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## Praise for Rwanda as Peer Review process moves forward

**RWANDA** has reached an advanced stage of preparation for its self-assessment under the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), according to an APRM Support Mission which visited Kigali from 21 – 24 June 2004.

Rwanda is the second country after Ghana to receive a Support Mission.

During the visit an APR National Commission was officially inaugurated under the chairmanship of the Minister of Finance, Dr. Donald Kaberuka.

It is composed of 50 members from a cross-section of Rwanda society, including the public and private sectors and civil society.

**Review report  
ready by  
December**

## APR is an engine for growth

## Shared vision of the goals

In his acceptance speech at the inauguration, the Minister announced Rwanda's commitment to complete self-assessment and a preliminary Programme of Action by September 2004. A review report will be issued in December 2004.

The Chairperson of the Panel of Eminent Persons (APR Panel), Ms. Marie- Angelique Savané, led the Support Mission to Rwanda.

The Support Mission's task was to assess the processes and mechanisms put in place by the country to undertake its self-assessment that would lead to the preparation of a Programme of Action, and to sign the Memorandum of Understanding.

The Support Mission said it was pleased to note that Rwanda has reached an advanced stage of preparation for its self-assessment, creating the requisite conditions:

- Appointing the APR National Focal Point;
- Appointing a National Commission to oversee the whole process;  
Commissioning four Technical Review Teams in the areas of Democracy and Good Political Governance; Corporate Governance;
- Economic Governance and Management; and Socio-economic Development; and
- Embarking on a sensitisation campaign throughout the country to educate and involve all national stakeholders in the self-assessment process.

**In his keynote speech at an APR National Stakeholders Workshop on 23 June Dr. Kaberuka emphasised that the review visit was a testimony to Africa's forward-looking agenda and the need for change against the challenges of global marginalisation and poverty on the continent.**

"The APR is an engine for growth by creating an environment for investments and unleashing Africa's potential," he said.

The APRM, he added, was a learning process and an opportunity for Africans to encourage each other through learning from best practices and "peer pressure," where that was needed, and in the process find the right path to development.

"Good governance takes into account the diversity, context and initial conditions of each country. For example, a post conflict country like Rwanda faces a different set of circumstances compared to other stable countries. However there must be a shared vision about the goals".

The Chairperson of the APR Panel accompanied by the APR Support Mission paid a courtesy visit to the Head of State, President Paul Kagame, who underscored the commitment of his government to the review process.

## Rwanda has nothing to hide

The President said he regarded the APRM as a “mirror” in which each country looks at itself and corrects its image.

He noted that the APRM is not only a participatory process but also a corrective one whereby the country would identify its weaknesses and strengths and make appropriate adjustments.

The President expressed his confidence that the process will be objective and that Rwanda has nothing to hide. The APRM, he said would provide an alternative view of Africa to external reviews.

President Kagame reiterated Rwanda’s offer to host the Africa Governance Forum (AGF VI) in December 2004 where Rwanda will share its review experience with other countries.

The President and the Chairperson of the APR Panel then signed the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Rwanda and the APR Panel.

Ms. Savané, on behalf of the Support Mission, expressed her profound appreciation to the Government of Rwanda for the enthusiasm with which Rwanda has embraced the APR process.

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## Issues at the G8 Summit

# Strong support for NEPAD and African Action Plan

**SUPPORT for NEPAD and the implementation of the G8 Africa Action Plan (G8 AAP) was reaffirmed at the meeting between the G8 leaders and African Presidents at Sea Island, Georgia, USA on 10 June 2004 – the last day of the G8 Summit.**

The G8 AAP is a detailed commitment of G8 support for the African development programme and “designed to encourage the imaginative effort that underlies NEPAD”.

The G8 countries at the Summit included the USA, Canada, France, UK, Germany, Russia, Italy, Japan, Ireland and the European Union.

Africa was represented by: President Bouteflika of Algeria, President Kufuor of Ghana, President Obasanjo of Nigeria, President Wade of Senegal, President Mbeki of South Africa and President Museveni of Uganda.

During a press conference after the Summit, President Obasanjo explained that the African delegation had decided to focus on a limited number of strategic issues, all part of both NEPAD and the G8 AAP.

All the African leaders were fully aware of the principal issues occupying the attention of the G8, he said, including Iraq, Israel-Palestine, the UN and the world economy.

The African leaders appreciated the fact that despite the importance and urgency of these matters the Summit host, President George W. Bush, supported by his colleagues, decided that it was necessary to continue the dialogue with Africa.

They welcomed the seriousness with which the G8 leaders responded to the African issues:

These were:

- reaffirmation of the continuing commitment of the G8 to the AAP;
- training and logistical support for the African Peace and Security Council;
- successful conclusion of the WTO Doha Development Round on international trade as originally planned;
- increasing resource flows into Africa by addressing such issues as the African debt and increased support for the World Bank, to enable it to expand its grant and soft-loan financing of African development;
- support for the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), already adopted by the African Union as an important component part of NEPAD;
- similar support for the infrastructure projects already identified through NEPAD;
- strengthening Africa's capacity to prepare the detailed projects and business plans to translate the agreed programmes into implementable projects;
- enhancing Africa's participation in the management structures especially of the International Monetary Fund, as decided by the African Ministers of Finance; and,
- ensuring that the working group constituted by the NEPAD Steering Committee (NSC) and the G8 Committee of Personal Representatives (CPR) works effectively for the implementation of all decisions taken at the Africa-G8 Summits, including those agreed at the Georgia Summit.

**In opening the discussion at the Summit meeting, President Obasanjo highlighted the commitment of African leaders to poverty reduction and the need for a partnership with the highly industrialised countries in the struggle against poverty.**

He appealed for an increased tempo of implementation of the G8 Africa Action Plan and urged that structured dialogue be continued.

President Obasanjo called on the G8 leaders to intervene to resolve the deadlock on multilateral trade negotiations and also asked the USA to renew its Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) before it expires.

He reported on the implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and to continuing reforms in an increasing number of African countries.

Stressing the importance of infrastructure and agricultural development in the renewal of the continent, he called for G8 support for the implementation of NEPAD's Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP).

On conflicts, the President briefed the G8 leaders on the launch of the AU Peace and Security Council and the need for G8 support in establishing an early warning system and the stand-by force.

On HIV and AIDS, he thanked the G8 countries for increased support through the Global Health Fund and the

\$15 million funding by the US Government, but called for better co-ordination of development assistance and channelling through national programmes.

In conclusion, he called for concrete action and determination of attainable targets to avoid the meetings becoming talk shops.

**President Museveni** spoke on trade and added value and the need for developed countries to open their markets to African exports by removing agricultural subsidies. He gave cotton and coffee as examples of the importance of value addition in creating jobs and reducing dependence on aid.

He said Africa was now exporting capital and jobs to the developed countries because it produced and exported raw materials to developed countries. The processing of raw materials created jobs in these developed countries and impoverished developing countries.

He called on developed countries to encourage their companies to manufacture in Africa.

**President Wade** spoke on infrastructure development and stressed the need to increase the tempo of implementation.

Complicated procedures played a major role in slowing down implementation, and procedures between the identification stage and execution took too long. In other words, he said, the paper work must be reduced.

He also mentioned the brain drain and called for compensation for Africa from the developed countries.

**President Kufuor** spoke on agriculture and the need for G8 countries to support the implementation of CAADP. He said commercial farming needed to be developed and infrastructure and access to markets improved.

**President Mbeki** stressed the need to accelerate implementation of the G8 Africa Action Plan and asked the G8 leaders to ensure there is a comprehensive review of progress next year.

He called on the G8 leaders to intervene to ensure that the World Trade Organisation negotiations are concluded successfully next year.

In appealing for another look at debt, and the whole question of resource flows, he recommended that this assignment be given to the African Partnership Forum with an instruction to report at the next G8/African Leaders meeting. On Peace and Security, he proposed that the AU Commission, NEPAD Steering Committee and the G8 Personal Representatives be mandated to prepare the detailed plan and budget as a matter of urgency and then make concrete proposals regarding support by the G8.

**President Bouteflika** said he was satisfied with the coverage of the various issues by his colleagues but endorsed in particular the call for support on conflict prevention and peace support operations.

**President Bush** responded to the discussions on behalf of the G8 leaders:

- On AGOA, he confirmed that he was doing his best to obtain the extension.
- On WTO negotiations, he confirmed that the G8 are committed to ensuring progress – “The spirit is to go forward, but there are differences between us”.
- On Peace and Security he confirmed that they are prepared to help with training and equipment for the stand-by force.
- On aid, President Bush called for better co-ordination, but stressed that the G8 countries are not a homogenous group.

**Prime Minister Blair**

- Confirmed the importance of the partnership through NEPAD.

- Stressed that next year the UK will use its Chairmanship of the G8 to focus more holistically on the development challenges facing Africa. More specifically, he said, they will look at issues of aid, market access, governance and conflicts together.
- Stressed the need for a regional peace keeping force in Africa.
- Responding on questions posed by President Kufuor on what motivates the G8, he pointed out that what happens in Africa is bound to impact on the rest of the world. Allowing centres of despair and failed states to multiply would also undermine the security of the developed countries.
- It is therefore in the enlightened interest of the G8 to partner Africa in its search for poverty reduction and sustainable development.

#### **President Chirac**

- Stressed that priority must be given to NEPAD.
- Called on G8 countries to increase their support of African development through NEPAD.
- Said the challenges facing Africa in poverty, education, health, HIV and AIDS cannot be addressed without additional resources. Not meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) would be a great disappointment.
- Referred to cotton subsidies and their negative effect on African growers.

#### **The Chair of the NEPAD Steering Committee, Prof. Wiseman Nkuhlu, who was a member of the African delegation to the G8 Summit, summed up the discussions with the following main points:**

- Support for NEPAD and implementation of the G8 Africa Action Plan was reconfirmed.
- President Bush responded positively to the call to extend AGOA.
- Support for the implementation of the Peace Support Operation Plan was confirmed.

“The next step is preparation of a detailed implementation plan including costing, operationalising the Peace and Security Council, establishing the stand-by force and the early warning system,” he said.

“The understanding reached is that the AU commission, NEPAD Steering Committee and the G8 Personal Representatives must work together on this.

“The other issue on which there is a meeting of minds, especially with the UK as the next Chair of the G8, is to re-examine the issues around trade negotiations and resource flows, including debt.

“The NEPAD Steering Committee will work with the G8 Personal Representatives and the Secretariat of the UK Commission for Africa to ensure that concrete proposals are prepared for both the NEPAD the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC) and the G8 leaders”.

Professor Nkuhlu said the call by President Bush for co-ordination of bilateral support and support through multilateral structures was most welcome.

“It signifies willingness to ensure that bilateral arrangements, on health in particular, are consistent with national programmes and sub-regional arrangements promoted by African countries.

He added that the concern by all parties to speed up implementation as well as increase development assistance “is very encouraging indeed”.

***Footnote: It was announced on 29 June 2004 that the U.S Senate had unanimously approved the extension of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) from 2008 to 2015, enabling eligible countries on the continent to continue benefiting from duty-free access to US markets.***

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## **Calendar of events**

- **1 - 3 July 2004**, ADB Water Week - Tunis, Tunisia
- **5 July 2004**, Innovative Approaches to Meeting the Hunger MDG - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia