

High Level Conference on: “Africa: 53 Countries, One Union”

FORWARD

My experience as Chair of the UN-AU High Level Panel on Peacekeeping in Africa has led me to conclusions, in terms of policy and politics, towards that continent, which go well beyond the single issue of peacekeeping.

It has become very clear that only by overcoming the present political and economic fragmentation, Africa can move ahead towards further peace, development and prosperity.

Most developed countries have a great responsibility for the current situation, having always dealt with African states on strictly bilateral basis with no attention for any continental approach.

In this respect the effort of the UN to create a strategic partnership with the African Union is a great step forward and deserves to be continued and reinforced in the future.

In this framework, this Conference will address the strong need for continental integration in Africa as a prerequisite for political, social and economic development.

In order to promote the move from a bilateral to a truly multilateral approach towards major African problems, we will discuss potential common policies of the European Union, the United States and China. At the same time we want to hear the perspectives of the African Union and of the leaders of African countries.

The focus of the conference will require of course deep attention from the UN, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the WTO, and other international institutions whose leaders will assure, with their presence, a creative and constructive discussion.

Our final objective is the proposal of a “Road Map towards further Peace and Development in Africa”, with follow up conferences in Washington (2011) and Addis Ababa (2012).

Romano Prodi
Chairman of the Foundation for World Wide Cooperation

**Foundation for WorldWide Cooperation
SAIS Johns Hopkins University Bologna
Bologna (Italy), 21 May 2010**

High Level Conference on:

“Africa: 53 Countries, One Union”

Patronage: **United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, African Union,
European Commission**

Salone del Podestà, Palazzo Re Enzo

Friday, 21 May

09.00 am Greetings from Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

09.15 am Opening Remarks

Romano Prodi, Chairman of the Foundation for World Wide Cooperation
Asha Rose Migiro, UN Deputy Secretary-General
Abdoulaye Wade, President of Senegal
Thabo Mbeki, Former President of South Africa
Maxwell Mkwezalamba, Commissioner Economic Affairs, AU
Andris Piebalgs, Commissioner for Development, EC

10.45 am Coffee break

In the following Sessions 1, 2, 3 there will be wide space for comments, questions and statements by participants who will all be sitting around the same table with chairpersons, speakers and discussants

11.00 am *Session 1.* Creating a Political Environment for Stability, Security and Peace

Chairs: Margaret Carey, UN Department of Peacekeeping
Abdul Mohammed, Darfur Dialogue and Consultation

Speakers: Thabo Mbeki, Former President of South Africa

Michael A. Battle, US Ambassador to the African Union

Discussants: Winrich Kühne, SAIS Johns Hopkins University Bologna Center
Steve McDonald, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
El Ghassim Wane, Acting Director for Peace and Security of the AU
Commission

12.30 am 12.30 am “AfricaNews24”

An African all News Project presented by Euronews

01.00 pm Lunch Break

02.00 pm *Session 2*

Economic Community Building for Markets and Trade

Chairs: Michael Plummer OECD and Johns Hopkins University, Bologna
Joshua Setipa, Africa Expert WTO

Speaker: Abdelkader Messahel, Minister of African and Maghreb Affairs, Algeria

Discussants: Masuka Godefroid Mwenda Bantu Munongo, Forum of Central Africa
Bankole Adeoye, Chief of Staff & Coordinator for Partnerships and
External Relations, Nepad

03.30 pm *Session 3*

**Infrastructure and Investment: Energy, Transportation,
Communication ...**

Chairs: Stefano Manservigi, Director-General DG Development, EC
Mohamed Al-Madani Al-Azhari, Secretary General, CEN-SAD

Speakers: Shantayanan Devarajan, Chief Economist Africa Regional Office, World
Bank
Moussa Dosso, Minister, Ivory Coast

Discussants: John C. Anyanwu, Lead Research Economist, ADB
Abdoulie Janneh, UN Economic Commission for Africa

05.00 pm Concluding Round Table

A Road Map: Towards African integration for Peace and Development – Announcement of follow-up conferences in Washington DC (2011) and Addis Ababa (2012)

Chair: Romano Prodi, Chairman Foundation for World Wide Cooperation

Asha Rose Migiro, UN Deputy Secretary General

Maxwell Mkwezalamba, Commissioner Economic Affairs, AU

Stefano Manservigi, Director-General DG Development, EC

Michael A. Battle, US Ambassador to the African Union

Zhan Shu, Ambassador at the Department of African Affairs, China
Ministry of Foreign Affairs