

Acronyms for Action

2010 will be a great year for acronyms. A focus for the UN, IFIs, NGOs, CSOs, FBOs, LDCs and the AU will be the MDG Summit at the GA in September, preceded in June by an ECOSOC Ministerial Review , the G8 and G20 Summits, as well as multiple meetings addressing individual MDGs or reviewing overall progress and priorities. Even FIFA is on side.

The process around the MDGs provides opportunities to reinforce political will for positive change. The challenge will be to ensure they are used to amplify the voice of beneficiaries, to punch through to political and financial decision makers, to engage new constituencies including the private sector, and to build coalitions around defined objectives.

Cynics will argue that because the goals will not be 'met', and ODA promises are unlikely to be honoured, MDG advocates have failed. Such arguments are absurd – but do need to be addressed.

Eradicating poverty and hunger, achieving gender equality and ensuring that every human being has access to basic health services, an education and to work is a process, not an event. It is subject to global financial, economic, climatic and other forces, and to specific decisions taken by identifiable individuals.

The heroes are those who, despite the hurdles, including conflict, insecurity, poverty ignorance, indifference, lack of resources and corruption, are able to make a tangible difference. MDG advocates must insist that barriers to replicating and scaling up their success are dismantled, not least by getting the powerful to pursue policies and commit resources commensurate with the scale of the challenge.

Last week, the APP, a relatively new acronym, had its annual meeting and decided that it must continue to contribute to this cause until 2015, including through discreet high level interventions and public policy work on specific issues such as Africa's representation in global fora, connecting the climate and MDG agendas, governance and transparency, and mutual accountability between Africa and its partners. Expect more networking, notably with African think tanks and policy makers. Viva A4A!

News Overview

Despite enormous efforts, [Libya's leader Gaddafi failed in his bid to stay on as AU president for another year](#). While handing over to Malawian President Bingu wa Mutharika, he stated "it was an empty chair with mere symbolic powers since many declarations and decisions were made without his consent."

[Nigeria's Vice-President, Jonathan Goodluck has assumed office as acting President](#) after weeks of political uncertainty over the absence of its ailing leader, a move which experts say could cause friction between the Christian South and Muslim North due to the unwritten power-sharing agreement calling for the presidency to alternate between the two faiths. [These concerns may be exacerbated by the reshuffling of the cabinet, particularly the removal of the justice minister](#).

[The long-running war between Chad and Sudan could be nearing an end](#) following a rare meeting between the two nations' leaders in the Sudanese capital. Whether or not the commitments from the two leaders will result in any immediate tangible change on the ground is not yet clear. Analysts suggest that the sudden change of heart between the two leaders is due to the political realities facing each president in upcoming elections.

South Africans celebrate how far they have come since [Nelson Mandela was released from prison 20 years ago](#) - a watershed moment for a nation that had suffered the horrors of apartheid and marked end of minority rule, which collapsed in 1994 with South Africa's first all-race elections.

[An experimental malaria vaccine developed by GlaxoSmithKline Plc and the U.S. Army boosted the immune response of African children more than 100-fold](#). These findings offer a potential new weapon to fight against a disease that kills at least 1 million people each year, most of which are young children living in Africa.

[A coalition of leading UK-based aid agencies, domestic charities, unions and faith organizations have launched a "Robin Hood Tax" on banks](#) to help repair the damage caused by the global economic crisis, protect public services, fight poverty abroad and tackle climate change.

On February 1st, President Obama released his first budget; [initial reactions](#) are that it is development friendly.'



Cartoon by Gado Mwampembwa
As featured in [Jubilee USA's Network Blog](#)

“ The MDGs are too big to fail... ”

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon calling on leaders to attend MDG summit in September

G20 Update

AUSTRALIA

[South Africa and Australia have signed an agreement to strengthen bilateral cooperation on climate change issues](#)

BRAZIL

[Brazil and Cameroon have signed an MOU to promote and develop bilateral cooperation in the field of sports and physical education](#)

CANADA

[Canada and the Netherlands are providing armored personnel carriers and other equipment \(valued at \\$12m\) to the Ugandan police force for its Darfur mission](#)

CHINA

[Chinese government states that it highly values the cooperation with African countries in ICT field](#)

EU

[The EU military mission will contribute to the training of Somali Security Forces to help strengthen the Somali Transitional Federal Government](#)

GERMANY

[German Foreign Office increases emergency humanitarian aid for Somalia by one million Euros](#)

[Germany will remain an important strategic partner for the IFC and support efforts to focus on sub-Saharan Africa](#)

[BMGF joins up with Germany to coordinate research that will help Africa fight ravaging diseases](#)

ITALY

[Italy and the WB are to fund the construction of four small and medium-sized dams in the Mozambican provinces of Manica and Sofala](#)

JAPAN

[The Government of Japan will extend environmental program grant aid \(the Project for Introduction of Clean Energy by Solar Electricity Generation System\) totaling 1.11 billion JPY to the Republic of Botswana](#)

MEXICO

[Mexico and Rwanda met to analyze the possibility of increasing bilateral trade and cooperation in the educational, cultural, technical and scientific areas](#)

RUSSIA

[Russia and Libya sign \\$1.8 billion arms deal](#)

UK

[The UK government, the World Bank and the UN agree to support the implementation of Sierra Leone's eight-year Education Sector Strategy](#)

Multilateral Organizations

AfDB

[AfDB, BMGF and FAO are collaborating to help develop a clear roadmap to improve agricultural statistics in Africa](#)

[AfDB approves \\$38m funding for Burkina Faso Power Project](#)

AU

[Decisions of the 14th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of AU Heads of State and Government held from 25 Jan - 2 Feb 2010](#)

[Leaders at the 14th Annual AU Summit have agreed to integrate the New Partnership for Africa's Development \(NEPAD\) into AU structures](#)

[The AU and the WB are combining efforts to promote innovative approaches to achieving long lasting peace, economic development, and security in conflict-affected countries](#)

ECOWAS

[COMESA and ECOWAS sign an MoU to enhance private sector development and to advance regional economic integration towards attaining the African Economic Community \(AEC\)](#)

[ECOWAS will send at least 300 poll observers to monitor and ensure that Togo's upcoming election is credible](#)

IMF

[IMF proposes "Green Fund" for Climate Change Financing](#)

[IMF and World Bank have agreed to support \\$1.9billion in debt relief for the Republic of Congo](#)

OECD

[Joint Statement of the 13th Africa Partnership Forum Meeting held in Addis Ababa on 25 Jan 2010](#)

UN

[OHCHR and AU Commission strengthen cooperation for human rights in Africa](#)

[UNFCCC publishes Copenhagen Accord Climate pledges](#)

[UN Secretary General appoints Haile Menkerios as head of UN Mission in Sudan](#)

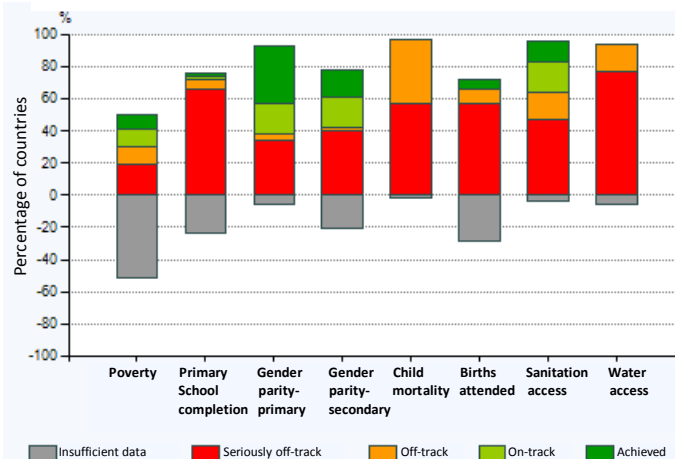
WB

[According to a new report from the World Bank, capital flows to developing countries show a strong drop in wake of financial crisis](#)

[The WB and Microsoft sign a partnership agreement to promote social and economic development in Africa, focusing on leveraging technology in support of local capacity building, entrepreneurship and disaster management](#)

[The World Bank is committed to helping Africa out of the economic crisis' says Robert Zoellick while addressing the 14th AU Summit on 31 Jan 2010](#)

Progress towards the MDGs in Sub-Saharan Africa



Aprox. 20% of SSA countries are seriously off-track to halve poverty by 2015
Aprox. 30% of SSA countries have achieved gender parity in primary schools.

Source: World Bank

Events leading to the 2010 MDG Review Summit

2-12 March	Beijing 15+ Review
16-18 March	DFID MDG Conference
17-19 March	UNDP Capacity is Development Event: Marrakech, Morocco
March (tbc)	UNSG's Report to the General Assembly on the MDGs
May	African Heads of State MDG Meeting: Kigali, Rwanda
17-18 June	European Council Meeting: EU Heads of States adopt common position on MDGs
25-27 June	G8/G20 Summit
28 June- 2 July	ECOSOC Annual Minister Review
June	Launch of 2010 MDG Report
July	Launch of 2010 MDG Gap Report
July	MDG Regional Reports to be published
20-22 September	UN MDG Summit
September	2011-2015 UN MDG Action Plan
September	Stand Up, Take Action against Poverty
Mid-September (tbc)	Launch of Millennium Development Goals Gap Task Force Report

APP Activities

On February 3rd, APP Chair Kofi Annan hosted a meeting in Geneva of Panel Members including Kofi Annan, Michel Camdessus, Peter Eigen, Bob Geldof, Linah Mohohlo and Olusegun Obasanjo to discuss current trends and emerging priorities in Africa. Highlights of the meeting, which included presentations by experts on governance, peace, security and development from the World Bank, AfDB, UN, civil society and academia, will be on the APP website.



The video of the APP debate, moderated by Zeinab Badawi and led by Panel members Kofi Annan, Olusegun Obasanjo, Linah Mohohlo, and Petina Gappah is online at: www.africaprogresspanel.org.

Visit our [Facebook page](#) for photos of the debate. As always, we welcome your comments and feedback.

Opinions

[All Africa: Africa - Continent Ripe for Citizen-led Development Plan, 4 Feb. 10](#)

John Githongo and Jamie Drummond argue that Africa can continue to achieve sustainable development by establishing a new citizens' compact. According to them, this bottom-up approach would ensure that development is devolved and that the integrity of leaders and governance institutions firmly take centre stage.

[Business Daily: Africa: Continent Must Understand the Climate Debate and Ensure Girls Stay in School, 5 Feb. 10](#)

In a speech delivered at the recent AU Summit, Ban Ki-moon highlights 4 key areas in which the special MDG summit in September will focus on.

[Ratio Magazine: Kenya - Economic Growth Despite Government? 3 Feb. 10](#)

The author investigates the reform dynamics since Mwai Kibaki and argues that despite the dramatic happenings within the government, Kenya is experiencing economic growth.

Calendar

14-16 Feb	1 st Joint Afro-Arab Ministerial Meeting on Agricultural Development and Food Security: Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt
15-16 Feb	3 rd Global Meeting of the Farmers' Forum organized by IFAD: Rome, Italy
17 Feb	IFAD high level panel discussion to be moderated by CNN's Jim Clancy: Rome, Italy
19-20 Feb	12 th Annual Harvard Africa Business Conference: "A Continent Comes of Age: Defining a New Era in African Business." Boston, Massachusetts
21 Feb	Committee of Ten Meeting: Cape Town, South Africa
22 Feb	ECOSOC Special Event: "Engaging philanthropy to promote gender equality and women's empowerment": NY, U.S.A
22-24 Feb	UNCTAD's Expert Meeting "Contribution and Effective use of External Resources for Development": Geneva, Switzerland
24 Feb	EU in Africa Partnership 2010 Event: Brussels, Belgium
21-27 Feb	4 th International Conference on Community Based Adaptation to Climate Change: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

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