

End of an era?

Is the international consensus around Africa's development in danger of crumbling?

The last decade has seen remarkable achievements including the Millennium Declaration and mobilization around the MDGs, Monterrey, the creation of the Global Fund and GAVI, the campaigns for debt relief and to double ODA to Africa, and a consistent focus on Africa by rich countries, including the G8.

Financial crisis and economic recession have made the world more introverted. Investors are seeking security, and domestic economic priorities in richer countries might trump international commitments, whether relating to the Doha Trade Round or honouring long-standing ODA promises, as Prime Minister Berlusconi admitted in [La Stampa](#) this week.

Yet the basic arguments in favour of international support for Africa are more valid than ever – whether moral, economic, environmental or political. The world and her own people can only benefit if Africa is stable and prosperous, and her vast human and natural resources contribute to low carbon growth and global food security. What needs to be done, and by whom, to maintain that support?

The role of advocates, media, and leaders in rich countries has been instrumental. The importance of business and entrepreneurs is under-estimated. But the critical element is the voice of Africa.

It was a clutch of leaders including Mbeki and Obasanjo who drove home-grown African initiatives and thereby inspired confidence in Africa's ability to help itself. The creation of NEPAD and the APRM, the transformation of the OAU into a more promising AU, subscription to the Paris Declaration and African initiatives on infrastructure, food security, human development, corruption and political accountability provided a sense of direction and the basis for international support.

Africa's civil society is increasingly vocal but still relatively powerless. There are many inspiring and able leaders. As a group, could they be more focused on mobilizing international support from the North and global South, the public and private sectors, around Africa's development? [Antics at the recent AU Summit](#) suggest they are distracted from this increasingly urgent challenge.

News Overview

[High-level delegates from around the globe gathered in New York from 24 to 26 June at the UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its impact on Development](#) to discuss how to address the economic meltdown while taking the interests of all nations into account.

As Italy prepares to host the G8 leaders on Wednesday 8 July in the town of L'Aquila, [PM Berlusconi faces criticism for failing to fulfill the pledges made at the 2005 Gleneagles G8 summit on aid to Africa](#), including through an [open letter by the APP Panel members](#).

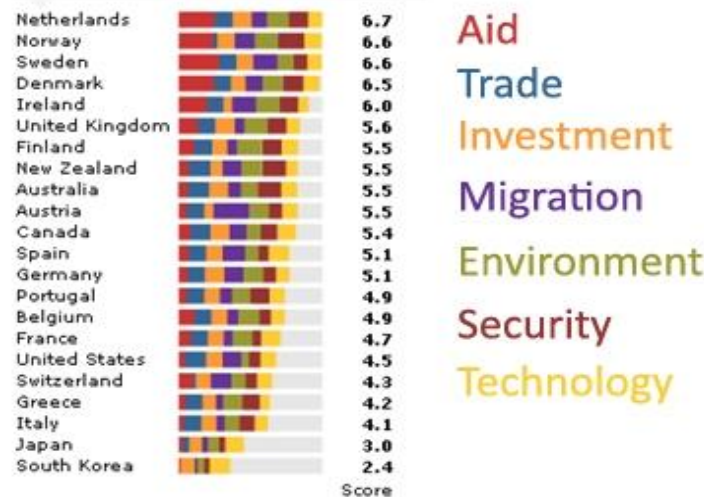
Germany's biggest engineering company, [Siemens, in collaboration with German power companies RWE and E.ON, as well as Deutsche Bank have announced a \\$555 billion solar project in the Sahara desert](#) to supply 15% of Europe's power needs by mid-century.

The increase in [ongoing political and constitutional tensions in Niger](#) following the President's decision to dissolve parliament threatens to destabilize the country and undermine the progress made in recent years to consolidate democratic governance and the rule of law.

The 13th AU Heads of State and Government Conference on "Investing in Agriculture for Food Self-sufficiency" ended on Friday 3 July with [decisions on the transformation of the African Union Commission into a new African Union Authority](#) and a controversial recommendation to member states not to cooperate with the International Criminal Court's request for the arrest of Sudan's President Bashir.

[The Rockefeller Foundation launches a \\$100 million initiative to support the strengthening of health systems in Africa and Asia](#). The foundation thereby shifts its focus from treatments and vaccines to informing the efforts of low-income countries to take on the challenges of health systems.

Commitment to Development Index



Source: Centre for Global Development



There is a direct correlation between governance and prosperity”

Barack Obama, President of the United States of America on the eve of his trip to Ghana

G20 Update

CHINA

[China pledges to continue supporting Zimbabwe in the fields of mining, agriculture and construction](#)

[China's Assistant FM Zhai Jun, says his country will continue to develop bilateral and multilateral agricultural cooperation with African countries and boost the "South-South cooperation" within the framework of the "Special Program for Food Security \(SPFS\)](#)

SPAIN

[ECOWAS and Spain have agreed to strengthen their cooperation, particularly in the areas of infrastructural development, renewable energy, the war against malaria and illicit trafficking in persons, drugs and arms.](#)

UK

[DFID announced a £60 million package of UK support for the people of Zimbabwe](#)

[DFID has published a White Paper 'Building Our Common Future' which sets out their poverty action plan to help the world's poorest people cope with the economic crisis](#)

EU

[Final Communiqué of the 15th ECOWAS-EU Ministerial Troika Meeting that took place on 16 June in Luxembourg](#)

[The European Commission reiterates its intention to strengthen cooperation between Europe and Africa in the transport sector](#)

[European Investment Bank and EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund collaborate to reinforce regional infrastructure in Africa](#)

JAPAN

[The Government has decided to provide emergency grant aid totaling \\$1.83 million through UNDP for the purpose of supporting fair and smooth implementation of the presidential election in the Republic of Guinea](#)

RUSSIA

[Russian President leads a large trade delegation to Africa with the aim of strengthening its global and strategic role in the region](#)

Multilateral Organizations

AfDB

[The Africa Competitiveness Report \(ACR\) 2009-Financial Development and Trade Crucial To Making Africa More Competitive and Riding Out Current Crisis was launched in Tunis on 2 July](#)

IMF

[In contribution to the UN Conference on Financial Crisis in New York, the IMF reiterated the case for a comprehensive approach to restoring public confidence in the financial sector and re-launching global economic growth.](#)

SADC

[An Extraordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government that took place on 20 June in South Africa issued a communiqué on the political and security situation in Madagascar.](#)

WB

[World Bank recently approved a total of \\$535 million to support three credit facilities aimed at helping improve economic governance and stabilizing Ghana's economy](#)

[The World Bank approved \\$24.2 million for Emergency Infrastructure and Agriculture and Infrastructure in Liberia](#)

[Governance Matters 2009: Release of Worldwide Governance Indicators 1996-2008, showcasing progress made by countries in governance and anti-corruption over the past decade](#)

UN

[Draft outcome of the UN conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development](#)

[UN Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiromu laid out funding priorities for Africa at a side event of the Conference on Global Financial Crisis that took place in New York on 25 June](#)

[IFAD has pledged to provide \\$13.2 million for Ethiopia to tackle land degradation and help mitigate the impact of climate change](#)

[The UNCTAD report: "Economic Development in Africa 2009" says Africa should deepen regional integration to build stronger and more resilient economies](#)

[The World Drug Report 2009, the flagship publication of the UNODC recently released on 24 June in Washington highlights links between drug and crime](#)

Opinions

[The Monitor \(Uganda\): Africa-President Barack Obama and Global Africa, 4 July 2009](#)

Professor Ali Mazrui argues that while Africa may actually have been better off had Hillary Clinton been elected President of the United States, Barack Obama's ascendance to the presidency had created an important political precedent. He also argues that some of Mr. Obama's policies may yet turn out to benefit Africans and African-Americans more than initially thought.

[International Herald Tribune \(USA\): Africa and the International Court, 30 June 2009](#)

In an article for the International Herald Tribune, Kofi Annan calls on Africa not to denounce the ICC just because it has charged an African Head of State. Such a move, according to Annan, would not only represent a huge step backward in the battle against impunity, but would also demean the yearning for human dignity that resides in every African heart.

[All Africa \(USA\): Africa- Good Governance Drive makes Progress, 3 July 2009](#)

In a guest column, Steve Gruzd from the South African Institute for International Affairs details the recent progress of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and argues on the need to speed up the implementation process. He also draws attention to the recent refusal of Kenya to receive an APRM fact finding mission.

[The New York Times \(USA\): Betraying the Planet, 29 June 2009](#)

In a strong-worded article for the New York Times, Paul Krugman argues that opposition to the climate change bill amounts to a betrayal of the planet. Krugman is particularly outraged by those US politicians who fail to base their opposition on specific arguments.



As featured in Kenya's [Daily Nation](#), 7 July 2009

APP Activities

Kofi Annan hosted the Global Humanitarian Forum's annual meeting and launched its annual report on the Human Impact of Climate Change: [The Anatomy of a Silent Crisis](#) in Geneva from 23-24 June 2009 at which **Michel Camdessus** was a speaker in one of the sessions. Together with **Bob Geldof**, Mr. Annan also launched a global campaign - [tck tck tck: Time for Climate Justice](#) at the 56th Cannes Lions International Advertising Festival. Mr. Annan also contributed a foreword to the Business Action for Africa Report "[From Crisis to Opportunity: Harnessing the Power of Business to Sustain Progress towards the MDGs](#)". As part of his campaign for the continent **Bob Geldof** paid a courtesy call to the AfDB. **Peter Eigen** has recently been appointed to the Management Board of the AfDB Legal Support Facility. **Muhammad Yunus** joined other eminent leaders in an education campaign, [calling on G8 leaders to renew their commitment to education by creating a Global Education Fund](#). On Monday, 6 July, **Tony Blair** published a new report on- "[Technology for a Low Carbon Future](#)," which sets out practical solutions to tackle climate change through technology. **Olusegun Obasanjo** gave an informal media briefing on the progress made so far in the DRC and Great Lakes Region at the UN Security Council on Tuesday 30 June. **APP Panel Members** wrote an open letter to the Italian Prime Minister, Silvio Berlusconi to remind him of the development promises he made at the Gleneagles Summit in 2005.

Calendar

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| 5-8 July | UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education: Paris, France |
| 6-7 July | "Africa Business Forum" organized by the Commonwealth Business Council: London, UK |
| 6-7 July | WTO's 2 nd Global Review of Aid for Trade: Geneva, Switzerland |
| 8-9 July | UN Regional Meeting on Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons of the Horn of Africa: Kigali, Rwanda |
| 8-10 July | G8 Annual Summit: L'Aquila, Italy |
| 9-10 July | 2009 International Aid + Trade: Washington, DC |
| 11 July | World Population Day |
| 12 July | Presidential Election in the Republic of Congo |
| 16 July | UNCTAD Least Developed Countries Report |

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