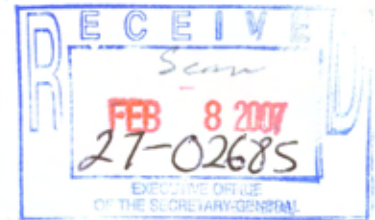


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**Note to the Secretary-General
(Through Mr. Vijay Nambiar)**

**Consultations with Senior Officials of the European Commission
and the German Government in Reference to NEPAD
1-5 February 2007**

African Regional Iss

I have the honor to report on my consultations in Brussels and Berlin with senior officials of the European Commission and the German government.

1. During my consultation meetings with the European Commission (EC), the following issues were raised:
 - The European Union's **Strategy for Africa** adopted in 2005 to provide the EU with a holistic, integrated long-term framework for its relations with the African continent, is an unprecedented consensus of the 3 key EU institutions (the European Commission, the European Council, and the European Parliament) in supporting Africa's development. The Strategy will, for the first time, consider Africa as one entity, and will be an important policy platform for implementing developmental aid to Africa in the coming years, which is expected to increase by about €10 billion per year by 2010.
 - The EU's Strategy for Africa will strengthen the sound strategic partnership between Europe and a re-emerging Africa. This partnership is expected to be formalized with the conclusion of an **EU-Africa Joint Strategy** at the Second EU-Africa Summit to be held in Lisbon in fall 2007.
 - Since peace, security, human rights and development are inter-related, the EU is scaling up its efforts to promote peace and security in Africa at all stages of the conflict cycle. Thus, the **African Peace Facility** will provide African countries with necessary means to identify their own solutions for managing and resolving their own conflicts. The next funding of the Facility will be endowed with an amount of €300 million for 3 years (2008-2010).
 - For the EC, the progress achieved by the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) represents a strong reaffirmation of the commitments made by the African countries to address governance issues. To promote governance systems, the EU developed a **European Governance Initiative**, which will support the implementation of reforms following the recommendations of the APRM. By creating the European Governance Initiative, the EC has placed governance reforms at the heart of the programming process of the 10th **European Development Fund** (€10 billion for the period 2008-2013).
 - With the new Strategy, the EU will make aid effectiveness and donor coordination a central focus of its development agenda in the coming years.
 - The negotiations for the **Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA)** between the EU and the African-Caribbean-Pacific (ACP) are under way. While ACP countries want guaranteed financial support for development programs to offset perceived economic and social costs of trade liberalization, the EC finds it unnecessary to give financial assistance in the short term.
2. During my consultation meetings with the German authorities, a number of issues were raised:
 - The Germany Presidency of the EU will give a special focus to Africa. The German Presidency will concentrate on the implementation of the European Consensus on



Development, which emphasizes the common values, principles and commitments of the EU in favor of poverty reduction.

- In the area of development policy, Germany, Portugal, and Slovenia have decided to outline their common priorities and to conduct initiatives during the 18 months of the respective EU Presidencies of the 3 countries. The 3 countries are committed to closely cooperating in order to build more awareness and support for developmental issues, as well as create value-added in promoting them together with the European framework and in the international arena. The 3 Presidencies will prioritize cooperation with NEPAD.
- The German Presidency will strive to implement the EU's commitments of providing more and better aid made at the **Monterrey Summit**. Germany will take a leading role in implementing the **Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness**, and will encourage the implementation of the EU commitments on policy coherence for development in order to ensure better coherence between other EU policies and the EU's developmental efforts.
- Germany will strongly support the implementation of the **EU's Strategy for Africa**. It will also support the adoption of the **EU-Africa Joint Strategy**, as it will constitute a common basis and will serve as the strategic document for EU-Africa relations for the future.
- The G8 agenda on Africa under the Germany Presidency is expected to be set primarily by African partners. The preparation of the agenda of the next **EU-Africa Summit**, which is to be held in Portugal in late 2007, is still under discussion. Germany does not consider Zimbabwe's case to be an obstacle to a successful and meaningful Summit.
- The German government supports a successful completion of the **Doha Development Round of trade negotiations**. It also supports a full implementation of commitments made at the **Gleneagles Summit** on debt cancellation, which is expected to allow African countries to achieve the much-needed debt sustainability. Since peace and security and development are interdependent, Germany will urge the G8 to give coordinated and systematic attention to peace in Africa.

Both in Brussels and in Berlin, I found a serious commitment to the strengthening of relations with Africa. On the difficulties and delays in NEPAD integration into the structure of the African Union Commission, my interlocutors reminded me how long it has taken European countries to achieve full integration.


Legwaila Joseph Legwaila
8 February 2007

cc: Deputy Secretary-General
Mr. Kim