Monitoring will need to be effected at the local level, by way of grassroots organisations, as well as the regional and international levels.

Ownership in development financing policy is at last within the grasp of Africans. At this conference, African leaders took a first step in guiding the international community towards sincere mutual accountability. It was an unprecedented opportunity for African Finance Ministers to discuss key issues of development on their own terms. The conference series will continue in Ghana in 2007, keeping the momentum for African Finance Ministers and their sector colleagues to set the agenda for articulating solutions to achieving the MDGs.



The 2006 conference was organised by:

- Federal Republic of Nigeria
- African Development Bank
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

# Financing for Development in Africa Conference: Action points arising from discussions

## Action Points for Government

1. Provide additional budgetary resources for achieving the MDGs in line with existing international and regional commitments.
2. A total of twenty (20) countries to provide costed 10-year education plans by September 2006. Ministers agreed to write to the G8, setting out their commitments to present 10-year plans at the IMF/ World Bank Annual Meetings in September.
3. Review and strengthen macroeconomic frameworks in existing and new national development plans in the context of scaled up assistance from development partners.
4. Carry out an analysis of efficiency of public expenditure management systems in ten (10) countries by December 2007. Lessons will be reflected in implementation of 2008 budgets.
5. Make information on government financial operations freely available to civil society organizations (CSOs) and other stakeholders, within the context of existing legal frameworks.

## Action Points for International Partners

6. We call on partners to deliver on commitments already made, and to provide additional resources in a timely and predictable manner to achieve MDG targets.
7. Agree to and fill the existing education financing gap for FTI countries for 2006 and 2007.
8. Review HIV/AIDS plans during upcoming GFATM meeting and commit to increased and predictable funding.
9. IMF to assist individual countries to review their macroeconomic frameworks with a view to strengthening and aligning them towards scaling up for meeting MDG targets. The IMF will report on progress during annual meetings.
10. DAC member countries, who have not already done so, should announce their own action plans to achieve Paris Declaration principles.
11. Provide a progress report on item 10 above at the next DAC high-level meeting.
12. As part of the information needed for mutual accountability, development partner agencies should publish what is disbursed to non-state actors.
13. Explore the possibility of additional assistance to middle income countries with specific problems relating to HIV/AIDS.

## Action Points for Civil Society

14. Establish coalitions to support process of improving preparation and implementation of development plans.
15. At the international level, coordinate efforts towards monitoring aid and agree sustainable framework specifying roles and responsibilities of various actors involved.
16. At the national level, form strong coalitions to monitor progress against commitments by both governments and development partners including monitoring the use of domestic resources.
17. As part of the information needed for mutual accountability, non-state actors should publish their accounts and provide information about the use of funds.