

Mind the Gap

Expectations around the MDG Summit were low, given global economic and financial woes. In terms of commitments announced, including to and by Africa, they were met. The question now is how 'hard' the commitments are, whether they are new or 'recycled', whether they will be implemented, and who will hold those making them to account.

Most significant was [President Obama's speech](#) on the MDGs: not much to measure, but he made a compelling case for development as a strategic, economic and moral imperative for the US – and the world. He emphasized the need for smarter partnerships including with the private sector, and mutual accountability, especially between rich and developing countries.

Leaders in the public and private sectors, in both donor and developing countries made measurable pledges, notably at meetings convened by the S-G on [women and children's health](#) and on bridging the malaria gap. These related to funding levels, health spending, coverage, and training targets.

If mutual accountability is to be meaningful and partnerships firmly grounded, then monitoring commitments, and their impact, is essential. Few disagree, but not enough is happening.

Despite a proliferation of mechanisms and bodies (including the APP – see chart), Africa still lacks an authoritative means of reviewing commitments and their impact.

Needed is a mechanism with characteristics not easily combined: political legitimacy, inclusiveness, the independence to praise, name and shame, as well as statistical and methodological rigour. Filling this gap will require a partnership between governmental and civil society actors. Is this too much to ask?

News Overview

The three-day U.N. summit reviewing the MDGs is over, but the push to achieve them is not. [Some experts argue that the world fails to deliver on the eight key targets](#), while development activists continue to press for increased financial support from industrialized countries and for improved strategies for achieving the MDGs by 2015. [The summit concluded with the adoption of a global action plan to accomplish its eight goals by the 2015 target date](#).

[African leaders call on the UN to grant the continent a permanent seat on the Security Council](#), declaring that the world body remains caught up in the legacy of the past since its founding 65 years ago.

[The Liberian Electoral Commission has given the green light to ex warlord Prince Johnson to enter the polls for the next presidential elections](#), a shocking decision taken against Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendation that could harm the country's fragile peace and stability (Article in French).

[Polls in Guinea may be postponed-because of violence delaying the landmark election](#) intended to transfer power back to civilian government after almost 2 years of political crisis; which is [what the Guinean people are asking for](#)

Following the [announcement of a delay in Sudan's referendum voters' registration just 100 days before the vote is scheduled to take place](#), analysts warn there is a risk of a return to conflict if southerners, expecting to vote for independence feel Khartoum is trying to delay or disrupt the vote to keep control of the regions oil.

British entrepreneur [Richard Branson launches a new philanthropic venture that aims to as help put Zimbabwe back on its feet](#) as well as urge investment in the country.

Monitoring Mechanisms	Legitimacy (real partnerships)	African participation	Contribution of information	Best practices	Level of detail/coverage	Regularity/Progress
Mutual Review of Development Effectiveness	Institutional	Inadequate	Qualitative and qualitative	No	Macro/Africa and traditional dev. partners	Now improving
African Peer Review Mechanism	Political	Yes	Qualitative	Yes	Broad thematic coverage of political and economic issues	Limited progress in implementation
Africa Partnership Forum	Institutional	Strong	Qualitative	No	Partial coverage of commitments	Ongoing
Global Monitoring Report	Institutional	Limited	Strong analytical quantitative data	No	Partial coverage of Africa and of commitments	Ongoing / published annually
Group of Eight Accountability Framework	Political	None	Review of delivery/accountability on commitments	No	Covers only G8 commitments	Sustained/annual effort by the G8
Joint EU- Africa Strategic Partnership	Political	Yes (AU and civil society)	Long term policy framework	Yes	Covers only EU-AU commitments	Ongoing
DATA Report	Civil Society / Northern grassroots	No	Detailed quantitative data	No	Covers only G8 commitments	Ongoing / published annually
Africa Progress Panel	Civil society/ distinguished members	Yes (on Panel)	Qualitative	No	Broad coverage / focus on selected commitments	Ongoing / published annually
African Monitor	Civil society/ African grassroots	Strong	Qualitative and qualitative	Yes	Partial coverage of commitments	Ongoing / published annually

Source : APP based on data from ' [A monitoring mechanism to review commitments towards Africa's development needs](#)' (2010)

G8/G20 Update

AUSTRALIA

[Australia commits \\$1.6 billion over the next five years to improve the health of women and children in Ethiopia, Tanzania and Southern Sudan](#)

CANADA

[Canada reaffirms its commitment to the MDGs, and emphasized the achievements to be expected from the Muskoka Initiative on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health](#)

CHINA

[China commits to strengthen cooperation with Africa and to support the achievement of the MDGs](#) (Article in French)

[China will donate \\$14m to the Global Fund](#)

EU

[EU yearly financial report reveals that the EU was the 2nd largest provider of development aid in the world during 2009](#)

[The EC will offer €1 billion to 'the most committed and needy countries' to make progress on the MDGs](#)

FRANCE

[France supports the EAC's creation of a Monetary Union](#)

IBSA

[IBSA has been honoured with the UN 2010 MDG award for their work in using innovative approaches for poverty and hunger alleviation](#)

JAPAN

[Japan will provide \\$3.5 billion in education related assistance worldwide over five years beginning in 2011](#)

MEXICO

[Mexico took the opportunity of the MDG Summit to promote for successful climate change negotiations](#)

UK

[UK Deputy Prime Minister states that the UK will double the number of maternal, newborn and children's lives saved by 2015](#), as well as achieve its 0.7% commitment

[The UK launches a new £6m research programme to tackle malnutrition, and to continue the work of improving the situation of women and children](#)

USA

[The US issues its first development policy](#) and says the USAID is ready to reclaim the place as 'the world's premier development agency'

[DFID, USAID, AusAID and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation launch a new international alliance to support progress in reproductive, maternal and newborn health](#)

Post MDG Summit

[African first ladies sign a declaration to end maternal and child malnutrition](#) by committing themselves to put nutrition at the heart of development.

[A collection of striking declarations by world leaders at the MDGs Summit.](#)

[Four companies \(Pfizer, Vodafone, Sproxil and WaterHealth International\) commit to apply their core business expertise to the achievement of the eight internationally-agreed MDGs.](#) They will provide more than 200,000 people in Africa and Asia access to improved health care, water and increased access to jobs.

[Nations and private aid groups pledge \\$40 billion](#) in support of the [“Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health”](#)

[Twenty-two countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have reduced new HIV infections by more than 25 percent](#), according to new UNAIDS data on the progress made towards the MDGs.

2010 report on [“Assessing Progress in Africa toward the MGDs,”](#) launched by the AUC, AfDB, UNECA and UNDP says, Africa has made steady progress on the MDGs. The report lays out achievements and calls for action to boost further progress.

According to a new [“MDG Progress Index,”](#) the performance of many poor countries suggests that they may achieve most of the highly ambitious MDGs with sub-Saharan Africa accounting for many of the Star MDG performers.

UNEP report states that [green economy can reduce poverty and help meet Millennium Development Goals.](#)

[UN Inter-Agency report shows progress made towards the achievement of the MDGs.](#)

For Africa to be successful, it needs to invest in the future of its women says ONE report titled [“Africa’s Future is Female.”](#)

According to a report titled [“Back to School”](#) by the Global Campaign for Education, “out of the ten worst places in the world to be a school child, seven are in Africa.”

Overseas Development Institute’s [“MDG Report Card: Measuring Progress Across Countries,”](#) presents data on how countries are closing in on the MDG targets.

[UNDP launches a new approach to speed up the progress to reach the MDGs.](#)

[Failure to meet the MDGs undermine people’s dignity, says, Archbishop Ndungane.](#) The African Monitor publishes an annual [“Development Support Monitor”](#) that provides prospects for the attainment of the MDGs.

Opinions

[Guardian \(UK\): Africa’s green revolution will founder without extra global funding, 26 Sept. 2010](#)

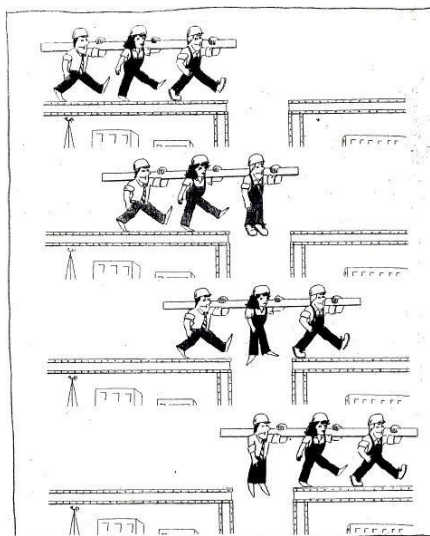
Authors argue that a green revolution in Africa depends on locally driven solutions plus reliable donor support and that neither ingredient is sufficient on its own – both are indispensable.

[Inter-Press Service: Tax could be the way out of aid dependence, 24 Sept. 2010](#)

Experts argue that tax dodging deprives many African countries of vital funds. The stress further that effective tax systems are needed to stop multinational exploiting loopholes and reduce dependency on aid.

[New York Times \(USA\): M.D.G’s for Beginners...and Finishers, 18 Sept. 2010](#)

Lead singer of the U2 band, Bono share ideas on what the 10th birthday of the MDG’s is, or ought to be. He further outlines three points that should be considered by stakeholders’ in their efforts towards achieving the MDGs by 2015.



Source: www.viiavforvictory.com/tag/teamwork/

Countdown to Seoul 2010

Korea’s emergence as the first Asian country to host a G20 summit won’t be the only new happening when the forum opens in Seoul, [it will also mark the first time development issues appear on the agenda.](#)

A month ahead of the G20 summit in Seoul, the Dong-A Ilbo, [Korea Development Institute and the U.S.-based Brookings Institution will host an International Symposium- the first international forum seeking to define the status of the summit](#) and its future tasks.

[Blog- Development Forum for the G20, Seoul 2010: the untapped promise of G20](#)

Author points out the potentials of the G20 to act as the coordinator of MDG 8-Global Partnership for Development

Following the [South Korean government’s invitation to five non-G20 member countries and seven international organizations to the upcoming G20 Seoul Summit.](#)

“We in the developing world [...] have to reflect deeply on how we have driven this agenda so far and why we are lagging behind on these targets. We must assume effective leadership...”

Rwandan President Paul Kagame at the MDG Review Summit Sept. 2010

In the blogs...

[World Bank Blog: Infrastructure paramount issue for Africa](#)
Infrastructure is a paramount issue for Africa’s economic growth and development

[Typerighter- Africa Report Blog: Essential or perverting? Who is saying what about the MDGs](#)

This blog sums up some of the main reports published about the MDGs.

[The Economist: Have the Millennium Development Goals been effective?](#) Various Economists’ debate:

- Whether the MDGs have been effective;
- Whether the MDGs should be replaced, if so, with what?

Calendar

1 October	Nigeria 50 Years of Independence
4-6 October	123 rd Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly & related meetings: Geneva, Switzerland
4-6 October	2010 Social Forum on Climate Change and Human Rights : Geneva, Switzerland
7 October	IPU Seminar on United Nations Human Rights Treaty Bodies : Geneva, Switzerland
7-8 October	UNCTAD Ad Hoc Expert Meeting on the Green Economy: Trade and Sustainable Development Implications : Geneva, Switzerland
8-10 October	2010 Annual Meetings of the IMF and World Bank Group: Washington D.C, U.S.A
10 October	2 nd Afro-Arab Summit: Sirte, Libya
10-15 October	7th African Development Forum on Climate Change and Development in Africa”: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
13 October	International Day for Disaster Reduction
14-15 October	OECD Global Forum on Trade : Chengdu, China
16 October	World Food Day
19 October	Deadline for 2011 Ashden Awards for sustainable Energy

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