



Economic Commission  
for Africa

## **G8 Accountability Report 2013: Big picture comments on the report by ECA**

### **1. Aid, Aid Effectiveness and Debt**

**Aid effectiveness:** There is a need to critically look at the effectiveness of aid in meeting the stated objective, particularly “real improvement in the lives of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people” – given the broad development outcome of Africa in the past decade that shows “commendable growth in Africa, but weak impact on poverty or low distributive impact”. Furthermore, stakeholders should take practical steps in moving from aid effectiveness to development effectiveness, as reflected in both the Paris Declaration and the Busan Partnership Agreement. In addition, predictability of aid flow is a problem with a substantial fall from OECD countries during the financial crisis. The new framework doesn't make clear this as an agenda of the future.

**Quality of aid and inclusiveness:** G8's involvement in the initiative of ‘broad and inclusive new development partnership’ is notable. To improve quality of aid by shifting from aid effectiveness to effective development cooperation, the future commitment should not be generic as before but based on critical assessment on what worked well and what didn't (as recognized by G8 themselves) and how to do things differently. Africa is now focusing on structural transformation for its long-term development agenda. In this respect, development partners should therefore make deliberate efforts to support economic and productive sectors that have been identified by the recipient countries as critical for their economic transformation.

**Inclusiveness and the role of private sector:** With respect to the "Inclusive development partnership", the recognition of the role of the private sector is commendable. However, there is no clear strategy and commitment on how to use aid to leverage private capital flows and technology. To this end, Public-Private and Private-Private (foreign-African) partnership should be strengthened in a holistic approach with concerted efforts – while G8 encouraging its work with the PS.

### **2. Education**

**Quality and access:** G8 summits have reiterated commitment to Education for All (EFA). They have also committed to create an international Task Force to counteract the

limited supply of qualified teachers in low-income countries. In terms of achievement, net primary enrolment has increased. However, completion rates have not kept pace and recruitment of qualified teachers remain below universal primary education requirements. These are areas that deserve further attention from the G8 as more need to be done to increase completion rates, improve quality and build post primary levels to meet labor needs. There is also need to address unequal access to education in terms of income, gender and rural/urban disparities.

### 3. **Health**

**Access:** G8 summits have prioritized health and have pledged resources to counter infectious diseases and build health systems. In spite of notable progress in reducing infectious diseases (HIV, TB, malaria), targets remain off track for many countries. Child and maternal deaths remain a daunting challenge and overall health systems remain weak. Income, gender and location also play a significant role in access to health care. Increased financing and coordinated international support is required from G8 with more emphasis on child and maternal health and better access to health care.

### 4. **Governance**

**Recover Stolen Assets:** The G8 summits have made a number of commitments to identify and return stolen assets. Although some measures have been evoked to return these assets, the processes have proved complex and costly. There is also increasing evidence that highlights the need to deepen and broaden the process to include other modes of illicit financial flows, especially those underpinning the global shadow financial systems such as trade misinvoicing and transfer pricing by Multi National Corporations (MNs), which represent the major share of illicit financial flows from Africa and other developing countries.

**Corruption:** The prioritization of corruption in the G8 commitments and interventions, as documented in this report are of profound importance for Africa's development and converge, to a large extent, with African priorities. However, despite the huge potential of these commitments to positively impact on the negative consequences of corruption on the continent, delivery has been very mixed. It would seem that the traditional gap between G8 commitments and concrete delivery is yet to be fully bridged.

**APRM:** We applaud the G-8 member states for collectively providing 70% of the APRM Trust Fund. However, the APRM Trust Fund is only one of the vehicle of support to the APRM implementation. There is another funding mechanism made of essentially members' dues and contributions to the APRM. Taken the two accounts together, only 38% of funding for the APRM is provided by external donors. The remaining 62% is made of membership dues and individual contributions by APRM member states such as South Africa, Algeria, and Nigeria. This ought to be made clear, that the APRM is primarily supported by its members.

G8 support to APRM has been directed primarily to the upstream processes of actually implementing the APRM assessment in the countries. So far, there has not been any support to APRM participating member states to implement their National Program of Action (NPOA) which is the main outcome of the APRM. This is the case despite appeals by African Partnership Forum (APF) reports, particularly the MRDE, for OECD countries to support the APRM-NPOAs.

**EITI:** Contributions of G-8 members to the EITI has been deep and broad, supporting both the EITI Secretariat as well as various countries who are members of the EITI in Africa. However, there is now an effort to link the EITI transparency agenda to the APRM assessments of the extractive Sector in mineral dependent countries in Africa. This would enhance the impact of the EITI beyond transparency to actually enhance development. The G-8 should support the implementation of the APRM and the extractive sectors governance by supporting the African Mining Vision and also the African Mineral Development Centre.

## 5. Food Security

**Tackling Food insecurity:** There has been a lack of focus on tackling food insecurity in Africa through a more regionally coordinated approach. No clear funds have been secured towards developing regional programmes that aim at establishing for example strategic regional food reserves. The bulk of funds should have been allocated to tackle long-term food security objectives and root causes of food insecurity in Africa rather than short term objectives. The funds should have been aligned fully with CAADP and national food security programs.

More countries should have been retained as pilot in the Alliance Cooperation Frameworks. The assessment of the Initiative should be extended to include the beneficiaries as well and key institutions representing these such as AUC.

## 6. Gender

**Absence of gender:** Surprisingly the report overlooks gender and women issues. It focuses on water and sanitation, economic development, health, food security and governance, peace and security, environment and energy. This is in contrast with the G8's various commitments on gender equality stressed in many documents including in the 2005 Paris Declaration and recently in the 2011 Busan High level Forum on aid effectiveness outcome documents. Yet, in assessing the extent to which the new aid modalities have taken into account gender inequality using the gender and aid effectiveness indicators, the OECD/DAC network tracked in 2005 in 24 countries found that a lot needed to be done by donor countries including the G8 to ensure that gender and women

issues are tackled into their financial support to countries.

It is therefore very surprising that gender is not addressed in the report not even under each focused sectors: education, health, water and sanitation, environment and energy, food security, governance.