



# AFRICA INITIATIVE GROUP

First Africa International Conference  
(Proposals for the G20)

## «Peace, Economic Growth and Supportive Development»

What structural changes are needed?  
Yamoussoukro, 8 , 9 and 10 September 2011



*First Africa International Summit:* «PEACE, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SUPPORTIVE DEVELOPMENT»  
(Proposal for the G20)

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" Si nous avons insisté pour que ce Groupe se crée, c'est qu'il y a un manque réel en Afrique : nous ne réfléchissons pas assez !

Nous ne sommes pas les moins doués pour cela, néanmoins le problème c'est de se mettre ensemble, de réfléchir et de créer la synergie : comment dégager les vraies questions qui sont les nôtres, comment arriver à l'optimum ?!

Nous ne devons pas être frileux, nous devons être ouverts.

Nous avons aussi quelque chose à apporter dans le cadre de la Gouvernance Mondiale.

Plus on est « petit » économiquement, plus il faut être fort « intellectuellement ». Nous avons la capacité intellectuelle d'être dans ce monde et d'initier les transgressions et les ruptures qui peuvent être nécessaires.

Cette initiative est une grande initiative.

Il y a un défi et l'occasion offerte aux africains, de participer sans complexe et à égalité au « banquet de l'universel » - comme disait Senghor.

C'est cela qui m'amène à soutenir cette initiative... "

Mr. Charles KONAN BANNY,  
former Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire  
at the constitutive assembly of June, 2nd 2012



## ← RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE

# SUMMARY OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

## I - What are the prerequisites for sustainable peace, in view of achieving development ?

Looking into the link between peace and development in depth has helped clarify a number of key concepts:

### 1 - Democracy

Democracy is the only way to peace. This is the foundation of power legitimacy, though its connection with economic efficiency remains to be scrutinized (cf. Chinese experience). However, democracy should be more determined by a behavior than by a formal aspect which relies on history, customs and level of literacy in every country:

Really democratic behavior must be participatory, inclusive; it must be based on the following:

- Freedom of speech
- Notion of confidence (of transparency, too): clashes are normal events in a society; cheating is the problem
- Notion of accountability, which concerns the power and the opposition as well. This implies particularly observance of the rules and commitments.

### 2 - Leadership

The efficiency of democracy depends on the quality of leadership which involves the notions of value and of credibility as part of an interconnected world and in rapid progress. This does not fit in a long stay in power. Society should anticipate on ways of facilitating power transition, particularly the protection of former leaders to allow for smooth departure.

### 3 - Decentralization

It should be generally accepted on as a concrete involvement in the distribution of authority, and not as 'dividing up the pie'. This is a must in order to achieve efficiency and end up with miracles!

### 4 - 'Realistic' policy

In a context where 'everything is priority', political action should target a certain number of principles:

- 'concomitance': determine the essential priorities which entail the follow-up and make them achievable (e.g. Education, the true foundation of development; technology, to perform 'break-throughs'; governance, to define the rules so as to abide by them).
- Pragmatism of the 'successive steps': everything feasible has to be implemented immediately meaning 'improvement opposes with the good'.

### 5 - Conflict prevention

It is less effective at the time of 'Warning', barely efficient unfortunately, than during upstream work which produces the concrete and tangible results expected. People should have access to the fruits of expansion (in line with the notion of emergency and the youth's growing impatience).

### 6 - Right or duty to intervene

Since these notions have become really relevant, they deserve studying in depth using cases that occurred lately in Africa. There was a proposal for an African 'warning system' as adopted at Yamoussoukro. Such system will involve indicators which are likely to anticipate situations of crisis.

### 7 - Corruption

They are rampant in all sectors and machinery of many countries. Together with money-laundering, they deprive the SOCIety of the resources needed for development. The struggle against corruption will have to last long (through the development of a cultural environment likely to facilitate the internalization of the modern State. The most efficient weapon remains the use of models.

They need backing up from African countries and their partners. The level of their efficiency is straightly dependent on the authorities' leadership skills. They have to be chosen according to appropriate criteria.

### 8 - Regional institutions

They have played a key role in the prevention of conflicts (e.g. Guinea and Cote d'ivoire for WAEMU), they help pool some means which are not accessible at state-level; they form an essentialsystem for economic development, considering the limited size of many countries' market'.

### 9 - Values

They are at the heart of the notion of leadership and of governance; they require some introspection, since many conflicts originate from 'ego crises', therefore it is relevant to enhance the cultural sector, a mirror of the clashes in society.

### 10 - Lines of thought for further action

- Looking into the issue of democracy and power management without taboo
- From regional integration to the 'Confederation'
- The major projects as employment factor
- The solution to the issue, stiff current, of trafficians on the main road arteries

## II - How to facilitate rapid and better shared expansion In a global world ?

Economic growth is necessary to the struggle against poverty.

This supposes first a long-term vision from the Developer State, capable of formulating a clear and coherent strategy, together with priorities where the populations can benefit from.

This relies on the development of the private sector (e.g. India where its emergence has changed the country in 15 years!), the national private sector in particular. To achieve this, the everlasting bottlenecks have to be removed, which requires a real 'systemic' reform aiming to:

- Improve the performance of justice, an issue in many countries, by facilitating access of the people to the regional institutions (more accessible Court of arbitration):
- Increase the funding of local small-size businesses: new Instruments for risk-sharing have to be found in order to support the creation of Jobs. Competition between the banks, the settling up of investment funds and restructuring of the international Institutions towards the private sector should be encouraged.
- Enable small businesses, generally from the informal sector to attain the status of medium-sized enterprises, which is essential in terms of employment. The term 'true entrepreneur', different from 'speculator' or 'middleman', should be understood and promoted.
- Set up a vocational training system which is adapted to the local needs, drawing from successful International examples.

The challenge of infrastructures remains an absolute prerequisite to real growth (the cost of transportation in Asia represents 2 to 3 per cent of the cost price of goods compared to 20 per cent in Africa).

A few conditions have to be met in order to help fund these projects:

- They must be inclusive to be 'accessible to the market'
- Though hard for the user to rate cost-efficiency, they must be bankable In terms of management and maintenance
- Recourse to public/private partnership (3P's) is the best way. The 3P's must be put at the top which, due to their technicality, requires enough expertise and negotiating abilities from the states to give a fair place to the national capital.

Investing on unifying projects (e.g. the railways,) capable of boosting regional markets, must be given priority, yet without neglecting urban infrastructures which are expected to develop significantly because of demographic evolution and Irreducible rural exodus.

Regional integration is nevertheless a complex process which entails realistic approaches and concrete projects whereby the relevance to make civil society voice heard.

Surely due to emergency and the scope of investments, this challenge can only be taken up with international aid. The G20 could lead such awareness.

### **A few flagship projects:**

- Setting up regional vocational schools
- Supporting the creation of agricultural clusters and regional funds for industrial and agricultural development
- Setting up regional agricultural markets
- Regional projects for railway and air transport

### III - What are the conditions for «green revolution» ?

This 'green revolution' is necessary:

It is a strategic goal for Africa to feed and provide work for a population which is going to double in less than one generation !

This is theoretically attainable:

Though just a few sectors and products are concerned, many successful agricultural operations pave the way and show the real potential of the Continent.

#### 1. Determination of real agricultural policies

- Which are there for the long haul in terms of 'clusters' and through the research of varied technical paths which can fit in every ecosystem. High-tech product-driven systems and more traditional environmentally-aware models and less costly energetic and mechanical components may coexist. They will be determined with pragmatism by making a good use of various International experiments (India, Brazil, etc.)

- Many potential Improvements in productivity are now confronted with obstacles the solution of which implies a real systemic reform related with:

- Which account for the cartography of inter-zonal complementarities (coastal and of the hinterland especially), and prioritizing regional approaches;

- Vocational training indispensable for supporting these agricultural policies must be set up by reproducing the successful programmes here and there;

#### 2. Seeking appropriate funding:

For the development of general infrastructures: information, transport, storage which involves long-term and substantial Investments;

- By solving the land issue In order to facilitate the investment needed to modernize the sector (mechanization, seeds, fertilizers, etc.) as part a fair and visible policy which makes the difference between ownership and usufruct;

- Through establishing risk-sharing bodies, new financing tools to benefit especially Small and Medium-sized Businesses and by supporting the setting up of specialized funds.

#### 3. Stabilizing agricultural prices:

- The predictability and the level of prices for the producers are now jeopardized by the major fluctuations of the world prices, partly due to the hedge funds and to the market distortions in connection with subsidies (one billion dollars daily !).

Active participation to international institutions which are likely to reduce this asymmetric competition through lowering the subsidies and the negotiation for transitory customs protections are Indispensable; the private sector and the States should liaise at regional level.

- to reduce the major fluctuations in prices, recourse to Stabilization funds differently managed compared to the past (i.e. by the users themselves) should be envisaged to smooth out the prices.

Involvement of the State at all levels (strategy, local and international implementation) is fundamental to resolve the bottlenecks. This should be integrated in a public/private partnership move at national, international and triangular levels, with industrialized, emergent and African countries.



The significant integration of Africa in the world agricultural production represents such a challenge for geopolitical balance and the jostling those old habits worldwide that only international awareness spurred by the G20 seems likely to make effect.

The West, which is just moving away from a financial speculation approach in order to get back to production, will need Africa, a major potential provider of raw materials and new markets.

## IV - Africa, a key actor for new globalization

The world is in constant move:

The development of civil society engenders progress which is not initiated by the States. Multilateral mechanisms are more and more influential. The issues travel across borders. New leaderships are coming up and the foundations are going to change with the Arab revolutions. The young become more and more influential as their frustrations and impatience increase.

We are at the end of an era. In this moving environment, the West and Europe are questioning themselves too. Huge changes are also taking place in Africa: the importance of figures, especially demographic (3.4 billion inhabitants by the end of the century, unknown in human history!), announces an influence and a forthcoming massive presence worldwide, time has come for Africa. Yet this rapid expansion and the foreseeable swing are not well perceived yet.

This backwardness is mainly caused by the falsely globalizing and dated Perception of Africa and by imbalances in the means of communication.

It is high time such discrepancies are resolved for Africa and for the rest of world as well, where this situation also prevails. As evidence, the reaction of amazement for the 'Arab Spring', and for Europe in particular, the overestimation of 'Africa' risk and underestimation of the stakes and the precious growth potential to obtain from a better cooperation with Africa.

Thus, the relevance of laying the foundations of a new more straightforward and more demanding partnership between Africa and the rest of the world, which underlies mutual introspection and certain soul-searching:

On the Western side, by acknowledging past errors and unreasonable demands sometimes concerning Africa where good practices, democracy women's rights, good governance, and so on, are 'experimented'.

Also by questioning the current means of intervention regarding mainly the efficiency of classical development aid and the innovative search for financing:

- On the side of Africa, by an open and frank exchange of views which will avoid moving from excessive pessimism to disproportionate euphoria.

Africa should brush up its image through enhancing its credibility. The creation of a 'perception observatory' could be undertaken to help get further into the following observations:

- The key role of 'culture' which should be considered and developed in three folds, as a symbolic maker of self-esteem necessary for well-assumed citizenship a part of the modern State, as an aim towards full participation in building a multi-voice humanity, and as labour provider for the young (setting up an assistance fund to support the young?);

- Relevance of communication and media. People have to be aware in order to react against the glaring current low investment in this area, at poles apart from the highly specific social role played by the media as observed throughout the world !

Such strategy should help strengthen their position in the international institutions, by seeking challenges and targeting impact capacity (the creation of 'Groupe Initiative Afrique', a think-tank aiming to become an action-tank in the future to illustrate such move).

One may be small and relevant.

We should not entirely neglect the ability to cause trouble and the risks of destabilization at global level which are real if those systemic changes are not made in time by Africa and by the International Community.

We should stand up against globalization without complexes since, in parallel with the growing role of civil society, human dimension tends to become a key factor and a purpose for the new relations between countries. In that point of view, Africa can legitimately claim to become the breeding ground of a 'new humanism'.





## SUMMARY OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE G20

*First Africa International Summit:  
(Proposal for the G20)*

- Session I :** What are the prerequisites for sustainable peace, in view of achieving development ?
- Session II :** How to facilitate rapid and better shared expansion In a global world ?
- Session III :** What are the conditions for «green revolution» ?
- Session IV :** Africa, a key actor for new globalization

# G20 RECOMMENDATIONS

The first conference of the AFRICA INITIATIVE GROUP (from Aspen Institute) took place in Yamoussoukro between 8 to 11 September on a theme of development with a view to making heard the “African voice” of a top level think tank on the current framework of the G20’s deliberations on development:

Preliminary considerations:

Demographic growth in Africa will be exponential in coming years. The population will double and reach 2 billion inhabitants by 2050. This exceptional growth in history, combined with immense raw material richness, make this continent of great importance in terms of growth opportunity for the whole planet. However, the stagnation, even extreme fragility, of a great number of the economies and societies of African countries call for real and systematic reform worthy of these opportunities and challenges.

The AFRICA INITIATIVE GROUP considers the G20, with its member composition including emerging countries, and its mission to address the economic and financial aspects of globalisation, as the forum genuinely adapted to establishing a new inclusive partnership that must be viable in the long term, beyond the current French presidency.

Observations and recommendations:

## 1- Peace and government

Development assumes peace. There is no alternative to achieving this without the legitimacy of government and democracy. It cannot be judged from a formal perspective, which would depend on history and cultural particularities, but on its ability to create a society of confidence and responsibility, of which the components are: freedom of speech, transparency, honouring commitments. .

Leadership quality is essential, built on concepts of value and credibility linked to effectiveness, responsibility and vision. It is incompatible with durations of power that are too long. The battle against all forms of corruption and laundering which withhold crucial financial resources from development is essential and should be lead by example. Faced with a young and high growth population, demonstrating positive and effective results is urgent. This is the key to stability.

## 2- Quick and lasting growth

The objective of promoting the private sector (mainly national) as the only reliable means of guaranteeing rapid, lasting growth, runs against persistent bottlenecks which call for systematic reform. The priority lies in:

- Administration of Justice, cornerstone to the private sector’s success
- Financing small and medium sized local business (particularly agribusiness)

The role of Regional Institutions is very important given the weak scope of many of the national markets, the possibility of pooling the means and expertise that they offer, and the key role they have played in bringing solutions to certain crises.

They should be considered as the relevant stage in solving many of the problems related to development, and be supported and strengthened.

## 3- Infrastructures

Development of basic infrastructures is essential in this new systematic approach. Priority must be given to a system that creates outdoor regional structures (eg. railway) and widened, in-depth markets. Education has been badly affected today and investment in knowledge capable of boosting technology must also be favoured. The cultural sector,



The cultural sector, critical to stable society, must equally be considered from an economic angle, provider of employment

#### 4- Own food supply

The question of own food supply is strategic in Africa. The green revolution has only affected some areas and some products. Africa needs to produce 70% more food by 2050. This assumes the implementation by country of genuine policies for agricultural development, inclusive to the entire population, and based on the organising of channels, as well as measures which protect customs on a regional basis. The G20's specific course of action could be part of – hand in hand with those of existing parties given the complexity of the subjects – a new systematic framework that provides for:

- A specific effort to finance agriculture with the triple goal of ensuring the safety of food, climate adaptation, and creating employment (bringing peace). There is great potential for productivity.
- Research of varied technical directions suited to the diversity of the ecosystems, which will allow productive and technical models to live side by side, models based on thorough knowledge of the environment, more accessible in terms of energetic contribution and mechanisation.
- Stabilisation of world prices by reducing the role of food pricing as financial products.
- Support the loosening of links between prices within the country and prices on the world market of essential products and rehabilitating stabilisation funds managed by users, to smooth out prices.

- Reduce imbalanced competition by limiting or eliminating subsidies accorded for exports, or even for production.

- Triangular Cooperation in the area of research, agricultural operations, upstream and downstream relationships of channels, between industrial countries, emerging countries and African countries.

#### 5- Relook partnership methods: Africa the key player in new globalisation

The world is changing. Africa is also showing significant change but perceptions of this are affected by the imbalance of communication methods and by the persistent presence of images that are too encompassing and too dated. The Arab spring is a good example of this. Even if the figures, as well as many positive and quick changes, plead in favour of Africa, they are under-estimated by international opinion.

A partnership that is more real, less complicated and more demanding must be restored on both sides. This means that on Africa's side, its credibility must be strengthened and control over its image improved; and on the side of the international community, lessons must be learned from past mistakes, from existing imbalances, and from demands that are sometimes excessive: reciprocal introspection is needed.

Given the stakes, given its changing and heterogeneous reality, Africa needs to be better represented in international bodies and make itself heard more. It is up to her to correct the current relative economic weakness by credibility, by the quality of her representatives, and an increase of contacts. It is up to the international community to give her the position worthy of the economic and cultural importance she represents that could make her an incubator of "authentic human value".

## AFRICA INITIATIVE GROUP

Africa Initiative Group is made up of a body of decision-makers from Europe/Africa conferences (organised every two years in Annecy by the ASPEN Institute France for the past 17 years).

It operates on the principle of the exchange of viewpoints and shared field experience between leaders from various backgrounds and nationalities: politicians, heads of business, academics, and leading figures with a view to formulating concrete recommendations destined for governments, institutions, international organisations, and NGO's etc.

Africa Initiative Group was officially formed on 9 September 2011 in Yamoussoukro under the presidency of the Chairman of the Truth, Reconciliation and Dialogue Commission, Charles Konan Banny, and under sponsorship of Mr Koffi Annan and President Kuofor. Plans for affiliation with the Aspen Institute are underway.

Directions for Africa Initiative Group:

- 1 Work on the dialogue between generations and preparing youth for leadership and responsibility.
- 2 The demographic factor without taboos: evolution, issues, stakes.
- 3 Evaluate gauging systems for political, economic and social governance, and in particular warning scales in case of deterioration and threat to peace – deepen the issues of the right to intervention in Africa and its enforcement.
- 4 Self image and external image:
  - Definition of cultural factors
  - Managing image
  - Communication
- 5 Reinforce dialogue between anglophones and francophones of Western Africa with a view to regional integration.
- 6 Enculturation of policies, of methods of organisation to resist the temptation of copying models.
- 7 Involving civilian society, reshaping the role of women in political and social life in West Africa.

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# AFRICA INITIATIVE GROUP

[www.initiative-afrique.org](http://www.initiative-afrique.org)