

IV. APPEAL TO THE PEOPLES OF AFRICA

50. The African Renaissance project, which should allow our continent, plundered for centuries to take its rightful place in the world, depends on the building of a strong and competitive economy as the world moves towards greater liberalisation and competition.
51. The *New Partnership for Africa's Development* will be successful only if it is owned by the African peoples united in their diversity.
52. Africa, impoverished by slavery, corruption and economic mismanagement is taking off in a difficult situation. However, if her enormous natural and human resources are properly harnessed and utilised, it could lead to equitable and sustainable growth of the continent as well as enhance its rapid integration into the world economy.
53. This is why our peoples, in spite of the present difficulties must regain confidence in their genius and their capacity to face obstacles and be involved in the building of the new Africa. The present initiative is an expression of the commitment of Africa's leaders to translate the deep popular will into action.
54. But the struggle they would be waging will be successful only if our peoples are the masters of their own destiny.
55. This is why the political leaders of the continent appeal to all the peoples of Africa, in all their diversity, to become aware of the seriousness of the situation and the need to mobilise themselves in order to put an end to further marginalisation of the continent and ensure its development by bridging the gap with the developed countries.
56. We are, therefore, asking the African peoples to take up the challenge of mobilising in support of the implementation of this initiative by setting up, at all levels, structures for organisation, mobilisation and action.
57. The leaders of the continent are aware of the fact that the true genius of a people is measured by its capacity for bold and imaginative thinking, and determination in support of their development.
58. We must not relent in implementing this ambitious programme of building sound and resilient economies, and democratic societies. In this respect, the African leaders are convinced that Africa, a continent whose development process has been marked by false starts and failures will succeed with this initiative.