

FINAL

Chair's Summary : Governance in Development

Recognising that poverty anywhere is a threat to prosperity everywhere, and that prospects for development and poverty reduction are closely linked to governance, the APF acknowledges the impressive progress made by Africa in promoting good governance, especially since the launching of NEPAD. This has resulted in more democratic elections, reduced conflict, increased respect for human rights, and enhanced service delivery. The adoption of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Good Governance in January 2007 is an important step forward. National governments, regional organisations, and continental institutions have all played a key role. At the same time important challenges and constraints remain. We call for the following action from African and development partners:

1. The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) is a clear signal of Africa's readiness to take full responsibility for improving governance, and a milestone in the continent's history. While being based on commonly shared values and principles, the APRM respects the context and history of each country and provides recommendations for action accordingly. The APF expressed its interest in regularly sharing information about the overall progress of the APRM.

(i) We welcome the fact that more countries are expected to sign up to the APRM, and that African governments intend to accelerate and strengthen this initiative, including the effective implementation and monitoring of National Programmes of Action (NPOAs) and their integration into national strategies. We note that African leaders will review progress at the 8th African Peer Review (APR) Forum in Addis Ababa in January 2008;

(ii) We welcome that development partners – while fully respecting African ownership - will assist with capacity-building and we underscore the importance of providing appropriate funding for i) the APRM in line with the principles of the Paris Declaration, in particular the self-assessment process and the implementation of NPOAs, and ii) for African institutions such as the AU, including the Pan-African Parliament.

2. Peace and Security: We welcome the progress that has been made in reducing conflict, and also Africa's growing role in peacekeeping. We acknowledge the importance of the establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the AU as well as the preparations for the African Standby Force. We emphasise the importance of building the capacity of the AU and regional organisations, including for activities related to post-conflict situations, curtailing the illicit trade in SALWs and removing land mines. The co-operation between development partners and the African organisations should be based on the Paris Declaration Principles on Aid Effectiveness.

(iii) We welcome the fact that African governments will continue their efforts towards the full establishment of the African Peace and Security Architecture and its constituent parts, and to accelerate implementation of capacity building programmes of the AU and the RECs.;

(iv) We invite development partners to establish more predictable, flexible and better co-ordinated funding mechanisms, in particular for African-led peace support operations, and to provide more support for capacity-building, and we recommend that this be discussed at the next G8++ meeting with the African Union.

3. Political Governance and the Rule of Law: We welcome the progress which has been made towards multi-party democracy/political pluralism, adherence to the rule of law, and recognition of the rights of women. We support the progress made in many countries towards political and financial decentralisation. We also recognise the vital role of civil society and the media. We note that since the values and principles that underpin national good governance are universal, they should also be applied to every aspect of global governance. We agree to include the mainstreaming of gender issues at a future meeting of the APF.

(v) We welcome the intention of African governments to implement important commitments that they have made in all these areas, especially in relation to gender equality and empowerment of women and the implementation of the Solemn Declaration and the Protocol on the Rights of Women. We also encourage governments to give further attention to the participation and decentralisation processes, and note current efforts by the AU and the RECs to take forward current work on the rationalisation of the RECs;

(vi) We call on development partners to help reinforce the progress being made on governance, with a special focus on gender issues, through its ongoing political dialogue with Africa.

4. Economic Governance: We welcome the progress which has been made in Africa to promote macro-economic stability, to improve public financial management, and the investment climate. We encourage further progress in promoting corporate social responsibility, strengthening accountability through initiatives like the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), and combatting corruption.

(vii) We call on those African countries which have not yet done so to ratify and implement the AU Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption, and note that AU/ECA Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development will review progress on economic governance at their next meeting in Addis Ababa in March/April 2008;

(viii) We call on all those countries which have not yet done so to ratify and implement the UN Convention against Corruption. We also call for strengthened action by OECD countries both to implement the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention, and to detect, recover and return illegally acquired assets held outside Africa.