

Productive and Principled Without Posturing

This week in Kampala, the AU Summit's main session on its central theme '[Maternal, Child and Infant Health and Development in Africa](#)', was allotted a three hour slot but ended up lasting a day and a half. Over 35 African heads of state, international partners (including several heads of UN agencies), civil society and the media debated the many health challenges in Africa. The profile of MDGs 4 & 5 was raised to an unprecedented level.

It was unanimously agreed that women and children's health deserves and must receive greater investment – both politically and financially. Although there are many local and national success stories, there simply aren't enough. Women are still dying needlessly, and few heads of state can *really* pride themselves with positive results. Finance ministers are not investing enough in women or demanding accountability for results.

Other pressing issues, including [Somalia](#), the [AU's position on the ICC indictment of Bashir](#) and [Qaddafi's proposal for the United States of Africa](#) were raised; they hijacked much attention and time. Here, differences of opinion, lack of unity and mistrust quickly became very evident.

Despite this, political progress was made. A common African position on MDGs ahead of September's Summit was agreed – though this is not yet public. The African heads of state climate change group had a 'decently purposeful' meeting where Prime Minister Meles, the group's spokesman, said that Africa needed to be 'productive and principled without posturing.' Food security and infrastructure development were given major attention.

A recurring hallway discussion was how to inspire healthy competition among African leaders so their ambition would be to deliver the best results for their people. The summit closed with several key decisions, including an [eight point action plan](#) for the improvement of maternal and child health. Whether the continent's leaders will turn these laudable intentions and rhetoric into action is now the issue.

News Overview

HIV/AIDS

New studies have found that a vaginal microbicide gel can significantly [reduce HIV infections among women and schoolgirls](#), who make up a majority of the newly infected in sub-Saharan Africa.

25,000 scientists, policymakers and physicians attended the 18th International AIDS Conference in Vienna on July 18-23 in search for better ways to halt the spread of the epidemic. [Bill Clinton and Bill Gates both called for more action in the fight against HIV and AIDS.](#)

[Jeffrey Sachs has criticized developed countries](#) and in particular the US for giving little or no support to the attainment of the MDGs and highlighted the funding gap for the Global Fund.

INVESTMENT AND GROWTH

The FT reports on the [US-based Emerging Capital Partners' announcement of a \\$613m fund targeting deals in Africa](#)

Fund tracker EPFR recorded net inflows of more than \$480 million to Africa regional funds in the first half of the year, indicating sharp [investor appetite in Africa](#)

PEACE & SECURITY

As Uganda's president urges African leaders to unite against terrorism, the [US reaffirms support to AU peacekeeping efforts in Somalia.](#)

[The UK Government is being sued by UK based advocacy group over conflict minerals in DR Congo](#)

CHINA & AFRICA

[In response to media accusations that China's aid to Africa leads to corruption and debts](#), Zambian Foreign Minister Pande said China's aid has helped build infrastructure which is key to African development.

UK & AFRICA

The [BBC](#) reports on Gordon Brown's call to make [aid to Africa focus on wealth creation](#) while [The Guardian](#) reveals pressure on UK's development minister to manage the UK's aid to Africa at a time of budgetary constraints.



Original source: unknown– featured on several blogs

G8/G20 Update

G8

[G8 leaders give maternal health \\$10m](#)

Brazil

[Brazil and South Africa meet through the BASIC group to coordinate their position for COP16](#)

[Brazil and Algeria seek to expand partnership on agriculture](#)

Canada

[Canada renews commitments and announces \\$500,000 to support the Africa Partnership Forum Support Unit](#)

[CIDA responds to food crisis in Niger and Chad](#)

EU

[EC to allocate €15 million to prevent hunger and malnutrition in Ethiopia](#)

[EC proposes to resume development aid to Niger and to end the suspension that has been in place since the end of 2009](#)

[EC to allocate €5 million for short-term food assistance and livelihood support in Comoros, Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique](#)

Germany

[Germany to increase humanitarian aid to Somalia by €1 million](#)

Indonesia

[Training in Somalia and Mozambique for the empowerment of SMEs to increase cooperation between Indonesia and participating countries](#)

Italy

[Italy to give €5.2 million to Somalia by the end of the year in addition to the €22 million provided since 2009](#)

Republic of Korea

[Korea announced it will actively pursue export and trade diversification with Morocco](#)

UK

[New UK approach to maternal health puts family planning at the centre](#)

[UK Minister for Africa supports increase in numbers of troops in Somalia but says a solution must not be forced on the country](#)

USA

[AusAID and USAID join partnership prioritising agriculture and food security in Sub-Saharan Africa](#)

Multilateral Organizations

AfDB

[AfDB allocates \\$10 bn to support Africa's economy](#)

[The Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa \(PIDA\), was launched in Kampala by the AUC, NEPAD and AfDB](#)

[The AfDB and Burkina Faso signed grants and loan agreements for poverty reduction programme](#)

African Union

[The AU says Africa's Western partners should be replaced with China](#)

ECOWAS

[ECOWAS has donated grains worth \\$200,000 to Niger's victims of the food crisis](#)

EAC

[The Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly says that UN statutes need to be amended to 'give room for the participation of parliaments in decision-making'](#)

IMF

[IMF completed review of Burundi's economic performance and approves an additional \\$10 million disbursement](#)

ITC

[Zambian Minister of Agriculture and Co-operatives explores opportunities for partnering with ITC to extend agricultural exports to other markets.](#)

NEPAD

[Ethiopia's PM retains NEPAD leadership despite challenge](#)

OECD

[OECD Survey of South Africa says the country needs to use the positive impact of the World Cup to boost job creation](#)

UN

[UN sounds alarms on xenophobia against Somali refugees after terrorist attack in Uganda](#)

UNCTAD

[World Investment Report 2010 shows that FDI flows to Africa declined by 19% in 2009](#)

United Nations Development Programme

[UNDP Nigeria calculated its 2009 carbon footprint](#)

WFP

[WFP to double amount of food they buy from local women farmers in the south of Uganda](#)

[WFP scales-up operations in Niger to feed 8 million people](#)

World Bank

[Studies in Malawi and Tanzania show that cash payments can reduce HIV transmission in young women](#)

[World Bank Vice President for the Africa Region says that 'Africa's successes show a continent on the edge of economic boom'](#)

Opinions

As [Tutu joins new UN HIV body](#), his criticism of Obama's expenditure on AIDS in Africa in his [opinion piece in the New York Times](#) has been echoed in the [LA weekly](#) and in a [CNN international blog](#) arguing that when it comes to AIDS, Obama is not doing better than Bush.

AU SUMMIT

At AU summit here, African [leaders were urged to push for Africa's interests on the international scene](#). Jean Ping said Africa is increasingly becoming a formidable force on the international scene.

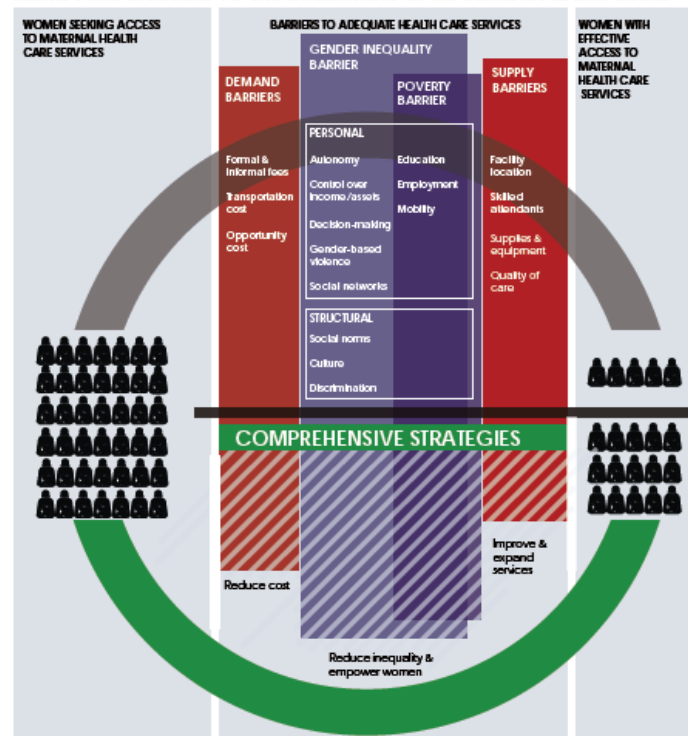
In the characteristic style of the AU, [democratic leaders and dictators](#) have met to discuss a number of issues that affect the continent. [On this occasion, the focus was on maternal and child health, including funding challenges](#).

[An open letter from 10 African celebrities, to Prime Minister Meles Zenawi](#) called to keep the promise to spend at least 15% of the country's budget on healthcare.

[The UN deputy Secretary-General at the AU summit urged African leaders to make maternal health a priority](#)

[World Bank presented success stories of maternal and child health in Africa](#)

REMOVING BARRIERS TO THE UTILIZATION OF MATERNAL HEALTH CARE



Source: Africa Progress Panel, based on Women Deliver (2010).

“*In too many countries, too much money goes to pay for too many people to go to too many meetings and get on too many airplanes to provide too much technical assistance...*”

Bill Clinton at the [International AIDS Conference](#)

In the blogs...

“America should give up the idea of state-building in Somalia, and instead back Somali-led development initiatives, with limited counter-terrorism initiatives” posts the Economist's Baobab blog in its commentary on the Council of Foreign Relations' [new report](#) on Somalia.

Africa Rising posts on Secretary Clinton's speech on US policy toward Africa where she said tariffs and customs issues hamper intra-African trade. [Corruption and capacity issues make trade more difficult in the region](#).

The Reuters Africa blog focuses on [Gordon Brown's reappearance at the AU Summit](#) and quotes him saying that this will be the “African century.”

Calendar

July 26 - August 3 African Women's Entrepreneurship Program, Washington, D.C., USA
1st August Benin 50 Years of Independence
3rd August Niger 50 Years of Independence
5th August Burkina Faso 50 Years of Independence
4 - 6 August United States/sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum, Kansas City, USA
7th August Côte d'Ivoire 50 Years of Independence
9th August Rwanda Presidential Election
11th August Chad 50 Years of Independence
12th August International Youth Day
13th August Central African Republic 50 Years of Independence
15th August Republic of Congo 50 Years of Independence
16-20 August 2nd International Conference on Climate, Sustainability and Development in Semi-Arid Regions, Fortaleza, Brazil
17th August Gabon 50 Years of Independence
30 August - 1 September Annual UN Department of Public Information / NGO Conference on Global Health, Melbourne, Australia
2-4 September African Green Revolution Forum, Accra, Ghana
5-11 September World Water Week, Stockholm, Sweden
6th September 3rd IASTED African Conference on Water Resource Management 2010, Gaborone, Botswana

For more information, contact:

[Temitayo Omotola](#)

Africa Progress Panel

9-11 rue de Varembe, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland

Tel + 41 22 919 7520;