

ECOSOC Resolution 2007/28

Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995,¹ and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,²

Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000,³ the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development of 16 September 2002⁴ and General Assembly resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002 on the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development,⁵

Recalling the conclusions of the African Union Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation, held in Ouagadougou on 8 and 9 September 2004,

Recognizing the commitments made in respect of meeting the special needs of Africa at the 2005 World Summit,⁶

Remaining concerned that Africa is the only continent currently not on track to achieve any of the goals set out in the Millennium Declaration by 2015, and in this regard emphasizing that concerted efforts and continued support are required to fulfil the commitments to addressing the special needs of Africa,

Bearing in mind the fact that African countries have primary responsibility for their own economic and social development, that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized and that their development efforts need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, and in this regard recalling the support given by the International Conference on Financing for Development⁷ to the New Partnership,

1. *Welcomes* the progress made by the African countries in fulfilling their commitments, in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,⁸ to deepen democracy, human rights, good governance and

¹ *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

² General Assembly resolution S-24/2.

³ See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

⁴ See General Assembly resolution 57/2.

⁵ A/57/304, annex.

⁶ See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

⁷ *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁸ A/57/304, annex.

sound economic management, and encourages African countries, with the participation of stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to intensify their efforts in this regard by developing and strengthening institutions for governance and creating an environment conducive to attracting foreign direct investment for the development of the region;

2. *Also welcomes* the progress that has been achieved in implementing the African Peer Review Mechanism, in particular the completion of the peer review process and the progress in implementing the recommendations of those reviews in some countries and the completion of the self-assessment process, the hosting of country support missions and the launching of the national preparatory process for the peer review in others, and urges African States that have not yet done so to join the peer review, as a matter of priority, and to strengthen the peer review process so as to ensure its efficient performance;

3. *Further welcomes* the efforts made by African countries and regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union, to mainstream a gender perspective and the empowerment of women in the implementation of the New Partnership;

4. *Recalls* that the African Union and the regional economic communities have a critical role to play in the implementation of the New Partnership, and in this regard encourages African countries, with the assistance of their development partners, to increase their support to enhancing the capacities of these institutions;

5. *Emphasizes* that progress in the implementation of the New Partnership also depends on a favourable national and international environment for Africa's growth and development, including measures to promote a policy environment conducive to private sector development and entrepreneurship;

6. *Also emphasizes* that democracy, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society, and effective participation by civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector are among the indispensable foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development;

7. *Further emphasizes* that rising poverty levels and social exclusion faced by most African countries require significant changes in the development of social policy and comprehensive social policies, inter alia, to reduce poverty, promote economic activity, growth and sustainable development, ensure employment creation and decent work for all, enhance social inclusion, political stability, democracy, good governance and the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and achieve Africa's social and economic objectives;

8. *Recognizes* that while social development is primarily the responsibility of Governments, international cooperation and assistance are essential for the full achievement of that goal;

9. *Also recognizes* the contribution made by Member States to the implementation of the New Partnership in the context of South-South cooperation, welcomes, in that regard, the convening of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation on 4 and 5 November 2006 and the Africa-Latin America Summit, held in Abuja on 30 November and 1 December

2006, and encourages the international community, including the international financial institutions, to support the efforts of African countries, including through triangular cooperation;

10. *Welcomes* the various important initiatives of Africa's development partners in recent years, including those of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the European Union and the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, including the Africa-Asia Business Forum, the Africa Action Plan of the Group of Eight, the report of the Commission for Africa entitled "Our common interest" and the Africa Partnership Forum, and in this regard emphasizes the importance of coordination in such initiatives for Africa;

11. *Urges* continuous support of measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa, including, as appropriate, debt relief, improved market access, support for the private sector and entrepreneurship, enhanced official development assistance, increased foreign direct investment and the transfer of technology;

12. *Welcomes* the recent increase in official development assistance pledged by many of the development partners, including the commitments of the Group of Eight and the European Union, which will lead to an increase in official development assistance to Africa of 25 billion dollars per year by 2010, and encourages all development partners to ensure aid effectiveness through the implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness: Ownership, Harmonization, Alignment, Results and Mutual Accountability of 2005;⁹

13. *Recognizes* the need for national Governments and the international community to make continued efforts to increase the flow of new and additional resources for financing for development from all sources, public and private, domestic and foreign, to support the development of African countries;

14. *Welcomes* the efforts by development partners to align their financial and technical support to Africa more closely with the priorities of the New Partnership, as reflected in national poverty reduction strategies and in similar strategies, and encourages development partners to increase their efforts in this regard;

15. *Acknowledges* the activities of the Bretton Woods institutions and the African Development Bank in African countries, and invites those institutions to continue their support for the implementation of the priorities and objectives of the New Partnership;

16. *Notes* the growing collaboration among the entities of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, and requests the Secretary-General to promote greater coherence in the work of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, on the basis of the agreed clusters;

17. *Requests* the United Nations system to continue to provide assistance to the African Union, the secretariat of the New Partnership and African countries in developing projects and programmes within the scope of the priorities of the New Partnership;

⁹ Available from
<http://www1.worldbank.org/harmonization/PARIS/FINALPARISDECLARATION.pdf>.

18. *Invites* the Secretary-General, as a follow-up to the 2005 World Summit, to urge the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to assist African countries in implementing quick-impact initiatives based on their national development priorities and strategies to enable them to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and acknowledges in this regard recent commitments by some donor countries;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take measures to strengthen the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, and requests the Office to collaborate with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and to include the social dimensions of the New Partnership in its comprehensive reports to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session;

20. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to discuss, in its annual programme of work, regional programmes to promote social development so as to enable all regions of the United Nations system to share experiences and best practices, with the concurrence of concerned countries;

21. *Decides* that the Commission for Social Development should continue to give prominence to and raise awareness of the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and its implementation during its forty-sixth session, and in that regard requests the Commission, during the policy session of 2008, to provide recommendations on the measures required to achieve that end.

*46th plenary meeting
26 July 2007*