

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa

Recommendations of the MDG Africa Steering Group
launched at African Union Summit on 1 July

On 1 July 2008, UN Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiros, joined by H.E. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, Chairperson of the African Union and President of the United Republic of Tanzania; H.E. Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission; Dr. Donald Kaberuka, President of the African Development Bank Group; and Dr. Maxwell Mkwezalamba, African Union Commissioner for Economic Affairs, launched the recommendations of the MDG Africa Steering Group at the African Union Summit in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. The Steering Group is a landmark initiative of UN Secretary-General BAN Ki-moon that brings together eight major multilateral institutions working on development in Africa to galvanize enhanced efforts to reach the MDGs.

At the mid-point in the global effort to achieve the MDGs by 2015, progress in many African countries is not on track.

Nevertheless, a number of recent successes demonstrate that rapid progress is possible across Africa when sound national programmes are matched with adequate development assistance and full technical support from the international system. Existing international commitments — if fully implemented — can extend these success stories and are sufficient to achieve the MDGs. The aim of the MDG Africa Steering Group recommendations is to translate existing commitments into tangible progress in every African country.

The MDG Africa Steering Group recommendations lay out the practical steps, strategies and programmes needed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in Africa. The recommendations were jointly produced and endorsed by the leaders of the United Nations, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank Group, the European Commission, the International Monetary Fund, the



Islamic Development Bank Group, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and the World Bank Group.

The MDG Africa Steering Group recommendations were included in a report considered by the AU Executive Council, which met from 27–28 June. A draft resolution on this item, recommending that AU members endorse the recommendations, was forwarded from the AU Executive Council for consideration by the Assembly of the African Union, which is in-session from 30 June to 1 July. Endorsement of the Steering Group recommendations by the AU Assembly will give them further leverage going into the 2008 G8 Summit in Hokkaido.

The Recommendations

The MDG Africa Steering Group has identified a list of concrete opportunities to implement and scale-up interventions in support of the MDGs.

The evidence surveyed by the Steering Group shows that — if fully implemented — the recommendations will produce verifiable development results that can serve to monitor progress and ensure the effective use of domestic and external resources. In combination with sound economic policies to promote private sector development and increased participation in trade, these results will reduce barriers to progress, take countries closer to achieving the MDGs and lay the foundation for robust economic growth.

Full text of the recommendations:

<http://www.mdgafrica.org/pdf/MDG%20Africa%20Steering%20Group%20Recommendations%20-%20English%20-%20HighRes.pdf>