## B. SECTORAL PRIORITIES

- **Bridging the Infrastructure Gap**

### (i) All Infrastructure Sectors

99. The infrastructures considered include roads, highways, airports, seaports, railways, waterways, and telecommunication facilities. However, only sub-regional or continental infrastructures will be the focus of the Plan.

100. Infrastructure is one of the major parameters of economic growth, and solutions should be found to permit Africa to rise to the level of developed countries in terms of the accumulation of material and human capital.

101. If Africa had the same basic infrastructure as developed countries, it would be in a more favourable position to focus on production and improving productivity for international competition. The structural gap in infrastructure constitutes a very serious handicap to economic growth and poverty reduction. Improved infrastructure, including the cost and reliability of services, would benefit both Africa and the international community, which would be able to obtain African goods and services more cheaply.

102. In many African countries, the colonial powers built the infrastructure to foster exportation of African raw materials and importation of industrial goods into Africa.

103. We recognise also that if infrastructure is to improve in Africa, private foreign finance is essential to complement the two major funding methods, namely credit and aid.

104. The Infrastructure Initiative comprises elements that are common to all the infrastructure sectors. It also includes elements that are sector-specific.

### 105. Objectives

- To improve access to and affordability and reliability of infrastructure services for both firms and households;

- To enhance regional co-operation and trade through expanded cross-border development of infrastructure;

- To increase financial investments in infrastructure by lowering risks facing private investors, especially in the area of policy and regulatory frameworks;

  - To build adequate knowledge and skills in technology and engineering with a

view to installing, operating and maintaining "hard" infrastructure networks in Africa.

**106.Actions**

- With the assistance of sector-specialised agencies, put in place policy and legislative frameworks to encourage competition. At the same time, introduce new regulatory frameworks as well as build capacity for regulators, so as to promote policy and regulatory harmonisation in order to facilitate cross-border interaction and market enlargement;

- Increase investment in infrastructure, especially refurbishment, and improve system maintenance practices that will sustain infrastructure;

- Initiate the development of training institutions and networks which can develop and produce high-skill technicians and engineers in all infrastructure sectors;

- Promote community and user involvement in infrastructure construction, maintenance and management, especially in poor urban and rural areas, in collaboration with the *New Partnership for Africa's Development* Governance Initiatives;

- Work with the African Development Bank and other development finance institutions on the continent to mobilise sustainable financing especially through multilateral processes, institutions and donor governments, with a view to securing grant and concessional finance to mitigate medium term risks;

- Promote PPPs as a promising vehicle for attracting private investors, and focus public funding on the pressing needs of the poor, by building capacity to implement and monitor such agreements;

- In addition to these common issues, the following are sector-specific strategies for the different types of infrastructure.

**(ii)    Bridging the Digital Divide: Investing in Information and Communication Technologies**

107.    Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), driven by the convergence of computers, telecommunications and traditional media, are crucial for the knowledge-based economy of the future. Rapid advances in technology and the diminishing cost of acquiring the new ICT tools have opened new windows of opportunity for African countries to accelerate economic growth and development. The goals of achieving a

Common Market and an African Union can benefit immensely from the revolution in information technology. In addition to fostering intra-regional trade, the use of ICTs could also accelerate Africa's integration into the global economy.

108. Intensive use of ICTs can bring, unprecedented comparative advantages to the continent. It can:

- Provide an impetus to the democratisation process and good governance;

- Facilitate the integration of Africa into the new information society, using its cultural diversity as a leverage;

- ICTs can be helpful tools for a wide range of applications, such as remote sensing and environmental, agricultural and infrastructural planning;

- The existing complementarities can be better utilised to provide training that would allow for the production of a critical mass of professionals on the use of ICTs;

- In the research sector, we can establish African programmes as well as technological exchange programmes capable of meeting the continent's specific needs, with particular regard to the fight against illiteracy;

- ICTs can be used to identify and exploit opportunities for trade, investment and finance;

- Can be used to establish regional distance learning and health education programmes to improve the situation in the health and education sectors;

- In conflict management and control of pandemic diseases, ICTs will help towards the organisation of an efficient early warning mechanism by providing the tools for constant monitoring of tension spots.

109. In Africa, poor ICT infrastructure, combined with weak policy and regulatory frameworks and limited human resources, has resulted in inadequate access to affordable telephones, broadcasting, computers and the Internet. African teledensity remains below one line per 100 people. Service costs are also high: the connection cost in Africa averages 20 per cent of GDP per capita, compared with the world average of 9 per cent, and 1 per cent for high-income countries. Africa has been unable to capitalise on ICT as a tool in enhancing livelihoods and creating new business opportunities, and cross-border linkages within the continent and with global markets have been constrained. Though many countries in Africa have started

ICT policy reforms, service penetration, quality or tariffs have not yet improved.

## *110.* *Objectives*

- To double teledensity to two lines per 100 people by 2005, with an adequate level of access for households;

- To lower the cost and improve reliability of service;

- To achieve e-readiness for all countries in Africa;

- To develop and produce a pool of ICT-proficient youth and students from which Africa can draw trainee ICT engineers, programmers and software developers;

- To develop local content software, based especially on Africa's cultural legacy.

## *111.* *Actions*

- Work with regional agencies such as the African Telecommunications Union and Africa Connection to design model policy and legislation for telecommunications reform, and protocols and templates for e-readiness assessments;

- Work with the regional agencies to build regulatory capacity;

- Establish a network of training and research institutions to build high-level manpower;

- Promote and accelerate existing projects to connect schools and youth centres;

- Work with development finance institutions in Africa, multilateral initiatives (G-8 DotForce, UN Task Force) and bilateral donors to establish financial mechanisms to mitigate and reduce sector risks.

**(iii)**       **Energy**

*112.*     *Objectives*

- Energy plays a critical role in the development process, first as a domestic necessity but also as a factor of production whose cost directly affects prices of other goods and services, and the competitiveness of enterprises. Given the uneven distribution of these resources on the continent, it is recommended that the search for abundant and cheap energy to focus on rationalising the territorial distribution of existing but unevenly allocated energy resources. Furthermore, Africa should strive to develop its solar energy resources which is abundantly available.

   - To increase from 10 per cent to 35 per cent *or more*, access to reliable and affordable commercial energy supply by Africa's population in 20 years;

   - To improve the reliability as well as lower the cost of energy supply to productive activities in order to enable economic growth of 6 per cent per annum;

   - To reverse environmental degradation that are associated with the use of traditional fuels in rural areas;

   - To exploit and develop the hydropower potential of river basins of Africa;

   - To integrate transmission grids and gas pipelines so as to facilitate cross-border energy flows;

   - To reform and harmonise petroleum regulations and legislation in the continent.

*113.*  *Actions*

   - Establish an African Forum for Utility Regulation and establish regional regulatory associations;

   - Establish a task **force** to recommend priorities and implementation strategies for regional projects, including hydropower generation, transmission grids and gas pipelines;

   - Establish a task team to accelerate the development of energy supply to low-income housing;

   - Broaden the scope of the programme for biomass energy conservation from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to the rest of the continent.

**(iv)** *Transport*

*114.* *Objectives*

- To reduce delays in cross-border movement of people, goods and services;

- To reduce waiting-time in ports;

- To promote economic activity and cross-border trade through improved land transport linkages;

- To increase air passenger and freight linkages across Africa's sub-regions.

*115.* *Actions*

- Establish customs and immigration task teams to harmonise border crossing and visa procedures;

- Establish and nurture PPPs as well as grant concessions towards the construction, development and maintenance of ports, roads, railways and maritime transportation;

- Promote harmonisation of transport modal standards and regulations, and the increased use of multimodal transport facilities;

- Work with the regional organisations to develop transport development corridors;

- Promote PPPs in the rationalisation of the airline industry and build capacity for air traffic control.

**(v)** **Water and Sanitation**

*116.* *Objectives*

- To ensure sustainable access to safe and adequate clean water supply and sanitation, especially for the poor;

- To plan and manage water resources to become a basis for national and regional co-operation and development;

- To systematically address and sustain ecosystems, bio-diversity and wildlife;

- To co-operate on shared rivers among member states;

- To effectively address the threat of climate change;

- To ensure enhanced irrigation and rain-fed agriculture to improve agricultural production and food security.

### 117. Actions

- Accelerate work on multipurpose water resource projects; for example, the SADC Water Secretariat's investigation of the utilisation of the Congo River, and the Nile Basin Initiative;

- Establish a task team to make plans for mitigating the negative impact of climate change **in** Africa;

- Collaborate with the Global Environmental Sanitation Initiative (GESI) in promoting sanitary waste disposal methods and projects;

- Support the UN Habitat programme on Water Conservation in African Cities.

- **Human Resource Development Initiative including reversing the Brain Drain**

### (i) Poverty Reduction

### 118. Objectives

- To provide focused leadership by prioritising poverty reduction in all the programmes and priorities of the *New Partnership for Africa's Development* as well as national macroeconomic and sectoral policies;

- To give special attention to the reduction of poverty among women;

- To ensure empowerment of the poor in poverty reduction strategies;

- To support existing poverty reduction initiatives at the multilateral level, such as the Comprehensive Development Framework of the World Bank and the Poverty Reduction Strategy approach linked to the HIPC debt relief initiative.

*119.    Actions*

- Require that country plans prepared for initiatives in this programme of action assess their poverty reduction impact, both before and after implementation;

- Work with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the ADB, and the United Nations (UN) agencies to accelerate implementation and adoption of the Comprehensive Development Framework, the Poverty Reduction Strategy and related approaches;

- Establish a gender task team to ensure that the specific issues faced by poor women are addressed in the poverty reduction strategies, of the *New Partnership for Africa's Development*;

- Establish a task team to accelerate the adoption of participatory and decentralised processes for the provision of infrastructural and social services.

## *(ii)    Bridging the Education Gap*

*120.    Objectives*

- To work with donors and multilateral institutions to ensure that the IDG of achieving universal primary education by 2015 is realised;

- To work for improvements in curriculum development, quality improvements and access to ICT;

- To expand access to secondary education and improve its relevance to Africa's development;

- Promote networks of specialised research and higher education institutions.

*121. Actions*

- Review current initiatives jointly with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and other major international donors;

- Review levels of expenditure on education by African countries, and lead the process of developing norms and standards for government expenditure on education;

- Set up a task force to accelerate the introduction of ICT in primary schools;

- Set up a task force to review and put forward proposals for the research capacity needed in each region of the continent.

122. The key problems in education in Africa are the poor facilities and inadequate systems under which the vast majority of Africans receive their training. Africans who have had the opportunity of obtaining training elsewhere in the world have demonstrated their ability to compete successfully.

123. The plan supports the immediate strengthening of the university system across Africa, including the creation of specialised universities where needed, building on available African teaching staff. The need to establish and strengthen institutes of technology is especially emphasised.

**(iii)   Reversing the Brain Drain**

*124.   Objectives*

- To reverse the brain drain and turn it into a "brain gain" for Africa

- To build and retain within the continent critical human capacities for Africa's development

- To develop strategies for utilising the scientific and technological know-how and skills of Africans in the diaspora for the development of Africa

*125.   Actions*

- Create the necessary political, social and economic conditions in Africa that would serve as incentives to curb the brain drain and attract much-needed investment.

- Establish a reliable data base on the brain drain  both to determine the magnitude of the problem, and to promote networking and collaboration between experts in the country – of – origin and those in the diaspora.

- Develop scientific and technical networks to channel the repatriation of scientific knowledge to the home country, and establish cooperation between those abroad and at home.

- Ensure that the expertise of Africans living in the developed countries is utilised in the execution of some of the projects envisaged under the *New Partnership for*

*Africa's Development*.

**(iv)    Health**

**126.  Objectives**

- To strengthen programmes for containing communicable diseases, so that they do not fall short of the scale required in order to reduce the burden of disease;

- To have a secure health system that meets needs and supports disease control effectively;

- To ensure the necessary support capacity for the sustainable development of an effective health care delivery system;

- To empower the people of Africa to act to improve their own health and to achieve health literacy;

- To successfully reduce the burden of disease on the poorest people in Africa;

- To encourage cooperation between medical doctors and traditional practitioners.

**127.    Actions**

- Strengthen Africa's participation in processes aimed at procuring affordable drugs, including those involving the international pharmaceutical companies and the international civil society, and explore the use of alternative delivery systems for essential drugs and supplies;

- Mobilise the resources required to build effective disease interventions and secure health systems:

- Lead the campaign for increased international financial support for the struggle against HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases;

- Join forces with other international agencies such as the WHO and donors to ensure support for the continent is increased by at least US $10 billion per annum;

- Encourage African countries to give higher priority to health in their own budgets and to phase such increases in expenditure to a level to be mutually determined;

- Jointly mobilise resources for capacity-building in order to enable all African countries to improve their health infrastructures and management.

128. Africa is home to major endemic diseases. Bacteria and parasites carried by insects, the movement of people and other carriers thrive, favoured as they are by weak environmental policies and poor living conditions. One of the major impediments facing African development efforts is the widespread incidence of communicable diseases, in particular HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Unless these epidemics are brought under control, real gains in human development will remain a pipe dream.

129. In the health sector, Africa compares very poorly with the rest of the world. In 1997, child and juvenile death rates were 105 and 169 per 1000, as against 6 and 7 per 1000 respectively in developed countries. Life expectancy is 48.9 years, as against 77.7 years in developed countries. Only 16 doctors are available per 100 000 inhabitants against 253 in industrialised countries. Poverty, reflected in very low per capita incomes, is one of the major factors limiting the populations' capacity to address their health problems.

130. Nutrition is an important ingredient of good health. The average daily intake of calories varies from 2384 in low-income countries to 2846 in middle-income countries to 3390 in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries.

131. Health, defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a state of complete physical and mental well-being, contributes to increase in productivity and consequently to economic growth. The most obvious effects of health improvement on the working population are the reduction in lost working days due to sick leave, the increase in productivity, and the chance to get better paid jobs. Eventually, improvement in health and nutrition directly contributes to improved well-being as the spread of diseases is controlled, infant mortality rates are reduced, and life expectancy is higher. The link with poverty reduction is clearly established.

- **Agriculture**

132. The majority of Africa's people live in rural areas. However, the agrarian systems are generally weak and unproductive. Coupled with external setbacks such as climatic uncertainty, biases in economic policy and instability in world commodity prices, these systems have held back agricultural supply and incomes in the rural areas, leading to poverty.

133. The urgent need to achieve food security in African countries requires that the problem of inadequate agricultural systems be addressed, so that food production

can be increased and nutritional standards raised.

134. Improvement in agricultural performance is a prerequisite of economic development on the continent. The resulting increase in rural peoples' purchasing power will also lead to higher effective demand for African industrial goods. The induced dynamics would constitute a significant source of economic growth.

135. Productivity improvement in agriculture rests on the removal of a number of structural constraints affecting the sector. A key constraint is climatic uncertainty, which raises the risk factor facing intensive agriculture based on the significant inflow of private investment. Consequently, governments must support the provision of irrigation equipments and develop arable lands when private agents are unwilling to do so. The improvement of other rural infrastructure (roads, rural electrification, etc.) is also essential.

136. The institutional environment for agriculture also significantly affects the sector's productivity and performance. Institutional support in the form of research centres and institutes, the provision of extension and support services, and agricultural trade fairs will further boost the production of marketable surpluses. The regulatory framework for agriculture must also be taken into account, including the encouragement of local community leadership in rural areas, and the involvement of these communities in policy and the provision of services.

137. Too little attention has been paid by bilateral donors and multilateral institutions to the agriculture sector and rural development, where more than 70 per cent of the poor people in Africa reside. For example, in the World Bank lending portfolio, credits to agriculture amounted to 39 per cent in 1978, but dropped to 12 per cent in 1996 and even further to 7 per cent in 2000. The entire donor community must reverse such negative trends.

- **The Environment Initiative**

138. It has been recognised that a healthy and productive environment is a prerequisite for the *New Partnership for Africa's Development*. It is further recognised that the range of issues necessary to nurture this environmental base is vast and complex, and that a systematic combination of initiatives is necessary in order to develop a coherent environmental programme. This will necessitate that choices be made, and particular issues be prioritised for initial interventions.

139. It is also recognised that a core objective of the Environment Initiative must be to held in combating poverty and contributing to socio-economic development in Africa. It has been demonstrated in other parts of the world that measures taken to

achieve a healthy environmental base can contribute greatly to employment, social and economic empowerment, and reduction of poverty.

140. It should be mentioned, here, that Africa will host the World Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2002, and that environmental management form the basis of the Summit. In this regard, we propose that the event put particular emphasis on the deliberations on this theme in the *New Partnership for Africa's Development*.

141. The Environment Initiative has targeted eight sub-themes for priority interventions:

- Combating Desertification. Initial interventions are envisaged to rehabilitate degraded land and to address the factors that led to such degradation. Many of these steps will need to be labour intensive, along the lines of "public works programmes", thereby contributing to the social development needs of the continent. The initial interventions will serve as best practices or prototypes for future interventions in this area;

- Wetland Conservation. This involves implementation of African best practices on wetland conservation, where social and ecological benefits are derived from private sector investment in this area;

- Invasive Alien Species. Partnerships are sought to prevent and control invasive alien species. These partnerships are critical for both the preservation of the eco systems and economic well-being. Major labour-intensive initiatives are possible;

- Coastal Management. In protecting and utilising coastal resources to optimal effect, best practices are again suggested from which a broader programme can be drawn up;

- Global Warming. The initial focus will be on monitoring and regulating the impact of climate change. Labour-intensive work is essential and critical to integrated fire management projects;

- Cross-border Conservation Areas. This sub-theme seeks to build on the emerging initiatives, seeking partnerships across countries to boost conservation and tourism, and, therefore, create jobs;

- Environmental Governance. This relates to the securing of institutional, legal, planning, training and capacity-building requirements that underpin all of the above;

- Financing. A carefully structured and fair system for financing is required.

142. The Environment Initiative has a distinct advantage in that many of the projects can start within relatively short time frames, and they also offer exceptionally good returns on investment in terms of creating the social and ecological base upon which the *New Partnership for Africa's Development* can thrive.

- **Culture**

143. Culture is an integral part of development efforts on the continent. Consequently, it is essential to protect and effectively utilise indigenous knowledge that represents a major dimension of the continent's culture, and to share this knowledge for the benefit of humankind. The *New Partnership for Africa's Development* will give special attention to the protection and nurturing of indigenous knowledge, which includes tradition-based literacy, artistic and scientific works, inventions, scientific discoveries, designs, marks, names and symbols, undisclosed information and all other tradition-based innovations and creations resulting from intellectual activity in the industrial, scientific, literary or artistic fields. The term also includes genetic resources and associated knowledge.

144. The *New Partnership for Africa's Development* leaders will take urgent steps to ensure that indigenous knowledge in Africa is protected through appropriate legislation. They will also promote its protection at the international level, by working closely with the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).

- **Science and Technology Platforms**

145. *Objectives*

- To promote cross-border co-operation and connectivity by utilising knowledge currently available in existing centres of excellence on the continent;

- To develop and adapt information collection and analysis capacity to support productive activities as well as for exports;

- To generate a critical mass of technological expertise in targeted areas that offer high growth potential, especially in biotechnology and natural sciences;

- To assimilate and adapt existing technologies to diversify manufacturing production.

146. *Actions*

- Establish regional co-operation on product standards development and dissemination, and on geographic information systems (GIS);

- Develop networks among existing centres of excellence, especially through the Internet, for cross-border staff exchanges and training programmes, and develop schemes to assist displaced African scientists and researchers;

- Work with UNESCO, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), and other international organisations to harness biotechnology in order to develop Africa's rich biodiversity and indigenous knowledge base by improving agricultural productivity and developing pharmaceutical products;

- Expand geo-science research to enhance the exploitation of the mineral wealth of the African continent;

- Establish and develop skills-based product engineering and quality control to support diversification in manufacturing.