

Closing Remarks on
“Enhancing cooperation between the AU and G7
Members: shared development priorities for the AU
and G7”

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G7 HIGH-LEVEL WEBINAR
PRESENTATION OF THE G7 APULIA 2024 PROGRESS
REPORT
(29 NOVEMBER 2024; 12:30-14:30 CET)

Distinguished representatives of the G7 Member States;

Esteemed colleagues;

Ladies and gentlemen;

- Good afternoon from Addis-Abeba...
- It is a great honour to join you at the conclusion of today's discussions have offered rich perspectives on **Africa's transformative journey and the vital role partnerships**, such as the one with the G7, play in shaping sustainable development outcomes.
- **But let me start by emphasizing that it is quiet telling** that the Italian Presidency of the G7 is prioritizing Africa within its development agenda ...
- **It reflects the undeniable reality that Africa is a continent on the move**—progressing, innovating, and asserting itself as a global force.
- It is also a **testament to how far Africa has come and how much further we can go** with partnerships that are ambitious and based on shared goals and mutual respect, such as the one with the G7...

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen;

- Allow me to commend the G7 Accountability Working Group for producing **the G7 Apulia Progress Report 2024**.
- **This report is not just a document; it is a reflection of the progress, lessons, and challenges we face together** as we strive to achieve the aspirations of the African Union's Agenda 2063.

- Importantly, this year's report incorporates a **gender equality lens...** and Africa recognizes that **empowering women is the keystone of our collective progress...**
- As we stand at this critical juncture in our global efforts to address sustainable development, **our partnership with G7 has never been more important.**

Distinguished participants, ladies & gentlemen;

- Africa cannot engage in meaningful discussions on sustainable development without addressing the **inadequate global financial architecture that does not reflect the continent's realities or aspirations.**
- According to data from the African Development Bank, **Africa's annual financing gap** to achieve Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 **is estimated at 402 billion dollars...**
- **How can the continent finance its development priorities with this financial gap?**
- The G7 countries, **as key architects of the global financial system**, have a pivotal role in ensuring that Africa's development trajectory aligns with the principles of sustainability and equity.
- The continent carries a **disproportionate debt burden...estimated at 1.2 trillion dollars in 2023.**
- **How can this be the path to Africa's sustainable development?**
- We call on the G7 to **champion reforms that create a financial ecosystem conducive to sustainable development in Africa.**

Esteemed guests; ladies and gentlemen;

- As the **premier development agency of the continent, AUDA-NEPAD** plays a unique role in bridging African priorities with global partnerships.
- Our **flagship initiatives** span multiple sectors and are tailored to meet our Member States' evolving needs.
- **The Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA)** continues to catalyze connectivity and economic integration by addressing Africa's infrastructure gaps with innovative solutions.
- We are actually gathered in Addis Abeba now for the **8th PIDA Week**.
- This is a pivotal event for **advancing Africa's infrastructure development agenda.... This year's focus** is on the critical intersections of water-energy-food nexus, urban development, and the broader green economy and most importantly the implementation of the Continental Power Master Plan which aims to build Africa's energy capacity from the 237 GW to 1200 GW by 2040 with emphasis on renewable energy at all levels from generation to distribution . The strengthening of the power pools and establishing both the regional and continental electricity markets leading to a Single Electricity Market – Afsem is the ultimate goal of CPMP.
- Similarly, the **Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)** has been pivotal in enhancing agricultural productivity and climate resilience, with its recently launched post-Malabo 10-year strategy steering the continent toward sustainable agri-food systems.
- Through the **Triple Nexus Program on Peace, Security, and Development**, we are addressing the interconnected nature of

these challenges, and are developing a comprehensive Peace-Responsive Development framework.

- In health, the **African Medicines Regulatory Harmonization initiative** and the establishment of the **African Medicines Agency** are enhancing access to safe, affordable medical products.
- Alongside this, the **24 Medical Products for Regional Manufacture Initiative** is driving local production of essential medicines, reducing dependency on imports while creating jobs in the pharmaceutical sector.
- As part of **AUDA-NEPAD's industrialization program**, this initiative emphasizes value addition, aligning with the **African Continental Free Trade Area** by fostering regional supply chains that enhance intra-African trade.
- **Education and skills development** are central to Africa's human capital agenda.
- **The Skills Initiative for Africa (SIFA)** is equipping thousands of youth with industry-relevant competencies, while the **World Skills Africa Desk** is aligning technical and vocational training with emerging market needs.
- Our efforts extend to **science and technology** through programs like the High-Level Panel on Emerging Technologies.
- These initiatives advance **Africa's capability to leverage frontier technologies**, ensuring the continent stays competitive in the global digital economy.
- Our work in **climate resilience and environmental sustainability** underscores AUDA-NEPAD's commitment to Africa's future.

- Initiatives like the **Centre of Excellence on Climate Resilience and Adaptation in Cairo** are addressing critical challenges and paving the way for a more prosperous continent.
- We are also about to operationalize our **AFRICA TEAM Resource Mobilization Program...** In cooperation with the RECs and AUC we aim to expedite resource mobilisation for a Pipeline of High-Impact Investment Programmes to accelerate the attainment Agenda 2063;
- **This is just a snapshot of our programs...** and a clear demonstration of **AUDA-NEPAD's ability to translate continental priorities into actionable frameworks.**

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen;

- Africa and the G7 share a responsibility to ensure that our partnership delivers tangible outcomes for our people.
- To this end, AUDA-NEPAD presents the following key priorities for G7 support to enhance Africa's development agenda:
 - **Investing in Infrastructure and Manufacturing** to foster economic self-reliance.
 - **Supporting Africa's efforts to build a diversified economy and integrate into global supply chains.**
 - **Building Agricultural Resilience** to mitigate food and nutrition crises.
 - **Expanding access for women and youth** to quality education, skills development, and economic opportunities.

- AUDA-NEPAD's **Energize Africa Initiative**, launched in 2022, places Africa's youth and women at the core of economic growth strategies. By harnessing their creativity and entrepreneurship, we can unlock immense potential for innovation, job creation, and sustainable development.
- **And strengthening collaboration to address conflicts and promote good governance.**
- If we focus on these shared priorities, we will undoubtedly make significant strides toward a brighter future for Africa and the world. Finally, AUDA as the Premier Development Agency entrusted to coordinate development activities in the continent is coordinating the programs of the Regional Economic Communities and the different AU organs with the aim of delivering as one. We urge G-7 member States to support our coordination efforts.
- **As the African proverb reminds us, “If the threads of the spider’s web unite, they can tie up a lion.”**
- Together, **our collective efforts** can overcome the most formidable challenges and create lasting progress.
- **Thank you** for your attention.