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G8 Africa Action Plan

After African leaders presented NEPAD, then called the New Africa Initiative, to the G8 Genoa Summit in 2001, G8 leaders appointed personal representatives to work with African leaders in developing a G8 response to their initiative.

As chair of the G8 in 2002, Canada spearheaded the development of the response — G8 Africa Action Plan. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien visited six African countries in April 2002 to consult with political leaders and government officials, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and regular citizens in preparation for the 2002 summit. He also consulted African leaders on other occasions throughout the year. In addition, the G8 leaders' personal representatives for Africa met with their African counterparts on five occasions.

As well, the Canadian International Development Agency organized consultations on NEPAD, including a conference in May 2002. That conference brought together 150 participants from 25 countries and over 300 Canadians to discuss African challenges and how NEPAD could best help the poor. In 2002, Canada also provided \$500,000 to support African-driven initiatives that promote awareness and public discourse in Africa on NEPAD.

At the Kananaskis Summit, leaders adopted the G8 Africa Action Plan, which

- complements NEPAD in defining a new relationship between the G8 and those African nations that demonstrate a commitment to democracy, good governance, and the rule of law; that invest in their people; and that pursue policies that spur economic growth and alleviate poverty;
- sets out more than 100 commitments in support of NEPAD in key areas in which the G8, collectively and individually, can add particular value at this time, including peace and security, governance, education, health, economic growth, debt reduction, agriculture and water;
- directs — to Africa or African countries that implement NEPAD — half or more of the G8 official development assistance commitments announced at the UN International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico, in March 2002. This amount, \$60 billion over 10 years beginning in 2006, is in addition to existing ODA programs of the G8, which account for almost three-quarters of aid to Africa.

Following the Kananaskis G8 Summit, Canada ensured follow-up arrangements were in place, including extending the mandate of the G8 leaders' personal representatives for Africa to ensure that the G8 Africa Action Plan is implemented