

This is not out of line with the professed desires of African leaders, who, at the inaugural meeting of the "Implementation Committee" for NEPAD emphasized the need for a strategic plan for marketing NEPAD not only internationally but also at the national level, with a view to mobilizing domestic support.

We feel that, as a priority, ***G-8 governments should now be directing their aid agencies to examine all opportunities for ensuring that African peoples are fully informed about NEPAD deliberations and planning, and are capacitated so as to respond to opportunities to discuss these among themselves and with African governments.*** In the case of Canada, this would represent a first substantial opportunity for its newly-announced Africa Trust Fund. Here Canada has a comparative advantage: the Trust fund it created to provide education and training for South Africans disadvantaged by apartheid played a substantial role in preparing South Africans for leading positions in the democratic transformation around the 1994 elections in that country.

We also believe that ***the G-8 Summit should add to its conclusions a commitment to fostering appropriate mechanisms for institutionalizing on-going discussions between African governments and civil society.*** Quite possibly a model for this could be the Helsinki Accord, which the G-8 governments created in the 1980s. This is particularly appropriate because of its focus on the involvement of civil society as well as governments, and its embrace of the whole gamut of issues, including human rights and information exchange, which are crucial to success in pursuit of African Recovery.

It is also valuable as a model precisely because it was drawn on by President Obasanjo in 1991 when he promoted at Kampala a "CSCE" for Africa, which would deal not with "baskets" of issues as at Helsinki, but "calabashes" of issues, in this one gesture relating the idea to the African street and market-place.

Which is where NEPAD, with G-8 support, must resonate.

The NEPAD Calabash

When the NEPAD received its name at the summit in Nigeria in October 2001, the leaders agreed that the philosophy, priorities and implementation modalities were as set out in the New Africa Initiative (NAI) document; this is not a passionless demand for more aid and better trade terms, nor is it only focussed on Market access and capital flows, though all figure in it. The document makes the point that the poverty of Africa stands in contrast to the prosperity of the developed world: only 18 mainline telephones per 1000 people in Africa, 146 for the world as a whole, and 567 per thousand in the G-8 countries. In Africa, 340 million people, half its population, live on less than \$1 per day, and the numbers are increasing.

NEPAD aims at overcoming this situation by changing "the relationship which underpins it", the relationship with the developed world, as expressed through the "marginalization of Africa from the globalization process"; the "debt deadlock"; the "reduction of private aid"; and the