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MAKING PROGRESS TOWARDS ATTAINING
THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
GOALS IN AFRICA

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AFRICA
PROGRESS PANEL

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FOREWORD

Every generation bears the responsibility of ensuring that the next have a fair chance of leading healthy, prosperous and fulfilling lives. It is in this spirit that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted in 2015.

Nowhere are they more important than in Africa, which will be home to over one in four people on our planet by 2050. If the SDGs don't succeed in Africa, they won't succeed anywhere. Bold action is needed now if we are to meet our targets.

Having served as Chair of the Africa Progress Panel (APP) for ten years, I am firmer than ever in my conviction that Africa can make it.

As Chair of the APP I have observed the tireless energy, courage and creativity of my colleagues and fellow Panel members, of leaders from the public and private sectors, on the continent and in the international arena, and of African civil society on the ground. We have strived for the past decade to make a contribution to Africa's transformation, and have done so with enthusiasm and a positive spirit.

Africa is not a poor continent. It is a rich continent with many poor people.

However, for too long now Africa has been home to poor governance, corruption, lack of proactive leadership, underdevelopment of basic infrastructure, and exploitation of its natural resources. But none of this is inevitable.

As a Panel we have made concrete recommendations over the past decade, in our reports and in our frequent political and public dialogues, aimed at finding solutions to these

challenges. This tenth year anniversary report draws out some of the most fundamental of these recommendations, in the belief that their implementation in the coming decades will be decisive in achieving real progress towards the SDGs.

The APP was set up in 2007 with the mandate to monitor and report on commitments made by the G8 nations and African leaders to bolster African progress. Such a role was vital at the time. As I have said before: the only promises which count are those that are kept. It is easy to commit, but harder to perform.

Since then our mandate has evolved. We are convinced that Africans have to take responsibility for their own development. The international community can and must help – especially now that the world is increasingly global and interdependent. But the international community cannot do it for us.

Over the years we have expanded our mandate to offer critical advice to African governments, urging them to improve their governance and their economies to create equitable and sustainable growth.

We have also increasingly sought to create space for informed discussion on key development issues. We have sought to frame our recommendations and commentaries in a way that is understandable for all, provoking serious discussion and action among civil society.

We have encouraged every individual to ask the hard questions in a spirit of courage and responsibility. Every African must be equipped

with the tools to become agents of their own transformation.

The APP has now reached its tenth year anniversary, and we continue to evolve. The APP will be ceasing its activities at the end of 2017 - but this ending is a new beginning, the close of a phase in a longer journey. We are convinced that the spirit of our work must continue.

A new entity, provisionally named the Africa Progress Group, will be formed, in association with the Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library in Nigeria, to take our work forward. This new entity will create partnerships and push for the implementation of the recommendations we have made over the years in our Africa Progress Reports.

Now is a time for action. The next ten years call on leaders everywhere to implement the recommendations we have made. To do this everyone must move forward with an open spirit, forming alliances and emphasizing real change on the ground. This short report serves to mark the beginning of this transition.

We know what to do. Now we must get it right. Every generation to come depends on it.

KOFI A. ANNAN

ABOUT THE

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*The Africa Progress Panel (APP)
was formed in 2007 to monitor commitments
made to Africa by the international community in
the wake of the 2005 Gleneagles G8 summit meeting,
and The Commission for Africa report,
Our Common Interest.*

Under the chairmanship of Kofi Annan, Nobel Laureate and former Secretary-General of the United Nations, the APP has also focused on the implementation of Africa's own commitments as set out in the Constitutive Act of the African Union (AU) and other landmark international agreements. In 2008 a secretariat was established in Geneva.

The Panel members have formidable capability to access the world of politics, business, diplomacy and civil society at the highest levels in Africa and across the globe. As a result, the Panel functions in a unique policy space with the ability to influence diverse decision-makers.

The Panel builds coalitions to leverage and broker knowledge and to convene decision-makers to create change in Africa. The Panel has extensive networks of policy analysts and think-tanks across Africa and the world. By bringing together the latest thinking from these knowledge and political networks, the APP contributes to generating evidence-based policies that can drive the transformation of the continent.

Besides Kofi Annan, the other Panel members are Michel Camdessus, Peter Eigen, Bob Geldof, Graça Machel, Strive Masiyiwa, Linah Mohohlo, Olusegun Obasanjo, Robert Rubin and Tidjane Thiam. Previous Panel members have included Tony Blair and Muhammad Yunus.

P U B L I C A T I O N S

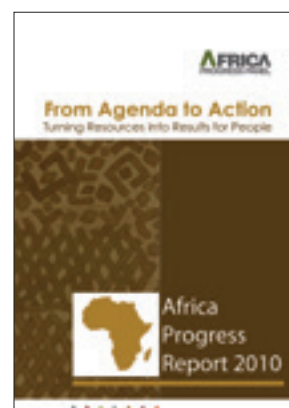
This 10 - year anniversary report draws in part from the insights presented in our previous Africa Progress Reports (APRs) - the APP's flagship publication. The APRs draw on the best research and analysis available on Africa and compile it in a refreshing and balanced manner. They highlight policy recommendations for African

political leaders and civil society, the two groups primarily responsible for advancing progress in Africa. Taking into account the continent's dynamic links with the rest of the world, the APRs also highlight critical steps that must be taken internationally by leaders in the public and private sectors.

Africa Progress Report 2010: *From agenda to action*

The 2010 Africa Progress Report argues that Africa's growth and development should not be measured only in economic growth measured by gross domestic product (GDP), but also by the degree to which they bring social benefits to all Africans.

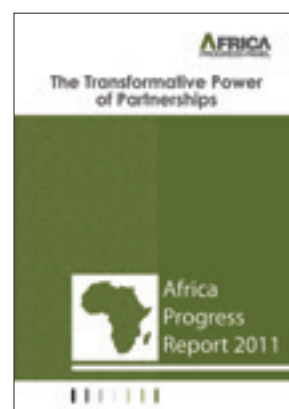
2010



Africa Progress Report 2011: *The transformative power of partnerships*

The 2011 Africa Progress Report focuses on the transformative power of partnerships and cross-sectoral collaboration to capitalize on the comparative advantages of diverse actors and drive sustained social and economic development.

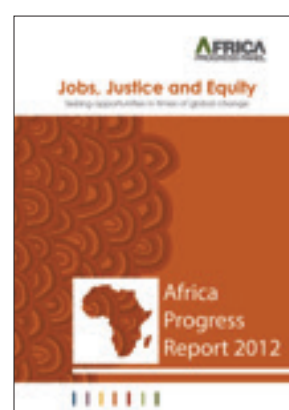
2011

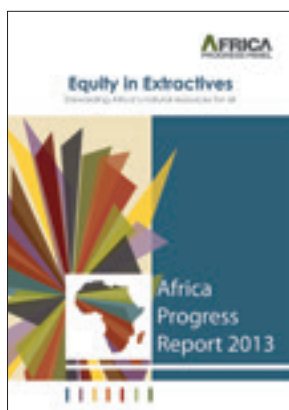


Africa Progress Report 2012: *Jobs, justice and equity*

For many of Africa's people, rapid growth and rising wealth has failed to translate into better lives. This report looks at three of the most critical ingredients for transforming a promising economic upturn – jobs, justice and equity.

2012





2013

Africa Progress Report 2013: Equity in extractives

This report explores how Africa's natural resource wealth, if properly managed, could lift millions out of poverty and improve the prospects of generations to come.



2014

Africa Progress Report 2014: Grain Fish Money

This report argues for an economic transformation in Africa that taps into the continent's fertile agricultural lands, its extensive fisheries and forests, and the energy and ingenuity of its people.



2015

Africa Progress Report 2015: Power People Planet

The 2015 Africa Progress Report explains the bold steps that leaders globally and in Africa must take to achieve universal access to affordable and sustainable energy on the continent. Above all the report shows that the global climate moment is also Africa's moment - Africa's moment to lead the world.



2017

Lights, Power, Action: Electrifying Africa

This report is a follow up to the 2015 Africa Progress report. It calls for an increase in investment in on-grid, mini-grid and off-grid solutions to solve Africa's energy crisis, and power the sustainable socioeconomic development of African nations.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This 10-year anniversary report draws on the expertise of many contributors.

Maximilian Jarrett led the team that prepared this report. Tom Minney was the co-author. Peter da Costa provided advice throughout the project. The report was edited by Janel Siemplenski.

The report benefited from interviews and discussions with a number of prominent African and international decision-makers and thought leaders who have been involved in global dialogue and efforts to transform Africa over the past 10 years. We would like to express our gratitude to the following individuals: Paul Martin (Former Prime Minister of Canada, 2003-2006, and Minister of Finance, 1993-2002); Hakim Ben Hammouda (former Finance Minister of Tunisia, 2014-2015); K.Y. Amoako (Founder and President, African Center for Economic Transformation); Mo Ibrahim (Founder, Mo Ibrahim Foundation); Carlos Lopes (Professor, Graduate School of Development Policy and Practice, University of Cape Town and Visiting Fellow, Oxford Martin School, Oxford University); Kevin Watkins (Chief Executive, Save the Children UK); Myles Wickstead (Acting Chief Executive, Wilton Park, and former Head of Secretariat, Commission for Africa); Lord Nicholas Stern (Chair, Grantham Research Institute, London School of Economics, and former Director of Policy and Research for the Prime Minister's Commission for Africa, 2004-2005); Paul Collier (Professor of Economics and Public Policy, Blavatnik School of Government, Oxford University); Tutu Agyare (Managing Partner and Chief Investment Officer, Nubuke Investments LLP);

Jeanine Cooper (former Representative to the AU, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Ethiopia); Lai Yahaya (former Senior Special Assistant to the President of Nigeria); Yao Graham (Coordinator, Third World Network Africa); Nathalie Delapalme (Executive Director, Mo Ibrahim Foundation); Gayle Smith (CEO ONE Campaign and former Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development); Franklyn Lisk (Professorial Research Fellow, University of Warwick and former Director, International Labour Organisation); Guido Schmidt-Traub (Executive Director, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network); Ngaire Woods (Dean, Blavatnik School of Government, Oxford University); Joseph Atta-Mensah (Principal Policy Adviser, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa); Yacob Mulugetta (Professor of Energy and Development Policy, University College London); Dawda Jobarteh (Managing Director of Community, Solve, Massachusetts Institute of Technology).

The APP also acknowledges the following individuals for their written contributions: Gordon Brown (former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, 2007-2010); Emmanuel Nnadozie (Executive Secretary, African Capacity Building Foundation); Emira Woods (International Working Group, Africans Rising for Justice, Peace and Dignity); Alex Vines (Head, Africa Programme, Chatham House); and Melvin Foote (President, Constituency for Africa).

We drew on the advice and insights of the two former Executive Directors of the APP Secretariat, both of whom were extremely generous with their time. Special thanks are due to Michael Keating (Special Representative, Secretary General for Somalia and Head, United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia) and Caroline Kende-Robb (Chief Adviser, 2017, The Education Commission).

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None of the individuals or institutions above are responsible for errors in the report or for the content, which reflects the views of the Africa Progress Panel.

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TIMELINE

03/05

Release of the "Our Common Interest" report

The Commission for Africa, set up by British Prime minister Tony Blair in 2004, releases its influential *Our Common Interest* report, recommending the establishment of "an independent mechanism to monitor and report on progress" on development in Africa.

07/05

G8 Summit, Gleneagles, UK

The G8 Summit in Gleneagles is hosted by Prime Minister Tony Blair. How to tackle the lack of economic development in Africa is one of the key priorities on the agenda, especially with regards to debt, aid and trade.

06/06

Prime Minister Tony Blair announces the establishment of a panel to monitor progress in Africa

The panel is to monitor and report on the commitments made at the G8 summit meeting in Gleneagles, and on progress made on the continent toward the Millennium Development Goals, whilst maintaining Africa's high profile on the international agenda.

01/07

APP set up in London

Official announcement of the establishment of the APP in London by the UK government with Kofi Annan as the Chairman.

04/07

Official launch of the APP in Berlin

The APP is officially launched in Berlin ahead of the G8 summit meeting. The Panel meets Chancellor Angela Merkel and encourages her to use Germany's G8 presidency and chairmanship of the EU to promote urgent action on Africa.

11/07

APP registered in Geneva as a Swiss foundation

2005

2006

2007



01/09

Kofi Annan Co-Chairs WEF in Davos

Kofi Annan co-chairs the World Economic Forum in Davos and presents the APP's *Preserving Progress at a Time of Global Crisis* report, distributing copies to African leaders at the forum.

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM



ANNAN

MOHOLO

Forum on Africa
10 May 2013

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

World Economic Forum
Cape Town

03/09

The APP organizes a meeting between British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and African Heads of State ahead of the G20 summit

Africa's priorities are discussed in light of the upcoming G20 summit, which British Prime Minister Gordon Brown chairs.

05/10

3rd Africa Progress Report, *From Agenda to Action: Turning Resources into Results for People* launched on 25 May, Africa Day

02/11

The APP meets with French President Nicolas Sarkozy at Élysée Palace ahead of the G8 summit

French President, Nicolas Sarkozy, is the host of the G8 in 2011. The APP urges him to keep Africa at the heart of the development agenda.

06/08

Inaugural Africa Progress Report: *Africa's Development: Promises and Prospects*

06/09

2nd Africa Progress Report, *An Agenda for Progress at a Time of Global Crisis: A Call for African Leadership* launched at WEF on Africa, in Cape Town

05/11

4th Africa Progress Report, *The Transformative Power of Partnerships* launched at WEF on Africa, in Cape Town



2008

2009

2010

2011

TIMELINE

05/12

5th Africa Progress Report, Jobs, Justice and Equity: Seizing Opportunities in Times of Global Change, launched at WEF on Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

05/13

6th Africa Progress Report, Equity in Extractives: Stewarding Africa's Natural Resources for All launched at WEF on Africa, in Cape Town

Liberian President convenes discussion on APR 2013 findings

Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf convenes a discussion on the findings of the APR 2013 during the AU summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

06/13

Kofi Annan special address to the UN security council on the responsible use of Africa's natural resources

"Natural resources are neither a curse nor a blessing. They are simply a source of opportunity. They can be used for tremendous good or they can be wasted" says Kofi Annan, drawing from the findings of the APR 2013.

11/13

Kofi Annan meets with the head of the World Bank to discuss strategy on Africa

Kofi Annan and the head of the World Bank, Jim Yong Kim, meet in Washington D.C. to discuss the World Bank's strategy with regards to the management of Africa's natural resources in the light of the APP's 2013 report.

02/14

African Union Year of Agriculture and Food Security

African Heads of State and Government set 2014 as the year of Agriculture and Food Security. APR 2014, *Grain, Fish, Money* is launched in the same year.

05/14

High Level Panel Discussion at Annual AfDB Meeting

A High Level Panel Discussion on the APR 2014 was hosted at the Annual African Development Bank Meetings in Kigali.

7th Africa Progress Report, Grain, Fish, Money: Financing Africa's Green and Blue Revolutions launched in London, on the occasion of WEF on Africa

2012

2013

2014

01/15

Adoption of the AU 2063 Agenda, "The Africa We Want"

Heads of State and Governments of the African Union adopt Agenda 2063 at their 24th Ordinary Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, reaffirming their commitment to the Pan African vision of "an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena."

05/15

APP engagement with the African Group of Climate Negotiators

The African Group of Climate Negotiators acknowledge the importance of the APP's report on energy and climate in Africa.

8th Africa Progress Report, Power, People, Planet: Seizing Africa's Energy and Climate Opportunities launched in Cape Town.

Within the first five days after the launch, over 60 thousand people download the report, and within ten days nearly 12 million people have tuned in to the launch campaign on social media.

06/15

Kofi Annan supports the Vatican's leadership in addressing the threat of climate change

Kofi Annan applauds the moral leadership demonstrated by His Holiness Pope Francis with the release, by the Vatican, of an encyclical on climate change, "Praise Be to You".

APP Panel Members meet with German Chancellor Angela Merkel ahead of the G7 summit

The G7 final communiqué reflects APP discussions with Chancellor Angela Merkel and the APR 2015. The G7 commits to cut fossil fuel investment and promote renewable energy.

09/15

Adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and publication of the APP Compendium "Global Goals, African Realities"

The APP calls for swift action to achieve the SDGs by 2030, highlighting its policy recommendations for achieving universal access to energy, sustainable fisheries, a vibrant agricultural sector, and increased transparency.

12/15

Paris Climate Agreement

The Paris Climate agreement commits to a process of increasing emission cuts every 5 years to meet the goal of keeping warming under 2 or 1.5°C. Pledges are made to boost climate finance and financing for renewable energy.

09/16

The APP reaches 1 million followers on social media

10/16

APP wins awards for its impactful digital communications strategy

In collaboration with its digital agency, Torchbox, the APP wins two silver awards at the 2016 Digital Impact Awards in the categories of "best use of digital to aid a corporate social responsibility campaign" and "best use of online video."

03/17

Lights, Power, Action: Electrifying Africa, the in-depth follow-up report to the 2015 APR launched at the African Development Bank HQ in Abidjan

2015

2016

2017





O U R I M P A C T

Genesis

The APP has its roots in the momentum generated by the Commission for Africa. The Commission, established in February 2004 by Tony Blair, then British Prime Minister, sought to take a fresh look at the continent's past and present and to assess the role of outside nations in its development. The Commission's innovative, candid report, *Our Common Interest*, published in March 2005, advanced the idea that the world would benefit from a strong and prosperous Africa.

Prime Minister Blair made African development a key objective of Britain's presidency of the G8 summit meeting and its presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2005. In light of the Commission's detailed recommendations, a series of bold commitments were made by world leaders to contribute to a prosperous and sustainable African future.

As the Commission's report highlighted, if its recommendations were to be put into practice there was a need for "an independent mechanism to monitor and report on progress" led by "distinguished and influential figures who carry weight in the international community."¹² Tony Blair convened the APP in this spirit in April 2007 as an independent monitoring structure with unique access to top decision-makers. The APP's primary objective was to monitor and report on progress made on the continent, most specifically in light of the promises made at the G8 Gleneagles summit, and in relation to the Millennium Development Goals. More generally, the APP was to use its unique position to maintain Africa's high political profile on the international stage — essential to ensuring sustained global momentum toward African progress.

Changing the perspective

Africa comprises more than 50 highly diverse countries with markedly different histories and societal contexts, in which different citizens live very different lives and have different outlooks. While ever mindful of this complexity, we believe that it is possible to identify themes and trends that transcend these national and cultural boundaries. Indeed, African countries have increasingly sought to develop a united voice and a common vision to address

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problems that are best dealt with in a spirit of cooperation, and a vision of the continent's future that takes into account global trends.

Over the past decade, Africa and its relationship with the world have changed — and so has the APP's agenda. The APP was conceived at a time when many people believed the West could help Africa most effectively through aid and a "big push" in foreign direct investment.

While individual African nations have made some notable strides in putting forth localized solutions to their problems, many of the problems facing the continent today cannot be addressed in isolation.

But those intentions faded during the global financial crisis in 2008, as many Western countries switched their focus to shoring up their own economies. At the same time, alternative global power centres such as China began to assert their economic might. While individual African nations have made some notable strides in putting forth localized solutions to their problems, many of the problems facing the continent today cannot be addressed in isolation. Climate change, unfair terms of trade, corruption, poor governance, illicit financial flows, tax evasion, the plunder of natural resources, clean energy - these issues demand a collective and coordinated response, at regional and global levels, and Africa is increasingly stepping up to the mark.

The APP has positioned itself as an independent voice, supporting this evolution. We have been strategic in using our collective expertise and unique channels of influence to push for the needed changes to ensure a marked improvement in the lives of all Africans, with an emphasis on combatting rising inequalities on the continent. To this end we have advocated for proactive leadership, both on the continent and internationally, to ensure better governance and more effective management of Africa's vast human and

natural resources. We have regularly engaged with political decision-makers, policy leaders and technical experts ahead of global summit meetings and international gatherings to build understanding and consensus for key decisions on Africa and the world.

African institutions are working hard to promote economic, social and political progress. We have focused our support on projecting a bold and forward-looking, yet nuanced, vision of Africa's potential for progress and transformation. In our reports we have put the spotlight on key recommendations to address complex and high-impact issues, including: energy, governance, peace and security, climate change, food security, financial transactions and sustainable economic development. We have been encouraged that African and global political leaders have engaged seriously with our recommendations and the resonance our recommendations have had with many influential stakeholders within the private sector, the media, policymakers and other circles. This engagement, and the feedback we have received, has contributed to our growing impact.

The APP has consistently stressed the need for all world leaders to work to ensure that Africa's resources, creativity and dynamism are harnessed for the benefit of all Africans — including those who have been, or are in danger of being, left behind by the recent surges in economic growth. In so doing, the Panel has been moved by the conviction that a prosperous Africa is an indispensable catalyst for wider global prosperity.

I N T R O D U C T I O N

How do we ensure that every African individual, now and for generations to come, lives in a world in which he or she has a fair chance of leading a healthy, prosperous, and fulfilling life?

A significant number of African countries are rising to this challenge.

Over the past 10 years, African citizens, their governments, and partners from the wider international community have demonstrated leadership and resolve in accelerating Africa's development. In the past decade, economic growth has increased average incomes by around one-third.¹ If the current growth trajectory continues, and the right macroeconomic and structural policies are implemented, incomes will double over the next 22 years.² Once synonymous with mismanagement and economic stagnation, Africa is now home to some of the world's fastest-growing economies. African business groups have emerged as a powerful force for change in areas such as banking, agro-processing, telecommunications and construction.

These are encouraging developments. Yet progress in reducing poverty, and in putting in place the foundations for more inclusive and sustainable growth, remains insufficient. Viewed through the lens of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), equitable growth is more relevant than ever: if current trends continue, one-third of Africans will still be living in extreme poverty in 2030, far short of the

ambitious but achievable goal set by SDG 1 - to end poverty in all its forms.³

Why has fast growth not translated into fast poverty reduction?

It is partly because because Africa's poor are very poor. Many live on an average of just 70 cents a day, far below the poverty line of US\$1.90 a day.⁴ High levels of initial inequality also mean that it takes a lot of growth to reduce poverty by even a little. But this is only part of the story. Too often governments have failed to convert the wealth created from economic growth into opportunities that all Africans can exploit to build a better future. Reduction of inequalities in income distribution is not sufficiently recognized as a key ingredient of sound macroeconomics.

*Why has fast growth
not translated
into fast poverty
reduction?*

For many countries, revenues from oil, gas and mining have been widening the gap between rich and poor.⁵ The outright plunder of valuable assets, corruption, systematic tax evasion and extensive use of offshore tax havens by foreign and domestic investors and businesses have prevented Africans from making the most of their continent's extraordinary resource wealth.

It is also critical that one in two Africans still lack access to electricity, rising to nearly two out of three lacking electricity in Africa south of the Sahara.⁶ Africa's highly centralized energy systems often benefit the rich and bypass the poor, and are underpowered, inefficient and unequal. Energy-sector bottlenecks and power shortages cost the region 2 to 4 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) annually,⁷ undermining sustainable economic growth, jobs and investment. Limited access to electricity also reinforces poverty, especially among women and those living in rural areas. Africa's poorest are paying among the world's highest prices for energy.⁸ And Africa's poor, who contributed least to the problem, are likely to pay the highest price for the failures of the rest of the world to break the link between energy and carbon emissions. Climate change demands that we rethink the relationship between energy and development, and it is in the interest of all that Africa leads the world in transitioning to a low-carbon future.

***Africa's leaders
must bring the
poorest and most
marginalized
sections of society
in from the periphery
to the centre
of policy design.***

In addition, many Africans, including the majority of Africa's poor, continue to live and work in rural areas, predominantly as smallholder farmers.⁹ If agriculture does not flourish, most Africans will be stranded and miss the rising tide of prosperity. Africa needs a "green revolution". The same goes for the millions of Africans who depend on the ocean for their protein and livelihoods, but are losing their marine resources to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Every year, West Africa loses US\$1.3 billion from these practices off its shores.¹⁰ Africa also needs a "blue revolution."

Africa's green and blue revolutions are held back, among other factors, by a lack of access to formal financial services. Three-quarters of adults in Africa do not have a bank account, let alone access to savings, credit or insurance.¹¹ Along with weaknesses in Africa's infrastructure — poor roads and ports; lack of electricity, sanitation and

water; and the poor management of funds for public investment — progress is bound to be slow.

But these obstacles can be overcome. Extreme poverty can be eradicated as pledged and progress achieved in creating transformative human development on the continent. For this to happen Africa's leaders must bring the poorest and most marginalized sections of society in from the periphery to the centre of policy design. This 10-year anniversary report draws on the APP's efforts over the past decade to develop an agenda for action, for Africa and the world, to harness Africa's resources, creativity and dynamism for the benefit of all.

It also draws on a series of interviews with a small group of influential political and civil-society leaders, renowned academics, successful entrepreneurs, and technical experts engaged at the highest levels in Africa's development, capturing some of their perspectives on Africa's rapid transformation and progress.

In doing so this report looks primarily to the future. It is our belief that, if African leaders and civil society, working closely with the international community, can mobilize around the agenda presented in this report and harness the opportunities presented by new and emerging trends in the coming decade, Africa's transformation will accelerate, and its success be a benefit for all.

The agenda is developed on two fronts, with the following section presenting:

- I. The critical cross-cutting priorities that form the foundation upon which a program of action that has a chance of achieving the SDGs should be established.
- II. The essential elements of the agenda itself, along with targeted policy recommendations for each of these elements.

FINAL REPORT

I .

CRITICAL CROSSCUTTING PRIORITIES

The following policies, on which the programme for action rests, are supported by well-established international consensus. They do not require detailed elaboration. Nevertheless, it is important to remind ourselves that we must give special attention to these critical priorities in the coming years.

Better macroeconomic and structural performances

- Persevere with sound budgetary, monetary and indebtedness policies;
- Build human capital as the cornerstone of Africa's future – there is no tool as effective as education to raise growth and foster inclusion;
- Raise saving and investments rates at a level compatible with development objectives and to this aim reestablish conditions of confidence for domestic and foreign investors;
- Raise productivity, particularly through a special focus on the quality of education and training of teachers. Education should be attuned to the needs of the economy, that will benefit from graduates equipped with the skills required for higher productivity jobs;
- Reduce dependence on commodities by a continuous effort to diversify the economies and a special attention to the informal sectors whose progress will be critical for

the living conditions of a significant part of the population;

- Promote regional integration;
- Among the economic sectors justifying special efforts, energy and agriculture should be prioritized. Smallholder farmers have too long suffered from a combination of indifference and damaging policies. With the right incentives and public spending policies, it is possible to increase their productivity dramatically. Energy and climate adaptation need similar attention. For each of them, our APRs have provided very precise recommendations – many of these remain to be implemented.

Towards an inclusive economy

The above economic priorities should be pursued in the framework of an inclusive economy. To promote this, policies should:

- Pursue inclusiveness and the reduction of income inequalities along the lines of SDG 10;
- Address head-on the demographic challenge. Going forward, it will be important to make contraceptive methods available to all, to educate girls, and to promote responsible sexual behaviour among young men and women. Political and civil societies need to be more active in explaining what many African countries

have done to this end, and the urgent need to follow the lead of successful examples;

- Aim to manage and finance urbanization in such a way that it occurs sustainably and provides real opportunities for Africa's poorest populations. Develop public- and private-sector programs for investment, and make a special effort for the training and growth of local public services.
- Make every effort at the local and continental level to prevent and reduce conflicts;
- Strengthen the rule of law and promote human security;
- Make further headways towards transparency so as to create the proper political climate for all the reforms to succeed;
- Build societal consensus on these basic priorities.

Towards improved governance

- Address the fragilities of current government structures;

I I .

AGENDA FOR ACTION

Sound macroeconomic policies allowing the implementation of an ambitious programme of inclusiveness, in a framework of strengthened, modernized and transparent governance, as described in the section above, are the necessary bases of a programme of action required to implement the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in Africa. This section looks at the more specific opportunities, priorities and challenges crucial to a programme of action for Africa's transformation. We have identified these focus points over the past decade, along with targeted policy recommendations for each area, and we believe that they will continue to be vital in the coming decade. Namely:

- **Mobilize financial resources for Africa's green and blue revolutions**
- **Boost investment in Africa's energy infrastructure**
- **Fight against illicit financial activities and the mismanagement of Africa's resources**

The agenda should be taken forward by all African political leaders, African civil-society activists, private-sector leaders and the global African diaspora community, four groups with great individual and collective potential for advancing progress in Africa. Given the continent's dynamic links with the rest of the world, to be successful, the agenda must also be coherently supported by the international community, in both the public and private sectors.

1 .

MOBILIZE FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR AFRICA'S GREEN AND BLUE REVOLUTIONS

“Africa’s leaders have an unprecedented opportunity to convert the continent’s great wealth into permanent improvements in Africans’ lives. Agriculture and fisheries lie at the heart of this new dawn.”

APR 2014, *Grain, Fish, Money*

The achievements in Africa over the past decade have been significant. According to the World Bank’s 2017 forecast for GDP growth, three out of ten of the fastest growing economies this year will be in Africa.¹³ Yet, Africa’s indicators of wellbeing tell a different story. In the span of three decades, Africa’s share of global child-mortality rates has increased, a larger number of Africans are living in poverty, and undernourishment is on the rise.¹⁴

As highlighted in our APRs, it is imperative to distinguish between the narrative of Africa rising and Africans rising.

These inequalities are exacerbated by the failure of too many of Africa’s government and business leaders to truly harness the vast potential behind most of the poorest Africans depend for their livelihoods on agriculture and fishing¹⁵. These hold tremendous potential for generating long-term wealth for all. Fish alone accounts for over one-fifth of the protein intake of Africa south of the Sahara, provides livelihoods for millions of people and contributes to food security. But resources are being wasted and stocks damaged, potentially permanently. More African governments should sign up to the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) to protect these resources, at

risk and undervalued due to mismanagement, underinvestment and exploitation. Poor fisheries management has tragic repercussions for Africa’s food and nutrition security, livelihood sustainability, and ecosystem regeneration.

As long as illegal fishing remains profitable, African governments face an uphill battle. By a conservative estimate, IUU fishing robs West Africa alone of approximately US\$1.3 billion per year. In Senegal alone the loss from IUU fishing was about \$300 million in 2012, equivalent to about 2 per cent of GDP.¹⁶

The region is also increasingly and, in our view, dangerously dependent on imports. African countries spent US\$35 billion on food imports (excluding fish) in 2011.¹⁷ With proper planning and investment in their fisheries and agricultural sectors, they could substitute these imports with their own production. In fact, Africa has the potential to meet the food and nutrition needs of not only its people, but also global markets.

For the continent to realize its full potential, Africa must now also focus more concretely on ensuring the transformation of its raw materials into finished products within the region. This is critical to adding value to its production output. This can ensure that Africa not only generates, but also retains, the true value of its primary commodities. Yet climbing the value chain demands a set of smart policy decisions to improve the business climate, address infrastructure deficits and high transportation costs, regional trade barriers, and access to capital, and research and development, among other factors. Extending the continent’s recent economic growth to reach the masses necessitates proper investment

Africa has the potential to meet the food and nutrition needs of not only its people, but also global markets.

and management of its agricultural and fishing industries, significant investment in associated local value-added industries and productivity-raising technologies, along with a long overdue boost to regional infrastructure.

i. Support inclusive finance

Only one in five Africans has access to formal financial institutions, with the poor, rural populations, and particularly women, facing the most significant barriers.¹⁹ While the majority of smallholder farmers are women, their lack of access to financial services reflects the social, cultural and legal norms and inequalities that continue to affect women disproportionately. More focus is needed to ensure that these individuals, who form an integral part of the agricultural and fishing value chains, have access to basic financial services. Farmers

Africa must fast track its blue and green revolutions. To ensure that the “Achilles heel of Africa’s development success story”¹⁸ is not neglected in the future, the Panel recommends the following:

require access to finance — credit, savings, and insurance — to mitigate their risks, which are now compounded by the unpredictability of climate change. As noted in the 2014 APR, *Grain, Fish, Money*, the development of more inclusive financial systems is essential, and can be supported via mobile banking and e-commerce. Technology alone is not a solution, however, effective food security strategies have to include safety-net provisions both nationally and internationally through the development of effective social programmes.

ii. Bolster multi-stakeholder initiatives to combat the plunder of africa’s oceans

Secrecy and the lack of regulation and enforcement allow organized illegal fishing to flourish across borders. The gravity of the situation requires traceability throughout the entire supply chain, from the fishing net to the plate.

Even if African countries were to implement the appropriate policies in isolation, it is obvious that the sustainability and final success of these efforts critically depend on the strengthened collaboration of global stakeholders. This is particularly important if Africa is to make progress on SDG 14 - to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources. To combat the plunder of Africa’s oceans, it is essential that all relevant stakeholders are held accountable for criminal activity. Since illegal fishing transcends national borders and waters, global collective action is needed to create a culture of transparency. Instruments such as the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) bring

The gravity of the situation requires traceability throughout the entire supply chain, from the fishing net to the plate.

a transformative multi-stakeholder approach to tackling corruption and lack of transparency in the fisheries sector. Indeed, the diversity of the different stakeholders participating in FiTI forms part of the instrument’s strength. FiTI forms part of a

movement to find new paradigms for global governance that allow for informed public debate - between government, the private sector, and civil society - on key issues. African countries have taken the lead in this regard. A new era of transparency and participation in fisheries was launched in April 2017 through the adoption by five nations of the first FiTI Standard, with four of the five being African nations (Guinea, Mauritania, Senegal, and the Seychelles).

The G7 will also have a critical role to play in terms of mobilizing international support to combat the plunder of Africa’s oceans. It is well known that the resources lost by Africa due to such operations are significantly higher than the financing that the

► IUU FISHING VS. FISHERIES CRIME - CREATING PARTNERSHIPS TO COMBAT THE PLUNDER OF AFRICA'S OCEANS

On a global scale, tackling illegal fishing is often perceived in isolation as a fisheries management problem. However, in recent years the issue of transnational organized crime in the fishing industry has emerged, and added a layer of complexity to the understanding of these issues.

Terminology is important here, and it is necessary to differentiate transnational organized fisheries crime from illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. IUU fishing is a term that concerns fisheries management, while fisheries crime focuses on how to solve criminal cases occurring in the global fishing industry. Understanding not only differences, but also the interconnections between IUU fishing and fisheries crime allows African countries to benefit from cooperation with international organizations. For example, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Police Organization (INTERPOL) both have a crime prevention and suppression mandate, and can assist in punishing the criminals. The UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime should also be used to seek international cooperation to provide assistance in fisheries crime cases. By using this framework, African countries can seek compensation for the stolen fish that have been sold abroad, through the provisions on asset recovery.

Norway and Indonesia have taken the lead internationally to promote this strategy. And in 2017, the Nordic Council of Ministers (including Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland and Åland) released a joint political statement recognizing the gravity of transnational organized fisheries crime.²¹ FiTI also represents a move towards the kind of multi-stakeholder dialogue that is needed to create new norms of global governance for the fisheries sector. African leaders should draw best practices from these initiatives, and adapt them to their national contexts to help end the de facto global acceptance of plunder, human and drug trafficking, and other harmful practices in the global fishing industry. This has already begun. Since the establishment of the INTERPOL Fisheries Crime Working Group in 2012, Africa, recognizing the gravity of these issues, has been the continent with the highest attendance.

continent obtains through official development assistance (ODA). Approximately US\$ 50 billion is drained out of the continent annually due to resource plunder.²⁰ In this respect, the G7 should play an active role in helping African countries in their fight against illicit transactions, particularly through offshore centers. Moreover, the G7 can use their influence to reorient international financial institutions towards more effective

contributions to the development of Africa, particularly by deploying investment guarantee instruments, boosting private investment in Africa's agricultural and fisheries sectors, and in the meeting of its vital infrastructure needs. And finally, the necessary steps should be taken to bring an end to the underrepresentation of Africa in relevant global institutions.

iii. Increase annual expenditure on agriculture and rural infrastructure development

At the 2003 AU summit meeting in Maputo, African leaders committed to allocate 10 per cent of their national budget to agriculture and rural development. The frequent disjuncture between policy and practice must end, it is time that African states honour their commitments. This will require political will - a factor that the African Development Bank (AfDB) has identified as an essential element to drive Africa's agricultural transformation.²² Investments are crucial to address the poor

infrastructure, access to water and sanitation, lack of storage, insufficient research and development, and inadequate road networks that characterize far too many African countries. A recent World Bank study suggests that closing the infrastructure quantity and quality gap relative to the best performers in the world could increase growth of GDP per capita by 2.6 per cent per year.²³ Africa's rural farmers are among those who stand to gain the most from such developments.

2 .

BOOST INVESTMENT IN AFRICA'S ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

More than 600 million Africans still do not have access to electricity, and the number is set to grow in the coming years.²⁴ If current trends continue, universal access will not be achieved until 2080.²⁵ The implications are huge. This situation is simply unacceptable. We have to electrify Africa faster.

Every year, energy-sector bottlenecks and power shortages cost Africa between 2 to 4 per cent of its GDP,²⁶ with power cuts causing factories to stall in production and businesses to close their doors after dark, increasing costs and harming the productivity needed for Africa to compete. Every year 36,000 women die in childbirth in Africa, with potential life-saving medical care hampered by the lack of electricity.²⁷ Every day, as many as 80 per cent of primary schools in certain parts of the continent operate without electricity. Children then return to darkened homes, forcing them to use kerosene lamps or to sit under street lamps at gas stations²⁸ to do homework and revise for exams. Every day, African women must collect firewood or buy charcoal to use for cooking, leading to 600,000 deaths per year from air pollution caused by the fumes, with women and children as the primary victims.²⁹

On a continent that frequently faces food insecurity, a lack of electricity means that food cannot be stored in refrigeration facilities - causing one-third of all food to be squandered.³⁰ Africa is home to 33 per cent of the world's poor,³¹ yet inefficient utilities and faulty grid networks - too often staffed by corrupt officials and designed to serve mainly the urban rich -

result in Africans paying among the highest prices for electricity in the world, especially in rural areas. A woman in rural northern Nigeria pays 30 times more per kWh than the average resident in Lagos, and up to 80 times more than the average resident in Manhattan.³²

Access to reliable and affordable electricity fundamentally changes people's lives - from creating jobs and economic opportunity to improving education and access to health care, from preventing deforestation to improving food security and access to safe cooking facilities. But the efforts to meet current energy needs present another problem which affects us all: climate change. In seeking to provide universal access to reliable and affordable electricity, we risk setting ourselves on a collision course with our planetary boundaries. Climate change demands that we rethink the relationship between energy and development.

Like every other region of the world, Africa must face this challenge squarely and work to break the link between energy and emissions as quickly as possible. However, instead of being a hindrance to progress, a move toward greater energy efficiency, low-carbon technologies and renewable energy sources presents real opportunity for the continent today. Harnessing innovative business models and technologies, Africa can leapfrog current systems and develop low-carbon energy, ensuring universal energy access. The future will be dominated by renewables and energy efficiency. In fact, renewables and their associated technologies are already in serious competition with

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We have to electrify
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traditional high-carbon energy sources. Africa can be ahead of the curve. Its rivers, deserts and mountains provide it with enormous natural potential for renewable energy production.

Renewables could also allow Africa's rural communities to bypass slow and expensive grid-extension projects, managed by utility companies that often lack the incentive to fast-track development. Off-grid and mini-grid solutions could be the answer here. African entrepreneurs and community leaders have begun to harness that potential, demonstrating creativity and initiative in providing reliable access to affordable and sustainable electricity for Africa's poor, and achieving rapid progress. Renewables not only offer business opportunities but also can positively affect people's lives. Solar power energy systems combined with innovative business models have proved to be particularly successful. In Uganda, the use of solar-powered radios to contact birth attendants has led to a decline in maternal mortality rates by 54 per cent.³³ Access to solar-

Energy is the golden thread connecting growth, equity and sustainability. Africa and the world stand to benefit from all Africans having access to reliable, affordable and sustainable energy.

powered electricity for primary and secondary schools in Sudan and Tanzania has improved completion rates, raising them from below 50 per cent up to almost 100 per cent.³⁴ In Burkina Faso and Kenya, off-grid solar power has been made affordable to thousands of small businesses and homes using an innovative pay-as-you-go system, managed through mobile technology.³⁵

Energy is the golden thread connecting growth, equity and sustainability. Africa and the world stand to benefit from all Africans having access to reliable, affordable and sustainable energy.

The SDGs were adopted in 2015 in a spirit of global responsibility.

SDG 7 calls for universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy by 2030. We believe this is possible, but Africa and the global community must demonstrate bold leadership, creativity and foresight as they work toward this aim. Three interconnected vectors will be essential:

i. Push for innovation and investment

African governments must take primary responsibility for Africa's energy transformation, both as repositories of wealth and expertise, but also in their regulatory role. African governments have the potential to promote a vibrant private sector, attracting local and foreign investment, where much of the innovation and drive for transformation has already begun, and will continue.

Financing of US\$55 billion per year is required until 2030 if Africa is to succeed in attaining SDG 7.³⁶ To meet this gap, African governments will need to spend 3 to 4 per cent of their GDP on energy development projects.³⁷ Public

spending could be supported by improvements in tax-to-GDP ratios, and transparency initiatives that rein in losses from illicit financial flows, which reached US\$69 billion in 2012 alone.³⁸ But this injection of capital should also be maximized through the use of public-private partnerships and the fostering of a reliable and transparent regulatory environment that decreases risk and promotes local and international investment in sustainable energy development projects. Part of this transformation will require overhauling how Africa's existing utilities are regulated, with the creation of independent regulatory bodies that can hold these utilities to account, along with the establishment of new regulatory processes in line

with the goal of creating a transparent regulatory environment for off-grid and mini-grid projects.

Africa has the potential to lead the world as a hub for new sustainable technologies and innovative business models, with the continent's entrepreneurs and business leaders working

closely with their governments and with investors and experts from the international community. But this will require an enabling, transparent and reliable regulatory environment, an innovative private sector, and increased international investment.

ii. Focus policy changes on benefitting the poor and disconnected

Investments in the power sector should not only focus on improving efficiency and creating profits, but also on bringing energy access to all at a speedy rate and supporting the broader development agenda.

As it stands, the policy environment in many African countries largely benefits the rich at the expense of the

Inequality in Africa is growing. Energy access is a catalyst for economic activity and improved livelihoods, but it must reach all members of society.

poor. Governments should begin by cutting the US\$10 billion spent every year on subsidizing kerosene and other oil-based products, and the US\$11 billion spent to cover utilities losses, subsidies that benefit mainly urban citizens.³⁹ This money should be redirected to connections for the populations that lack access in rural areas.

iii. Invest in infrastructure to boost intra-regional energy trade

Political leaders should commit to developing significant regional energy markets in Africa. Where continental and sub-regional political commitments to boost regional infrastructure already exist, today's leaders must strive to show consistent leadership in promoting the agreed implementation agenda. Regional trade in electricity offers economies of scale and opens up larger markets, linking supply to demand, stimulating investment, and lowering the cost of electricity for Africa's people. But as it stands less than 8 per cent of power is traded across borders in sub-Saharan Africa.⁴⁰ Changing this will require streamlining investment and regulatory climates throughout the region, and significant investment in cross-border energy transmission infrastructure - efforts that could bring tremendous benefits.

Some estimates suggest that an investment of US\$17 billion in developing regional

transmission lines could save Africa up to US\$40 billion otherwise spent on increasing generation, simply through increased efficiency.⁴¹ The International Energy Agency estimates that such efficiency gains could reduce average electricity costs by 8 per cent, with some regions seeing reductions of up to 60 per cent. Such integration could also provide opportunities for exploiting big hydropower, geothermal, wind, solar and biomass projects that require large and reliable commercial markets, and significant initial investment.

With major players recognizing this potential, many such regional integration projects are in the pipeline, but efforts must be redoubled to make them a reality. The 15 energy-sector projects in the Priority Action Plan of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, including the North-South Power Transmission Corridor, the West African Power

Transmission Corridor, and the Inga III Hydro Project, must be under way by 2020. East and Southern Africa should look to the development of a regional gas grid, which will require careful and dedicated coordination, but could have a profound impact on reducing energy prices in the region, and curbing emissions.

The Africa Clean Energy Corridor, developed by the International Renewable Energy Agency, is also a step in the right direction, but its scope must be widened. African leaders should also collaborate strategically to harness the political will behind the new G20 Compact with Africa to help boost these initiatives.

3 .

FIGHT AGAINST ILLICIT FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES AND THE MISMANAGEMENT OF AFRICA'S RESOURCES

“Tax avoidance and evasion are global issues that affect us all. The impact for G8 governments is a loss of revenue. But in Africa, it has direct impact on the lives of mothers and children.”

Kofi Annan, from a statement following the publication of the 2013 APR.

Africa lost at least US\$69 billion in 2012 to illegal transactions.⁴² The High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows, established with a mandate from the AU and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in 2011, notes that the continent may have lost up to US\$1 trillion in the past 50 years.⁴³ As we detailed in the 2013 APR *Equities in Extractives*, billions of dollars leave Africa each year through illicit transfers, especially in the oil, gas, mining and fishing industries. Illicit capital outflows alone account for over 5 per cent of Africa's GDP,⁴⁴ with APP estimates suggesting these outflows are up to double the size of annual ODA coming in.⁴⁵

Tax evasion deprives many African governments of the revenues they need to finance their budgets. Multinational corporations use trade

mispricing⁴⁶ to shift profits to countries where taxes are lower. The extensive use of offshore companies and shell companies makes it difficult for African authorities to identify and tax these profits.

Most importantly, tax evasion deprives many Africans of their right to benefit from the abundant resources of their lands. The APP finds it unconscionable that some local and multinational companies, often supported by dishonest local officials, foreign agents and financial services companies, are using unethical tax avoidance, trade mispricing and anonymous company ownership to maximize their profits, while millions of Africans go without adequate nutrition, health and education.

It is crucial that African governments better monitor and regulate their jurisdictions. But it is also crucial that the international community strengthen its efforts to put an end to tax evasion and unethical tax avoidance. SDG 16 acknowledges the negative impacts of illicit financial flows on development and affirms the global responsibility of all relevant actors in reducing illicit flows significantly by 2030, strengthening the recovery and return

of stolen assets, and combating all forms of organized crime.⁴⁷

While efforts to stop the haemorrhage of illicit financial flows out of Africa is critical, African governments should also not miss the opportunity to broaden domestic resources. Tax revenues are rising only as a proportion of national incomes in many African countries.⁴⁸

Tax collection levels remain very low, and governments have too often failed to build credible tax systems. Too often they focus heavily on the few honest companies and taxpayers, making it hard for them to do business successfully. Better systems, backed by international cooperation, could widen the net

to include a range of multinational companies and local individuals and businesses that are avoiding paying taxes, creating large increases in domestic tax revenues, helping to unlock Africa's resources for the benefit of all. When governments strengthen disclosure standards and improve accountability, they improve their legitimacy in the eyes of their citizens. When foreign investors adopt more stringent disclosure standards and avoid irresponsible practices including tax evasion, they stand to gain from improved standing in the host countries - and from the avoidance of risks that could damage shareholder interests. If the international community comes together to tackle tax evasion in Africa, all stand to benefit.

i. Adopt global transparency standards

G8 and G20 countries must act on past commitments to strengthen tax-disclosure requirements, take action to raise the standards of transparency for the extractive sector, and make progress toward common reporting standards for the industry. Promises made by the G8 and G20 to adopt beneficial ownership principles and ensure that law enforcement and tax authorities have access to such key information must be acted upon.

All countries should cooperate to ensure that companies publish a full list of their subsidiaries, and information on global revenues, profits and taxes paid. Tax authorities, in Africa and

abroad, should exchange information more systematically. It is vital that Australia, Canada and China, as major players in Africa, actively support the emerging global consensus on disclosure. It is time to go beyond the current patchwork of initiatives and develop a global common standard.

The G8 should establish the architecture for a multilateral regime that facilitates tax transparency and closes down opportunities for tax evasion. To ensure that African concerns regarding the global financial industry, its regulations and its stability, are understood and taken on board, AU member states must take an active role in G20 processes.

ii. African leaders must take bold steps in domestic regulation

When it comes to domestic regulation, African governments must shoulder responsibility. Ensuring Africa's resources are stewarded for the benefit of all requires that long-term national interest override short-term political gain, vested interests and corruption. Most African political leaders recognize that tackling illicit financial flows presents an opportunity that can help their countries

develop sustainably. The High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa, led by former President of South Africa Thabo Mbeki, has undertaken notable measures to create awareness at the national level within the continent as well as internationally and also to initiate steps to strengthen institutions to counter these practices. Additionally, the AfDB, in its High 5s Agenda, has committed to

doing more in the fight against illicit financial flows. The African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF), formed in 2009 with 36 member countries, has also ramped up its efforts to curb illicit financial flows.

These initiatives are all commendable. African customs authorities, the police, central banks, the banking system and financial intelligence units should put into practice the

recommendations and changes put forward by these initiatives. Yet the current capacity of these institutions is insufficient. The international tax regime, along with its emphasis on information sharing, should translate into real practical support to African countries through the ATAF to make real changes on the ground. Increased collaboration is needed to help the continent deal with this capacity gap.

iii. Maximize efforts to increase domestic finances

Whilst it is important to stem the flow of illicit funds leaving the continent, it is equally important for African countries to manage their existing resources properly. Over the past 15 years, several African governments have made steady progress in improving the way they manage their countries. Africa's public finances now depend more on the continent's private sector and less on international aid. Continued progress will be critical for governments to finance the social and economic infrastructure needed to create jobs, sustain growth and improve basic services.

Governments need to broaden the tax base, beginning by revoking inappropriate tax

exemptions. They should also ensure that all financial transactions involving commitments by the state are transparently published, centrally approved and prudently managed.

Governments must also renew efforts to increase domestic finances. The Third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa in 2015, introduced the Addis Tax Initiative, which aims to help countries across the world, especially developing countries, raise revenue substantially. So far, however, only 13 African countries have joined the initiative. More now need to sign up and put the right measures in place.

C O N C L U S I O N

The late Nelson Mandela was wise to remind us that “it always seems impossible until it’s done.”⁴⁹ Today, a bold, prosperous, equitable and sustainable Africa is already a nascent reality, not only a mere possibility. We have seen Africa transform over the past decade, and our work has left us with an unshakeable hope for its future. We also know, however, that this transformation has required hard work, creativity and courage. This will continue to be vital in the coming years, for much remains to be done.

By 2050, two and a half billion — more than one in four people on our planet — will be African. We ask with urgency, looking to the years ahead:

Will Africans have the opportunity to live in dynamic, safe and productive modern cities? Or will they live in squalid urban slums?

Will their children have access to empowering and transformative education and employment? Or will they be illiterate and struggle to find meaningful and maximally productive work?

Will they farm their lands and oceans sustainably and efficiently enough to feed their own countries and continent and export their produce to the rest of the world? Or will they farm their lands and oceans inefficiently, leading to dependency and nutritional insecurity?

Will their natural wealth provide a revenue stream to help fund increased local investments in essential infrastructure, social security and public services, vitalizing Africa’s energy, transport, education and

health sectors, and contributing to a wider economic transformation? Or will reserves of oil, gas and minerals be a “curse”, leading to corruption and conflict, and increased inequality?

Will they tap the continent’s huge renewable energy potential to provide affordable and clean energy for all? Or remain overwhelmingly reliant on fossil fuels, and inefficient distribution systems, providing energy only to the urban elite?

Will they continue on their current journey to become united, innovative and empowered members of their national and international communities, working together as equals to make their nations, Africa, and the world, more prosperous, equitable and sustainable? Or will they be bound to their governments and the international community as isolated “beneficiaries” of

alien expertise and wealth?

The answers to these questions are already taking shape, and reflect the resolve of this generation to shoulder responsibility for the current reality, and to move forward with courage and creativity to implement strategies borne of careful reflection on the forces that have the potential to shape our future.

Having witnessed the transformation effort undertaken during the last decade, demanding as the agenda of the following years could be, we reaffirm here our common confidence in the possibility of a future of prosperity, justice and peace for Africa.

We have seen Africa transform over the past decade, and our work has left us with an unshakeable hope for its future. We also know, however, that this transformation has required hard work, creativity and courage. This will continue to be vital in the coming years, for much remains to be done.

P E R S P E C T I V E S O N P R O G R E S S

In preparation for this ten year anniversary report, the APP secretariat undertook a series of telephone interviews with a small group of influential political and civil society leaders, renowned academics, successful entrepreneurs, and technical experts who responded to our request to speak with them to gather their independent insights. Our conversations focused on hearing their perspectives on the progress (or lack of progress) made in Africa since the G8 Gleneagles Summit, and on what is still to be achieved. In particular, questions were posed related to the changing dynamics of African

partnerships with the rest of the world (including with the G7, G20, and China), issues of “mutual accountability” within such partnerships, and the creation of “effective policy space” for Africa to find solutions to its own problems over the past decade. Some who were unable to speak with us on the phone kindly provided us with written answers to our questions. Presented here are a few extracts from their responses, nested within pertinent facts, examples and commentaries pulled from our own APRs and other sources, to help contextualize and draw out the key themes highlighted by their responses.

Half of all Africans are currently under 20 years old.¹ By 2050 the continent will be home to two in five of the world’s children, and the number of people under 18 will increase by two-thirds to nearly one billion.² Improving Africa’s human capital through a special focus on the quality of education and training of teachers will be crucial to avoid unemployment, and to boost long term growth and productivity.

Thinking long-term, population control will also be important. Over the past 5 decades, fertility rates have declined across the continent.³ In a few countries, the fertility rate is approaching or has already reached replacement levels. To accelerate this trend, it will be important to make modern contraceptive methods available to all, to educate girls, and to promote responsible sexual behavior among young men. Political and civil societies must be increasingly active in identifying best practices from across the continent, and stress the urgent need to emulate these strategies.



*“Recognising that the population will rise to 2.5 billion over the next 30 or 40 years **we have to make sure that job opportunities are made possible by better education.**”*

Rt Hon Gordon Brown, Former British Prime Minister (2007-2010)

Approximately 60 per cent of the continent's population still lack access to modern infrastructure, which isolates communities, prevents access to health care, education and jobs, and impedes economic growth.⁴ In July 2017, the Construction Online Review stated that Africa's top three infrastructure priorities are water (38 per cent), energy (31 per cent), and transport (17 per cent).⁵ Lack of regional integration also makes it difficult for African firms to reach competitive economies of scale. If African countries could achieve deeper integration through enhanced regional infrastructure development and cooperation, they could largely overcome the constraints of size, scale, and market fragmentation.⁶



*"There is a need for **an [African] common market**...despite the number of regional agreements, little progress has been made on the larger project partly because of a lack of will and government initiative but it's also because **for the common market to work, there are massive infrastructure, energy and water management needs** which have to be fulfilled. So where do we go from here – **renewable energy, electrification, and road connections need to be top priorities on the agenda.**"*

Paul Martin, Former Prime Minister (2003-2006), and Finance Minister (1993-2002), of Canada



*"As someone present in Gleneagles for the 2005 Summit, the energy around making poverty history was inspiring. There seemed to be a genuine belief that the global commitments being made at the turn of the millennium would improve the conditions of people and the planet. The concepts of mutual accountability and mutual responsibility since Gleneagles have been empty rhetoric or worse, a bitter phrase where **mutuality remains elusive in a world still dominated by wealthy nations, powerful multinational corporations and the handful of elites who do their bidding.**"*

Emira Woods, International Working Group, Africans Rising for Justice, Peace, & Dignity



*"A large number of Africans, some of the most educated, wealthy, technologically advanced, and politically connected, now live in the diaspora. Africa's efforts to engage the diaspora is still very much in theory only. **The diaspora offers so much potential for Africa.**"*

Melvin Foote, President, Constituency for Africa

The working-age population in Africa will increase to over 600 million in 2030, from 370 million in 2010. The share with at least secondary education is set to rise from 36 to 52 per cent, with 15 to 20 million educated young Africans entering the job market each year. Crucial here will be access to education - for both rural and urban communities, and for both girls and boys - but also the relevance of this education to a workplace that is increasingly dependent on modern technologies.⁷ To prepare African youth for the world of work, it is vital that their education and skills are aligned to match market demand.



*"Africa's youthful population, which is very entrepreneurial...requires support from both public and private financial institutions...**A shift in education curricula - more focus on science, technology and innovation** - is also required, so as to match the skills of youth to the needs of the changing industry in the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, [and] avoid structural unemployment."*

Emmanuel Nnadozie, Executive Secretary, African Capacity Building Foundation

Tax to GDP ratios have been increasing in many African countries as they have undertaken reforms and modernized their tax systems and administrations. Cabo Verde increased its ratio by 1.8 percentage points between 2014 and 2015, and Uganda and South Africa by 1.1 points⁸. This helps relieve dependency on foreign aid, which tends to be more volatile over time than tax revenues.⁹



*"**The real policy space we have created has been the increase of domestic resources mobilization, which has gone a bit unnoticed.** From 2000 to 2015 the tax revenue in African countries has gone from US\$163 billion to US\$600 billion. Remittances have gone from about US\$8 billion to US\$61 billion. These resources are not controlled by development aid, which has stagnated at around US\$52 billion."*

Carlos Lopes, Professor, Graduate School of Development Policy and Practice at the University of Cape Town, and Visiting Fellow, Oxford Martin School, Oxford University



*"The problem with African growth over the past decade is that it was basically commodity-export led, mainly jobless, and inequality widening. So, **we absolutely need to go back to the people and work on poverty, inequality and unemployment.**"*

Mo Ibrahim, Founder and Chair of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation

In efforts to tackle corruption, a Nigerian project called “Follow the Money” uses open data to track government spending and international aid to ensure that official funds meet their targets. In South Africa, the Parliamentary Monitoring Group and mySociety are collaborating to create a mobile enabled website to allow individuals to access information on parliamentary proceedings.¹⁰ This shift in agency and call for accountability is also being witnessed in Africa’s presence on the global stage. Africa’s own citizens and leaders are taking a more prominent role in steering their continent’s fate and contributing to the world agenda on issues such as climate change, financial inclusion, technology and renewable energy. Previously, international bodies such as the G7 and G20 shaped the development agenda. Now Africa is increasingly recognized as the agent of its own transformation.



*“We are seeing Africans increasingly holding their governments to account. And that’s the way it should be – **governments should be accountable to their citizens** and not to outside forces.”*

Myles Wickstead, Non-Executive Director, Development Initiatives

An inclusive, professional and transparent civil service will be crucial for encouraging the empowerment and political participation of Africa’s youth. A civil service that attracts Africa’s most talented will also be crucial as African governments take on the complex challenges presented by the modern world - from urbanization and climate change, to digitization and security.



*“On **leadership** – my emphasis in Africa will be on building the civil service...we have not paid enough attention there. Civil-service reforms so far have been too top-down focused and [the service] currently functions in a welfare capacity. The first challenge is how we **make the civil service in Africa meritocratic**...unlocking that will be a next step towards Africa’s progress.”*

Ngaire Woods, Dean Blavatnik School of Government, Oxford University



*“Africa is intensely vulnerable to climate change but it will increasingly become a key influence on climate change. **How Africa’s cities grow will be a powerful determinant both of the shape of Africa and the future of the world.** We will in the next 20 years more than double world infrastructure and by mid-century, we will move from 50% living in urban areas to around 70%. A big part of that story will be in Africa.”*

Lord Nicholas Stern, Professor of Economics & Government and Chair of Grantham Research Institute, London School of Economics

To become internationally competitive, and benefit from globalization, African countries will have to boost productivity with improvements in education, labor productivity and infrastructure, but also more fundamentally by working to create transparent institutions that exhibit long term stability. Rwanda is a good example – it is a landlocked country, densely populated, with comparatively few natural resources, and yet its increasing regional and global integration, supported by comparatively accountable and transparent government institutions, has helped make it one of the fastest growing economies on the continent. Between 2001 and 2015 real GDP growth averaged at about 8 per cent per annum¹¹, and Rwanda is ranked in the top ten countries on the continent for good governance by the Ibrahim Index of African Governance.¹²



*"Most African leaders are not aware of the manner in which they are incorporated into the global system. Many African leaders saw **globalization** as a problem. We are in the second phase of globalization and, unfortunately, **there are only a few African leaders who appreciate the opportunities for economic growth and employment gains from robust engagement with the global economy through improved international competitiveness of their economies.**"*

Franklyn Lisk, Former Director, ILO, and Professorial Research Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation, University of Warwick

Half of Africa's citizens are expected to live in cities by 2035, compared with just over 40 per cent today. By 2035 the population of Lagos will have grown to 30 million.¹³ Leaders on the continent must strengthen strategic planning at the city, regional and national levels, with a focus on improved land use and investment in integrated, sustainable urban infrastructure. As the AfDB have noted, well-functioning cities are not only critical for people's wellbeing today, but also for Africa's long-term development and competitiveness. Well-functioning cities enable economies of agglomeration that facilitate communication, the exchange of knowledge, and social interaction, allowing the creation and expansion of modern firms that create well-paying jobs. And they reduce the per capita cost of providing health, education, and infrastructure services.¹⁴ Compact cities can also achieve six times the neighborhood energy efficiency of more dispersed, sprawling, low-density development.¹⁵



*"**Cities are critical.** It's like natural resources 10 years ago; it's an existential struggle, [we] need to get it right now. In 10 years' time, once they are just mega slums, retrofitting a mega slum will be very hard. **The African urban populations will triple by 2050, two thirds of African cities are yet to be built.**"*

Sir Paul Collier, Professor, Blavatnik School of Government, Oxford University

Remittances from African migrants are on the rise. Yet while remittances play an important and increasing role in development financing, many of the benefits are lost because of high charges. Research by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) suggests that the region could be losing between US\$1.4 billion to US\$2.3 billion a year as a result of what has been termed a “remittance super tax” on Africa.¹⁶ Efforts should be undertaken to reduce the financial burden of sending money from abroad, as stipulated in the Nairobi Action Plan on Remittances. Furthermore, as more Africans gain access to formal financial services, direct transfers can be facilitated at the click of a button and at a lower cost. Beyond remittances, an enabling environment should also be created to leverage the diaspora as key development partners, deploying their capital, connections and expertise for African progress.



*“On the diaspora, in the case of Ghana which has a population of 28 million, approximately 4 million are in the diaspora. They send about US\$2 - 2.5 billion a year back to the country, which amounts to 5% of GDP - on par with cocoa. **The monies sent back has a higher risk tolerance, longer time horizon and does not get dividended out of the country. This is high quality long term risk capital which needs to be formalised** and harnessed for the nation.”*

Tutu Agyare, Managing Partner and Chief Investment Officer, Nubuke Investments

As part of the 2063 Agenda, the AU passport was launched in July 2016 to facilitate the free movement of people across the continent, and promote cultural dialogue and economic integration.¹⁰ This is just one example of how Africa is moving towards greater unity. As we look towards the future, regional integration will remain a central cross cutting theme to support several development objectives, including: intra-African trade flows, market integration and participation in global value chains, productivity and job creation. The AfDB Regional Integration Policy Strategy (2014-2023) will continue to be a source of guidance as African nations embark on this journey.



*“In terms of economic problems – **the world is so intertwined that it’s difficult for Africa to find solutions to purely African problems.** Nevertheless, in the last 10 years there has been a stronger push in Africa towards regional integration which is one of the ways Africa can solve some of its economic and developmental challenges.”*

Jeanine Cooper, Former Representative to the African Union UNOCHA

Few African governments, standing alone, have access to the key information or administrative resources needed to fully assess the long term costs and benefits to their countries, and to the continent, of the trade deals and other dealings initiated by wealthier nations and multinational corporations¹⁸. For resource-rich countries especially, such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger, and Tanzania, to name only a few, fostering a more balanced trade relationship will be crucial to ensure that their natural resources become a sustainable source of prosperity for their people. But this will require accountable leadership that takes a long-term perspective on growth, and greater unity and coordination among African nations in their dealings with foreign entities.



*"On debt relief Gleneagles was successful, particularly on the part of the UK government. On trade, a critical area for African countries, there has been a regression since Gleneagles. In the WTO, the resistance of developing countries to the demands of the big powers, especially the EU and the USA, resulted in the relative paralysis of the WTO and the big powers have increasingly sought new ways to advance their interests.. The Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) between the EU and various African regions, which are highly inimical to Africa's development and transformation, is an example of the fragmented approach. Sadly **the African continent has not been able to consistently speak and act with a common voice even when it has nominally taken common positions.**"*

Yao Graham, Coordinator (Head), Third World Network Africa

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AfDB	African Development Bank
APP	Africa Progress Panel
APR	Africa Progress Report
ATAF	African Tax Administration Forum
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
DFID	United Kingdom Department for International Development
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
EU	European Union
FiTI	Fisheries Transparency Initiative
GDP	Gross domestic product
G7	Group of Seven
G8	Group of Eight
G20	Group of Twenty
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
INTERPOL	International Police Organization
IUU	Illegal, unreported and unregulated
kWh	Kilowatt hour
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
Norad	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
ODA	Official development assistance
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
WEF	World Economic Forum

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