



DECLARATION

THE AFRICAN PRIVATE SECTOR FORUM : 22-23 JANUARY, 2008 ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

We, the members of the private sector, meeting at African Private Sector Forum, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 22-23 January 2008, under the theme, “Africa’s Industrial Drive: The Private Sector and Corporate Citizenship” reiterate the commitment of the private sector to working with the African Union and the UN Global Compact towards the accomplishment of their objectives.

In the area of corporate citizenship, we recognize the significance of good corporate governance, socially responsible business practices such as environmental protection and community development, transparency, the observance of laws, and rules and regulations by both the public and private sector to the acceleration of Africa’s industrial development.

In the area of public-private partnerships, we reiterate our commitment to working closely together with the public sector in utilizing our respective core competencies to form synergies and achieve results collectively. In this regard, we will support the reinforcement of capacity for good governance and transparency and strengthen mechanisms to fight corruption.

In the area of regional integration in Africa, we commit ourselves to providing full support to Africa’s continental and sub-regional integration agenda as these serve as a strong basis for the promotion of inter and intra–African trade and investment, poverty reduction and promotion of sustainable development, attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the integration of Africa into the global economy. In this regard, we call upon the public sector to provide a conducive environment for business to play its role.

Cognizant of the role of the private sector in bringing about growth and sustainable development on the Continent, we commend the African

Union and the UN Global Compact for this very important initiative and recommend that an effective mechanism be put in place to follow up the implementation of the agreed recommendations.

We, therefore, recommend the following:

I. The Role of the Private Sector in Supporting the Promotion of Regional Integration in Africa

Public sector/African Union

- i. Demonstrate their political will and commit more meaningfully to regional integration;
- ii. Encouraging African nationals to invest in different African countries through conducive taxation and investment security policies;
- iii. Further strengthen dialogue with the private sector;
- iv. The African Union to encourage all Member States to accede to the African Peer Review Mechanisms;
- v. The African Union to deepen and widen the involvement of the private sector with its policy organs through;
 - Submitting the recommendations of the Private Sector Forum to the Assembly;
 - Ensuring proper implementation at all levels, regional, sub-regional, and national;
 - Developing a mechanism that would ensure full and transparent feed-back/communication with all stakeholders;
 - Promote women business owners and empower women entrepreneurs through proper legislation and conducive environment.
- vi. Provide conducive, regulatory and enabling environment, specifically in the areas of trade, peace and security, and good governance;

- vii. Ensure macroeconomic stability to attract investment from the private sector;
- viii. Invest in key areas such as education, health, small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs), Information and Communication Technology (ICT), infrastructure, and research and development;
- ix. Develop a visible and accessible electronic repository of information that indicates the current status of integration efforts;
- x. Build upon and strengthen existing and parallel agreements;
- xi. Promote industrial development, in particular value addition, through scientific research and technology; and
- xii. Create smooth and lawful competitions among businesses and ensure security of brands and copyrights

Private sector

- i. Align efforts towards regional integration in line with governments priorities;
- ii. Support the implementation of macroeconomic frameworks to attain economic and sustainable development;
- iii. Collaborate with the existing regional and sub-regional associations and national organs, in order to share best practice and speak with African government (s) with one voice on the subject of regional integration;
- iv. Provide financial support to programs, projects and institutions aimed at regional integration;
- v. Promote “Made in Africa” brands and market Africa as a destination of choice;
- vi. Develop a business directory for the continent;

- vii. Urge African Union and Member States to implement existing recommendations/declarations; and
- viii. Invest in key areas such as education, health, SMEs, ICT, infrastructure and research and development.

II. Accelerating Africa's Industrial Development with Corporate Governance and Corporate Citizenship Instruments.

Public sector/ African Union

- i. Incorporate the UN Global Compact's 10 principles into the code of ethics that govern the conduct of the public sector;
- ii. Offer incentives for socially responsible business practices at the national level, for instance, tax exemptions and investment facilitation; and
- iii. Promote the inclusion of Corporate Citizenship Principles in tertiary education curriculum.

Private sector

- i. Adopt the UN Global Compact's 10 principles as well as comply with local laws and contributing to the development of the local community, the protection of the environment and existing social structures;
- ii. Introduce a peer review mechanism in the private sector similar to the African Peer Review Mechanism; and
- iii. Promote "supply value chains" and sustainable business processes.

III. Achieving Economic Transformation in Africa: The Role of Public-Private Partnerships

Public sector/African Union

- i. Engage in partnerships with the private sector, particularly in areas where the private sector has core competencies;
- ii. Reinforce capacity for good governance and transparency to gain the trust of development partners;
- iii. Strengthen existing mechanisms and develop new ones, where necessary, to fight corruption and fraud;
- iv. The African Union to coordinate the development of an African action plan for Public-Private Partnerships; and
- v. Public and Private sector to work together in advancing the African Agenda under WTO and EPAs.

Private sector

- i. Take the initiative to form and engage in public-private partnerships and dialogue, with governments, civil society and community-based organizations;
- ii. Share ideas, knowledge, understanding, best practices regarding how to engage in partnerships and support their replication across the continent; and
- iii. Establish an African private sector network to share experiences among economic actors.