

Africa

New Partnership for Africa's Development

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is a comprehensive program of action to end Africa's marginalization. It is led by Africans and endorsed in 2001 by the 53 member states of the Organization of African Unity (now the African Union). It emphasizes African leadership and ownership of the development process and calls for a new global partnership based on shared responsibility and mutual interest.

Africa Action Plan

On June 27, 2002, at the Kananaskis G8 Summit, leaders adopted the Africa Action Plan, in support of NEPAD. The plan reaffirms a partnership between the G8 and African countries. It sets out more than 100 specific commitments in key areas, including peace and security, governance, education, health, economic growth, debt reduction, agriculture, and water.

Africa remains high on the G8 agenda. At the Evian G8 Summit in 2003, leaders undertook to review progress in implementing the Africa Action Plan no later than the 2005 G8 Summit. At Evian, G8 leaders also agreed to expand the dialogue on NEPAD to include other major donors and multilateral institutions, including the United Nations. The Africa Partnership Forum, as it has been called, will provide the opportunity to broaden political and practical support for NEPAD.

In 2002, the United Nations passed a resolution that makes NEPAD the basis for UN engagement in support of Africa. The UN Secretary-General has directed all UN agencies operating in Africa to work within the context of the NEPAD policy framework and has established the Office of the Special Advisor to Africa to co-ordinate UN support.

Peace and security issues in Africa

Progress has been made in addressing peace and security issues in Africa over the past five years. The number of armed conflicts has decreased significantly. Key African states are becoming more actively engaged in the maintenance of international peace and security on the continent and, with the establishment in 2003 of the African Union, institutional capacity is improving.