

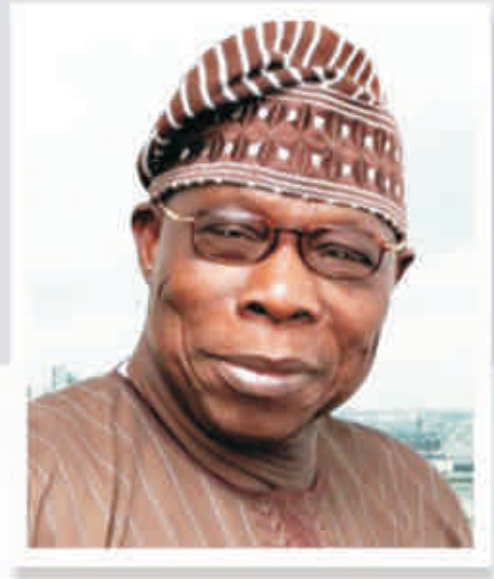
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List of Abbreviations

AARF	Africa-Australia Research Forum
ADU	Africa Down Under
APG	Africa Progress Group
APP	Africa Progress Panel
AU	African Union
BoT	Board of Trustees
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CHSD	Centre for Human Security and Dialogue
FiTI	Fisheries Transparency Initiative
H.E.	His Excellency
IMF	International Monetary Fund
KAF	Kofi Annan Foundation
MD	Managing Director
OOPL	Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TI	Transparency International
UN	United Nations

Foreword



After a smooth transition from the Africa Progress Panel (APP), a new vista of activities opened for the Africa Progress Group (APG). On December 4, 2017 when APP was wound down, its 10-year history was celebrated as a success. In stepping into the APP agenda of supporting development in Africa, APG was to continue seamlessly from where APP stopped and then crystallise a defining character for itself in the coming years in response to emerging developments in the continent.

The transition period before the formal launch of APG was eventful. It consisted of inviting potential members and technical experts to be part of the APG framework. Two members of APP accepted the invitation to join APG- Peter Eigen as co-chair and Strive Masiyiwa as member. All 16 members of the technical experts' team of APP who were invited accepted to serve APG. Six additional experts were invited from within and outside Africa based on the anticipated thrusts of the work of APG in the coming years.

The transition also witnessed active interaction between the outgoing Secretariat of APP and the incoming Secretariat of APG to ensure smooth cutover. In January, 2018, there was an APG leaders' meeting to brainstorm on the best pathways for APG's take-off. This meeting set June 2018 for the formal inauguration of APG with President Emmanuel Macron to give the

inauguration speech. Owing to logistical difficulty with the arrangement with President Macron, a new date of November 27, 2018 was set with President Romano Prodi, former President of the European Commission and former Prime Minister of Italy accepting to give the inauguration speech.

At its inaugural meeting of November 27, 2018, the APG Board mandated the Secretariat to produce quarterly reports beginning from the quarter ending December 31, 2018. I am delighted that the Secretariat has produced the first of such quarterly reports in this volume. **The report covers October to December 2018.** Noting that APG is barely a month old since inauguration, the activities reported are largely those which were implemented from inauguration to year's end in 2018.

APG has had an exciting beginning. It is poised for a leap forward in the coming months and years. We count on the support of our traditional and new partners, friends and donors in our march to implement our agenda for Africa's progress.

Olusegun Obasanjo
Chairman

Introduction

The fourth quarter of 2018 marked the beginning of the formal take-off of the Africa Progress Group (APG). At the inaugural meeting of the Group on November 27, 2018, the Secretariat was directed to publish quarterly reports beginning from the quarter ending December 31, 2018. In addressing this charge, the Secretariat pooled the various activities which fell within the reporting period as content for this inaugural edition.

In developing the report, it was deemed expedient to provide a brief historical background to the establishment of APG. This forms the first section of the report. Next is a narrative of the three major events implemented during the quarter- the session of tribute to

celebrate late Kofi Annan, the formal inauguration of APG and the inaugural meeting of the Board of the Group. The third and concluding section presents the outlook of the first quarter of 2019. Speeches given at the November 27 inauguration are annexed as Appendix.

Membership

At the time of this report, the membership of APG is as follows:

1. Olusegun Obasanjo- Chairman
2. Peter Eigen- Co-Chair
3. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf- Member
4. Strive Masiyiwa- Member
5. Akin Mabogunje- Member



Olusegun Obasanjo
Chairman



Peter Eigen
Co-Chair



Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
Member



Strive Masiyiwa
Member



Akin Mabogunje
Member

Additional members will be drawn based on regional and gender representation. At least a member each is to be invited from Asia, the Americas and Europe. In all, membership will be capped at 12.

Appointment of Special Adviser to the Chairman of APG

One of the early appointments made was that of Maximilian Jarrett as Special Adviser on APG Affairs to President Olusegun Obasanjo.



Maximilian Jarrett

Section I

Brief history and Early Activities of the Africa Progress Group

Brief history

On December 4, 2017, after ten years of successful and impressive impact, the Africa Progress Panel (APP), chaired by Kofi Annan, Nobel Laureate and former Secretary-General of the United Nations, and hosted in Geneva by the Kofi Annan Foundation, transitioned to the Africa Progress Group (APG) chaired by His Excellency Olusegun Obasanjo and hosted in Abeokuta, Nigeria at the Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library, Centre for Human Security and Dialogue. Peter Eigen of Humboldt-Viadrina Governance Platform, Germany and founder of the Advisory Council of Transparency International serves as co-chair of APG.

The precursor to the Africa Progress Group- the Africa Progress Panel (APP) was formed in 2007 as a vehicle to focus attention on the commitments made to Africa by the international community in the wake of the 2005 Gleneagles G8 Summit meeting and The Commission for Africa report, Our Common Interest, published that same year. Over the last ten years, APP focused on the implementation of Africa's commitments as set out in the Constitutive Act of the African Union (AU) and other landmark international agreements. The Panel built coalitions to leverage and broker knowledge and to convene decision-makers to create change in Africa.

The following functions were endorsed for APG at the transition meeting of December 4, 2017:

1. Follow up the implementation of all the recommendations of already published



L-R Max Jarrett, Alan Doss, President Olusegun Obasanjo, Peter Okebukola



L-R President Olusegun Obasanjo, Kofi Annan, Michel Camdessus



L-R Symposium Moderator, Kofi Annan, Michel Camdessus, Olusegun Obasanjo, Peter Eigen

APP reports and continuing the tradition of evidence-based reporting of major issues on Africa's progress;

2. implement strategic goals that will make Africa work;
3. advocate equitable and sustainable development for Africa;
4. build coalitions to leverage and broker knowledge and to convene decision-makers to Create change in Africa; and
5. contribute to generating evidence-based policies that can drive the transformation of the continent

APG will continue seamlessly from where APP stopped. The main thrust in the coming years is to pursue an agenda with all African governments, the private sector, international development partners and other stakeholders in ensuring that every African, now and for generations to come, lives in a world in which he or she has a fair chance of leading a healthy, happy, prosperous, and fulfilling life.

It is gladdening that there have been impressive growths in several areas in Africa. Once synonymous with macroeconomic mismanagement and economic stagnation, Africa is now home to some of the world's fastest-growing economies. African business groups have emerged as a powerful force for change in areas such as banking, provision of educational services, agro-processing, telecommunications and construction. These are encouraging developments. Yet progress in reducing poverty, hunger and in putting in place the foundations for more inclusive and sustainable growth, has been less impressive. Viewed through the lens of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), equitable growth is more relevant than ever; if current trends continue, one-third of Africans will still be living in extreme poverty in 2030. Africa will also account for a rising share of infant and maternal deaths, and uneducated citizenry.

In its 10-year work which APG is pushing further, the APP noted the absence of a flourishing agricultural sector which means that the majority

of Africans will be excluded from the rising tide of prosperity. Africa needs a "green revolution". The same goes for the millions of Africans who depend on the ocean for their protein and livelihoods, but are losing their marine resources to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Every year, West Africa's shores alone lose US\$1.3 billion from these practices. APP concluded that Africa needs a "blue revolution". APG will pursue the recommendations to attain this goal.

The major recommendations of APP to which attention will turn regarding implementation by APG include (a) supporting inclusive finance; (b) bolster multi-stakeholder initiatives to combat the plunder of Africa's oceans; (c) increase annual expenditure on agriculture and rural infrastructure development; (d) boost investment in Africa's energy infrastructure; (e) push for innovation and investment; (f) focus policy changes on benefitting the poor and disconnected; (g) invest in infrastructure to boost intra-regional energy trade; (h) combat illicit financial flows and tax evasion; (i) adopt global transparency standards; and (j) ensure gender equity as soon as possible. APG will work with African leaders, civil society and the international community to harness the vast opportunities in the continent so that its transformation will accelerate, and become a reality for all.

Early Activities

Leaders' Meeting

The leadership of APG and staff of APP attended a meeting in Abeokuta (onsite and virtual) on January 12-13, 2018 to plan for the successful transition and take-off of APG. Peter Eigen (Co-chair) came from Germany and it was a very productive meeting which had Sheriffdeen Tella, Alero Okorodudu, Temitayo Omotola, Max Jarrett (Skype), Dan Graham (Skype), Abisade Adenubi (Skype) and Tim Bittiger (Skype) in attendance.

Appointment of Experts

On the advice of Max Jarrett who was Director of the APP Secretariat and currently Special Adviser to H.E. President Obasanjo on APG matters, President Obasanjo as Chair of APG invited a large team of experts from the APP database to join APG. All have accepted. More from the African continent are to be invited. The experts offer technical advice and support the implementation of programmes and projects.

Africa Blue Economy Summit, London, June 7-8, 2018

In June 2018, the Secretariat of APG participated in the Blue Economy Symposium in London. The forum brought together government representatives, business leaders, ocean experts,

maritime organisations, environmental institutions and civil society organisations, to discuss how to bring blue economy into mainstream national and regional development plans by governments in Africa and their development partners.

Emerging Partnership with Murdoch University, Australia, August 16, 2018

As Chair of APG, President Obasanjo honoured an invitation to present three keynote speeches at the 16th Africa-Australia Research Forum (AARF) in Perth and the Africa Down Under Conference (ADU) 2018, organised by Murdoch University. He made a case for transparency and accountability in the extractive sector in Africa and how Africa and its partners have cooperative roles to play in minimising loss and abuse of



Africa Blue Economy Forum- Murdoch University



Africa Blue Economy Forum- Murdoch University



Africa Blue Economy Forum- Murdoch University

process in the extractive sector of the continent. The utilisation of blockchain technology was advocated as a tool that will enhance accountability and transparency in Africa's extractive industry.

One of the key takeaways from this meeting was that the formal acceptance of the AARF to co-host a programme in no distant future with Murdoch University in OOPL on the theme Blockchain, Transparency and Africa. The programme seeks to directly engage young Nigerians and Africans in the tech space through a "hackathon" - a design sprint-like event in which computer programmers and others involved in software development.

Development of APG website

The APG website (www.africaprogresgroup.org) was developed patterned after the APP template. Most of the contents on the APP site were migrated to that of APG.



Section 2

Activities from October to December 2018

Periodic update of the website

Steps were taken to continually update the APG website with new content. These include activities of governments in Africa relevant to the thrusts of the APG agenda.

Recruitment of staff for the Secretariat

In preparation for the formal inauguration of APG and the anticipated heightening of the tempo of activities, the following staff were recruited for the Secretariat.

1. Professor Peter Okebukola
2. Professor Samson Ayanlaja
3. Professor Anthony Kola-Olusanya
4. Professor Juma Shabani
5. Professor Sarh Gbamanja
6. Ambassador Adebola Labiran
7. Ambassador Leke Adebisi
8. Professor Tunde Owolabi
9. Dr. Ayo Tella
10. Dr. Rotimi Fasan
11. Dr. Michael Arove
12. Dr. Rasheed Sanni
13. Lovelyn Nwachuku
14. Olaniyi Oladiran
15. Bayo Akintayo
16. Ibukun Olagbemiro
17. Ferni Jenrola Adebayo
18. Adebimpe Akinkuotu
19. Aderonke Olutola-Amos
20. Oluwadamilare Alao
21. Damilola Salako
22. Damilola Tijamiyu
23. Gbemisola Famose
24. Ijeoma Okeke
25. Idayat Lasisi

APG's Session of Tribute to Celebrate late Kofi Annan

A session of tribute was organised by APG on November 27, 2018 to celebrate late Kofi Annan, who, for ten years, ably chaired APP and who died on August 18 at the age of 80. Celebrating the life of H.E. Kofi Annan is a venture that APG holds dear as he has carved an enviable niche for himself in the global firmament of respected African leaders. The special event was held at the International Conference Centre of the Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library, Abeokuta, Nigeria.

In his welcome remarks at the event, the Chairman of APG, H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo extolled the virtues of Kofi Annan. According to him, as the 7th Secretary-General of the United Nations Organization and former Chair of the Africa Progress Panel (APP), Kofi Annan was one of those amazing individuals who have graced this planet. Gentle, compassionate, Kofi Annan observed and dedicated his energy and time fully



to maintaining world peace. Throughout his amazing life, Kofi Annan was devoted to something greater than he was. He was committed to improving humankind through the fairness, kindness, optimism and intelligence he brought us, and through the righteousness, fairness and harmony he promoted across the world.

After a short video on the life and times of Kofi Annan, provided by the Kofi Annan Foundation, the lead tribute was given by Maximilian Jarrett who was the Director of the APP Secretariat. In his tribute, he noted that Kofi Annan lived a life of action from his days as a record-setting champion teenage athlete until this year. So, to really celebrate his life we must strive to do the same. We each have a role to play as individuals,

whether in our families, communities, or countries. If he, at 80 years old could still be doing what he could what excuse do we have, not to do the same?

Fifteen other tributes followed, interspersed by musical interludes. These were from Dr. Tesfai Tecle of the Kofi Annan Foundation, Bishop Matthew Kukah, Kojo Annan, five student leaders from all sub-regions in Africa, six Vice-Chancellors and representative of the Association of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities. The concluding tribute was given by H.E. Nana Akufo-Ado, President, Republic of Ghana who was represented by the High Commissioner of Ghana to Nigeria. The vote of thanks laced by his tribute was given by Professor Dr. Peter Eigen, Co-Chair of APG.



Formal Inauguration of the Africa Progress Group

APG was formally inaugurated in a well-attended programme on November 27, 2018 at the International Conference Centre of the OOPL, Abeokuta. Chairman APG, President Olusegun Obasanjo delivered the welcome remarks. Professor Akin Mabogunje, Chairman Governing Board of CHS&D, OOPL, expressed delight that the Centre is hosting the APG. Professor Peter Eigen, Co-Chair APG, presented brief remarks on APG and introduced the members.

In his keynote address, President Prodi commended Africa for making significant progress in the past decade but charged its leaders on the need for to change direction in both its speed and direction. He emphasised the need for the continent to depend less on its raw materials and encouraged focusing more on common market, infrastructure, security and its place in the fourth industrial revolution. He further highlighted partnership with other countries and regions as a recipe for accelerated development.



The President of Ghana, President Nana Akufo-Addo was represented by the High Commissioner of Ghana to Nigeria. Student leaders across Africa also lend their voices to shape the youth agenda of the APG. Dr. Christopher Kolade, Co-Chair of the OOPL Foundation BoT gave the vote of thanks.



Official Commissioning of the APG Secretariat

After the inauguration of the APG, President Prodi in the company of President Obasanjo, Professor Eigen and other distinguished guests commissioned the APG Secretariat inside the main building of the Presidential Library.



Inaugural Meeting of the APG Board

The inaugural meeting of the APG was held after the commissioning. The Chairman, HE Olusegun Obasanjo, Co-Chair Professor Peter Eigen and Professor Akin Mabogunje attended the meeting. Maximilian Jarrett, Senior Special Adviser to the Chairman on APG and Professor Peter Okebukola, Director of the Secretariat, were also in attendance. Two members, Strive Masiyiwa and HE Ellen Johnson Sirleaf sent apologies.

Among other major decisions, it was agreed that from the start, new thrusts will be included by APG to respond to new developments. These thrusts should be guided by the five pillars of Africa's development and progress- Politics, Population, Protection, Prosperity and Partnership. APG's programmes and projects will be clustered around these pillars.

The strategy of seeking strategic partnerships and mobilising the experience and wisdom of important experts was adopted, in order to help build a capacity to bring a stronger African perspective (e.g. the AU Agenda 2063, NEPAD and similar programmes) into the dialogue with its friends.

It was agreed that the key thrusts of APG's work in the early years should be to follow-up the major recommendations of APP, ensuring continuity. The Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) and a proposed local electricity access programme (LEAP) were presented as examples.

A strong presence in the media would be built. In the spirit of the periodic publication of APP's Reports, APG will publish its 2019 (maiden) report on the pillar of Population- being an issue of utmost significance and urgency for Africa's progress overarching on other four pillars.

Pending the creation of the legal format of the APG entity, the APG will function as a separate unit within the Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library (OOPL) Foundation under a Governing Board consisting of members of APG (proposed to be maximum 12).

Section 3

Activities for Next Quarter (January-March 2019)



The major activities for January to March 2019 are:

Publication of the Book of Tributes to Late Kofi Annan

The tributes to Kofi Annan presented at the APG event of November 27, 2018 will be published during the quarter. The tributes are being compiled and will be edited and printed in a volume to be formally presented by the APG leadership to the Kofi Annan family. The Book of Tributes will also be widely disseminated.

Preparations towards the 2019 (maiden) Report of APG

The 2019 APG report will be its maiden edition. It is entitled ***“Making Africa's Population an Asset Rather Than a Liability”***. A series of preliminary activities have been lined up towards the publication of the report. The first is an international roundtable on the theme of the report. This is scheduled to hold on February 2019.

Keynote presentation is expected to be given by Jonathan Oppenheimer of The Brenthurst Foundation, based in South Africa. The Executive Director of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) are expected to give lead technical papers to be personally presented or presented by their representatives. Other experts on the

theme of the report, representing various interest groups and geographical regions in Africa have been invited to the international roundtable to be chaired by His Excellency, Olusegun Obasanjo and attended by members of the APG Board.

Invitation of more Members to join the APG Board

More distinguished persons are to be invited to join APG this quarter. The acceptance by Ambassador Barry Desker to join APG is a huge asset to its membership.

Ambassador Barry Desker is the Distinguished Fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University. He is a Member of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights, Singapore and a Member of the Board of Directors of the Lee Kuan Yew Exchange Fellowship. He is also Singapore's Representative and current Chair of the ASEAN Inter-Governmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR). From 2000 to 2014, Ambassador Desker was the Director of the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies and served as founding Dean of RSIS from 2007 to 2014. He was the Chief Executive Officer of the Singapore's Trade Development Board from 1994 to 2000 and Singapore's Ambassador to Indonesia from 1986 to 1993. Ambassador Desker is currently also Non-Resident Ambassador of Singapore to the Holy See and Spain. A President's Scholar, he was educated at the University of Singapore,

University of London and Cornell University. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters by the University of Warwick in 2012 and Doctor of Laws by the University of Exeter in 2013.

Outreach and Fundraising

Over the last several months, the Chairman of APG, H.E. President Olusegun Obasanjo, has extended his global reach to raise awareness of global leaders in the public and private sectors to the hosting of APG by the Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library and its huge potentials for leveraging development in Africa. From the African CEO Forum in Senegal through the InterAction Council meeting (of former world leaders) in Baku, Azerbaijan to the African Union in Addis Ababa and Chatham House in London, the Chairman has been untiring in his awareness-raising efforts. He has also been vigorous in reaching out to numerous potential funders. The outlook is exceedingly promising. All members of APG are invited to be part of the resource-mobilisation efforts.

Conclusion

This report documents the major activities of APG from September to December 2018, prefaced by a brief history of the Group and a narration of some of its early activities. It highlights some of the anticipated activities for the next quarter (January to March 2019). With the mobilisation of more resources, the Secretariat is hopeful that 2019 will be a very productive year for APG.

Appreciation

Appreciation of the Board of APG and the Secretariat is extended to all individuals and groups who supported the activities of the Group since December 4, 2017. A special note of thanks goes to Mr. Strive Masiyiwa who graciously funded the twin events of APG of November 27, 2018.

Appendix

Speeches at the formal inauguration

Welcome Remarks of His Excellency, President Olusegun Obasanjo at the Formal Inauguration of the Africa Progress Group, November 27, 2018

Salutations:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the formal inauguration of the Africa Progress Group (APG) which the Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library is honoured to host through its Centre for Human Security and Dialogue. The Chairman of the Governing Board of the Centre, Professor Akin Mabogunje who will speak after my welcome remarks will give you a brief about the Centre.

I welcome in particular, President Romano Prodi, our keynote speaker, who as President of the European Commission steered the programmes and projects of the Commission to support Africa's development. We are excited to have a true friend of Africa, in the spirit of partnership, a pillar on which APG is built accept to give the keynote address at this inauguration. It is also worth recalling that the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon selected Professor Prodi as President of the African Union-United Nations peacekeeping panel. He also served as the United Nations Special Envoy for the Sahel.

I am delighted to welcome the President of Ghana, His Excellency, Nana Akufo-Addo to this inauguration and as a revered leader in Africa, we are eager to listen to his wise counsel to APG.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, Africa is clearly a continent on the rise. Six of the ten fastest-growing economies in the world are in Africa. Real income has risen by 30% in the last ten years. Foreign Direct Investment has risen to about \$64 billion, while remittances have reached \$56 billion,

exceeding total official development assistance. While economic growth is taking place in Africa, the continent continues to be associated with low performance on most indicators in education, health and food and nutrition security and is noted for poorly developed and maintained infrastructure, poor leadership and governance. This shows that we still have a long way to go to build the "Africa We Want". In our book "Making Africa Work: A Handbook for Economic Success", we provided some far-reaching recommendations which, if implemented, can hasten our march to attain the Africa we want.

This pursuit of the "Africa We Want" is one of the main reasons we are inaugurating the Africa Progress Group (APG) today. On December 4, 2017, after ten years of successful and impressive impact, the Africa Progress Panel (APP), chaired by Kofi Annan and hosted in Geneva by the Kofi Annan Foundation, transited to the Africa Progress Group (APG) which I now chair. Prof Dr. Peter Eigen of Humboldt-Viadrina Governance Platform, Germany and founder of the Advisory Council of Transparency International is the co-chair of the Group. Africa Progress Group (APG) is made up of eminent former and serving political, public and private sector leaders from Africa and friends of Africa from across the world.

During the period of APP's existence, the Panel focused on the implementation of Africa's commitments as set out in the Constitutive Act of the African Union (AU) and other landmark international agreements. The Panel built coalitions to leverage and broker knowledge and to convene

decision-makers to create change in Africa. With its final report which is primarily a call to action, it presents a bold agenda for Africa's progress to be taken forward to accelerate Africa's transformation.

Africa Progress Group is primed to take-off seamlessly from where Africa Progress Panel stopped. The main thrust for APG is to pursue an agenda with all African governments, the private sector, international development partners and other actors in ensuring that every African, now and for generations to come, lives in a world in which he or she has a fair chance of leading a healthy, happy, prosperous, and fulfilling life. Africa Progress Group will support inclusive finance, bolster multi-stakeholder initiatives to combat the plunder of Africa's oceans, increase annual expenditure on agriculture and rural infrastructure development, boost investment in Africa's energy infrastructure, push for innovation and investment, focus policy changes on benefitting the poor and disconnected, invest in infrastructure to boost intra-regional energy trade, combat illicit financial flows and tax evasion, adopt global transparency standards and ensure gender equity as soon as possible. APG will harness the vast opportunities in the continent so that its transformation will accelerate, and become a reality for all.

As part of its major thrust, Africa Progress Group will focus on five main "Ps". The first "P" is politics which is based on sound and people-centred governance. The second "P" which is population is to ensure that the population is managed for optimal benefit and fulfilment. The third "P" is prosperity. This is to ensure a frontal attack on poverty leading towards its minimisation or eradication. The fourth "P" is protection, all round security for all and the last "P" is partnership within Africa and between Africa and the rest of the world. APG will create a network of robust regional and international partnerships focused on pushing for the implementation of the recommendations APP had made over the years in its Africa Progress Reports and policy statements. These pillars will ensure the survival and dignity of people in response to current and emerging threats on the continent and bring together the human elements of security, rights and development. APG

will pay more vigorous attention to ensure that we attain Agenda 2063-The Africa of Our Dream.

In a keynote address I gave at King's College, London about two weeks ago, I underlined the importance of building the capacity of African youth for leadership, if this continent is to be fast-paced in its development. Coincidentally, I received about the same time, a request from the All-Africa Students Union headquartered in Ghana that we cannot have the inauguration of the Africa Progress Group without listening to the voices of African youth about the future which will be largely theirs. In their view, APG as they claimed is populated by "old people" and these "old brigade" cannot speak for them. So I have asked the Secretariat of APG to invite youth leaders from Kenya, South Africa, Egypt, Liberia, Ghana and Nigeria to share their ideas on the agenda for APG in the coming years. The President of All-Africa Students Union is also to make a brief presentation on behalf of all student unions in Africa. They have sent in full details of their agenda but at this inauguration event, they will only be able to give very brief summaries. We have also invited Vice-Chancellors and their students to be part of this event.

Let me conclude by recalling the words of Kofi Annan, "...Good governance is the single most important factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development." Together, let us advance Africa's interest. Let us develop strong partnerships to support Africa's vision to accelerate its development. By strengthening our partnership, we will harness the vast opportunities in the continent so that its transformation will accelerate and become a reality for all.

It is now my delight to welcome again to the formal inauguration of APG and look forward to your collaboration with the Africa Progress Group in achieving its priorities for action.

Thank you.

Olusegun Obasanjo

Salutations

Let me join the Chairman of the Africa Progress Group (APG) and the Chief Promoter of the Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library, His Excellency, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, to welcome you all to the Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library whose main intellectual arm is the Centre for Human Security and Dialogue, the host of the Secretariat of APG.

The mission of the Centre is to advocate, educate, inspire, and act upon issues, concerns and challenges impacting human security in Africa. The Centre provides a base for theoretical, qualitative and quantitative analyses to unravel causal relationships and interdependencies which link or activate security threats in the cultural context of Africa. These threats are multifaceted and multidimensional as human security on the continent is starting to take into account a range of evolving threats including illiteracy, poverty, food insecurity, international terrorism, drug trafficking, money laundering, illegal arms dealing, institutional corruption, organised crime, disease and environmental degradation. The Centre proceeds from such analyses to make recommendations for action at the community, national, regional and global levels.

As you can see, the mission and programmatic thrusts of the Centre are in alignment with the core goals of the Africa Progress Group which His Excellency, Chief Obasanjo narrated in his welcome address. With our rich stock of over 100 experts spread across Africa and the rest of the world and a modern, well-staffed Secretariat which will be commissioned today, we are poised to play host to APG and to support it in the attainment of its objectives.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, although the first part of this twin events is over, I cannot but pay my personal tribute to late Kofi Annan- a rare human being who stood tall in his dedication to

justice, equity and global peace. It became his calling to see that those without food today can have a hope of a better tomorrow. His stint as the first black African to head the United Nations was a feather in the cap of the black race. After leaving the United Nations, he plunged himself into several causes geared towards a better world for all. One of such was the founding of the Africa Progress Panel (APP).

The APG hopes to build on the achievements of APP in making policy recommendations for African political leaders and civil society who collectively have the primary responsibility of spurring Africa's progress. The APG will also be in the driving seat of tackling emerging challenges that hinder the growth, development and peace of the continent of Africa and its people.

I commend President Olusegun Obasanjo for his unrelenting effort in expanding the frontiers and promoting initiatives for the continued benefit of Africa. Choosing to take over the reins from Kofi Annan after the tremendous work done with him and other former members of the APP follows a similar trajectory of his actions towards the course of the development of the African continent. Your Excellency, President Obasanjo, your leadership in all these areas is valued and deeply appreciated always.

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish to end this short address by enjoining you all to be ready to play active role in what we are inaugurating today. The APG is a movement to further encourage Africans and friends of Africa to collectively chart new paths while evaluating old ones to fast-track Africa's progress, development and prosperity. And you are all invited to play active roles in this movement.

I thank you all for coming and wish you well in your deliberations.

Professor Akin Mabogunje

President Prodi's Keynote Presentation at the Formal Inauguration of the Africa Progress Group
OOPL, Abeokuta, November 27, 2018

- There is no doubt that, overall, Africa has made significant economic progress in the last decade.
- Its economic growth has been above the average of global growth. And Africa's economic growth prospects are among the world's brightest.
- However, Africa's GDP relative to the world's GDP is more or less the same of the 1980s.
- Given the current and the future demographic boom in Africa this economic growth is far from sufficient.
- That is why I strongly believe that African development must change both in its speed and its direction.

Need for change in the type of development strategy

- Firstly, I am not satisfied by the characteristics of African economy because it is largely based on energy and extracting activities of raw materials.
- I might be biased because I am a former professor of Industrial Economics but I think economic development is based on both rationalization of the agriculture sector and in the manufacturing industry.
- From this point of view, African countries should rebalance their development strategy and place more emphasis on manufacturing. Energy and raw material must be exploited,

but the revenue should be invested in industrial activities.

Common Market

- Secondly, there is the need of a bigger market.
- Since today we are in Abeokuta, let's take the example of Nigeria.
- In the second half of this century, Nigeria will have a bigger population than Europe but its market will be much smaller.
- The point is true and valid for Africa more in general. Data on intra-African trade are very disappointing.
- Africa's intra-regional trade lies well below that of other areas of the world. For example, in 2016 intra African exports made up 18 percent of total exports, compared to 59 percent of intra-Asia. And the data for import are similar.
- African countries have decided to create a free trade and a common market by cutting tariffs on 90% of goods.
- I think this is the right decision to make: actually I think it is a great decision for those African countries that will create the common market!
- My position does not result only from economic theory, but by historical experience.

- In particular, the Italian economy made its leap forward in economic terms only after the creation of the European market.
- I understand why some countries are sceptical about economic integration in Africa. Local businesses can be damaged in a short period and some economic restructuring will be required.
- Moreover, these critical positions reminded me the polemics against Brussels and EU.
- I understand those countries who want to see their legitimate interests to be reflected in the design of this new initiatives.
- But, as I said, a common market is the road for a real and inclusive economic growth of the African continent.
- However, creating a common market does not simply mean eliminating tariffs and customs. It also means standardizing regulations and protocols which is a very complex process to undertake and a difficult outcome to achieve

Infrastructure

- Thirdly, I believe that massive investments in traditional infrastructure; such as railroads, are still needed. Indeed, the size of the African continent means that investments in this area are never sufficient.
- In particular, trans-African lines must be completed.
- In parallel to these traditional infrastructure, investments must be deployed also on a new infrastructure, such as short and medium distance flights.
- It's true that many new African companies have multiplied in recent years. But in order to fully exploit the merging air transport market a coordinated work is now needed

among new players. Only with shared initiatives and projects, these small and medium actors can survive in what will become a very competitive market.

Fourth Industrial Revolution

- A further point to be considered when we talk about the development of Africa, it's the fact that economic growth is taking place during the FOURTH Industrial Revolution.
- This is a great opportunity because it means the possibility of great leap forward thanks to the use of the best technologies available.
- Mobile phones and banking services are only two examples where Africa is actually more advanced than Europe.
- The possibility to extend these technologies to other areas such as health, as it has happened in Sierra Leone, where CUAMM is creating network of ambulances thanks to mobile phones, is another road to explore in the future.

Politics, Security, and Prosperity (Governance)

- Then, there is the relationship between security and prosperity.
- Security is a pre-condition of a long-term economic growth. Indeed, no investors will deploy financial resources in a country affected by instability and widespread violence.
- One typical problem affecting the African continent is that turbulence in one country create problems in other countries. And these security problems, then, slow down development.
- While security is a prerequisite for long term sustainable development, I believe that democracy is a necessary requirement for long-term political stability.

- But I must emphasize that although elections are a necessary aspect of democracy, election must not be confused with democracy.
- Not only in Africa but in Europe, in the America (Brasil,) and in Asia (Philippines) too, there is now the tendency for those winning the elections to think that they have at their disposal their entire country.
- Not only such an approach creates domestic tensions, but it may create also tensions abroad, especially with the neighboring countries. And this is why those political leaders who win the elections must be reminded that they are not blessed by God.

Europe and China

- The picture that I have tried to depict today is of great changes.
- But this picture would be limited in scope in we didn't talk about role of international players such as china, the EU, and the US.
- There is much talking in the world of the negative impact of Chinese investments in Africa.
- However, talking to many African leaders, I have realized that Africans think that the presence of China here is overall positive.
- Of course, we know that there were cases of tensions and frictions between the Chinese and African communities, especially in sectors like mining, agriculture, and energy.
- There must be rules and everyone must respect them.
- But the net effect of Chinese investment on African economies is positive.
- I still remember when in 2007 at the G8 in Heiligendamm President Wade told me that he achieved more in one-hour meeting with President Hu Jintao than in the entire summit with the other world leaders.
- Not only China needs Africa, but Europe too needs Africa. Actually, no one needs Africa more than Europe.
- Unfortunately, although the EU has made some progress, there is still no real European policy for Africa.
- But even at this stage, in the budget of the European Commission there are huge financial resources dedicated to African states.
- The reasons, as many African Leaders told me, is that the procedures to access these financial resources are very complicated.
- Indeed, they are complicated. But they are complicated for EU member states too, which means that African governments must adapt and learn how these procedures work if they want to get all they deserve.
- However, current foreign investments are not enough to sustain economic growth for booming African populations.
- This is why I think that a new international investment plan is now needed, in particular a Sino-European plan.
- Not only Beijing and Europe have great interests in Africa, but they have mutual and convergent interests in Africa. Indeed, although the US have great interest in the African continent too, they don't have the same necessities.
- What I have in mind it's a shared Chinese-European plan of investments for African able to offer economic prospects to the future African youth.

- Aid is still important, especially in emergency situations, but its now the time to have a coordinated European-Chinese investment policy for Africa.
- Such a plan would also show that dialogue and cooperation among people and states, in the mutual respect of all, is crucial for solving global and regional problems.
- I have talked about this project both in Europe and in China, and now I am very happy to talk about it here in Africa.
- Let's try to transform these ideas in real reforms and projects! A very difficult set of goals to accomplish, but necessary steps to ensure a bright future for Africa.
- I wish everyone a very productive conference!
- Thank you so much!