

Canada Implements the G8 Africa Action Plan: Delivering on Commitments, One Year Later

Building a new partnership with Africa

The G8 leaders adopted the Africa Action Plan at the Kananaskis G8 Summit on June 27, 2002, as a centrepiece of the summit. The action plan supports the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), a bold African initiative to achieve sustainable growth and development in Africa through an integrated program that addresses governance; peace and security; education and health; agriculture and water; and trade, investment, and other aspects of economic growth. The G8 Africa Action Plan complements NEPAD by defining a new partnership between G8 and African countries. It also sets out specific commitments in support of NEPAD. This report outlines Canada's response to these commitments in the first year of this new partnership.

Canada's actions in support of NEPAD have been governed by respect for Africa's ownership and leadership of the NEPAD initiative. Canada has sought to respond directly to priorities identified by African partners, including the four areas identified as priorities for development partners: communicable diseases, information and communications technologies, debt reduction, and market access. A strong emphasis has been placed on capacity building in Africa, on enhancing the effectiveness of existing sub-regional and pan-African institutions, and on making progress toward Millennium Development Goal commitments, all of which are integral to NEPAD.

Canada's support for NEPAD recognizes the personal involvement of African heads of state and government in the process and their pledge to promote peace and stability, democracy, sound economic management, and people-centred development. The G8 Summit at Kananaskis was the first to involve the participation, within the working portion of the summit, of non-G8 leaders, namely the presidents of Algeria, Nigeria, Senegal, and South Africa, who are four of the architects of NEPAD.

Through its actions, Canada has also recognized that it is important for the people of Africa to claim NEPAD as their own. In the months leading up to the Kananaskis Summit, Canada facilitated discussion of NEPAD by civil society in Africa, recognizing that the initiative must be embraced by the people if its objectives are to be achieved. Canada has dedicated \$2.5 million for further public outreach. This support is being provided directly to civil society groups, to fully respect African ownership of the NEPAD initiative.