Key Messages

1. Accelerated progress in Africa towards the Millennium Development Goals despite daunting initial conditions.

2. Poverty rates declining at an accelerated rate, especially since 2005. But pace is still too slow to meet the poverty reduction target.

3. Income inequality declining but unacceptably high, and gender and spatial disparities persist.

4. Most countries on track to meet the primary enrolment target but low completion rates, weak quality of education and insufficient levels of funding remain a challenge.

5. Significant progress in representation of women in parliament and gender parity in primary education, but large disparities remain in the transition to secondary and tertiary education.

6. Good progress in reducing malaria, child and maternal deaths, but not sufficient to meet the targets.

7. Significant decline in HIV/AIDS prevalence and incidence among adults, but Tuberculosis (TB) interventions hampered by HIV/AIDS.

8. Remarkable progress in environmental targets with the use of Ozone Depleting Substances declining since 2000 and the proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected increasing.

9. Access to safe drinking water improving, but sanitation still a challenge particularly in rural areas.

10. Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments from Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members still unmet, and disbursements to Africa decline in recent years.

11. Innovations in mobile telephone applications have improved financial inclusion and economic opportunities in Africa.