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**“AFRICA BEYOND 2015: THE CRITICAL ROLE OF SCIENCE IN ENSURING COUNTRY
OWNERSHIP IN AFRICA’S DEVELOPMENT AGENDA.”**

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Overview

- Introduction
- Progress, challenges and Lessons of the MDGS
- The Post 2015 Development Agenda
- The Critical Role of Sciences
- Country Ownership, African Experience and Global Compacts
- What governments, partners, can do to increase Ownership in Africa
- Recommendations

Progress of the current MDGS

The eight goals include:

- Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger
- Achieving universal primary education
- Promoting gender equality and empowering, women;
- Reducing child mortality rates;
- Improving maternal health;
- Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases;
- Ensuring environmental sustainability, and
- Developing a global partnership for development.

Progress of the current MDGS cont'd

- Africa is on track on only three goals including achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and combating HIV/AIDS and off track on the rest
- Challenges faced include lack of ownership, missing targets, failing to deliver on global partnerships
- The Lessons learned include holism, universality, equality, sustainability, ownership and global obligation

Post 2015 Agenda

- This is a process led by the UN that aims to help define the future global development framework that will succeed the UN MDGs
- For some, MDG post 2015 is being termed as SDGs to mean sustainable development goals.
- The UN secretary general has established a UN System Task Team, and launched a High Level Panel of Eminent Persons to the above process

MDG POST 2015

Key players

- UN System Task Team
- High Level Panel of Eminent Persons
- Over 200,000 people have been able to contribute to this global conversation
- 83 national dialogues under way in all continents

POST 2015

Reasons for wide consultation

- Reveal people's most important priorities, both among current and future generations.
- serve to place these countries and people's concerns at the heart of the discussion
- Agree to an effective development framework
- Deepen and widen national ownership of the new agenda and prompt implementation on time

MDGs POST 2015

High level panel called for 5 big transformative shifts in 2015 which include;

1. Leave No One Behind e.g. poverty eradication
2. Put Sustainable Development at the Core
3. Transform Economies for Jobs and Inclusive Growth
4. Build Peace and Effective, Open and Accountable Institutions for All
5. Forge a New Global Partnership.

Post 2015 Agenda

Ideas being fronted for the 2015 MDG agenda include;

- Empowerment through job creation
- Political inclusion and public accountability
- Access to energy
- Environmental impacts that can be seen and felt
- Eradication of violence

Post 2015 Agenda

Ideas being fronted for the 2015 MDG agenda include;

- Address consequences of demographic and epidemiologic changes, urbanization and migration
- Family planning and reproductive rights
- Non communicable diseases
- The need for cross border solutions and international cooperation

The Critical Role of Sciences cont'd

However, Knowledge for African development does not occupy centre stage in scientific fields, a situation that needs to be urgently addressed:

- The government should fund academies of sciences to collect relevant knowledge and disseminate it in order to close the huge knowledge gap existing in Africa
- work closely with politicians because politicians have authority over utilization of state resources and in law promulgation
- mobilize the best brains worldwide and from different disciplines to assist in defining, addressing post 2015 agenda.
- identify and convene experts to contribute to discussions on the post-2015 development agenda

The Critical Role of Sciences

- The Academies of sciences are crucial in Africa's development agenda for they represent an organized, independent, but responsive scholarly voice to help guide the development of the continent and its people
- Science has played an extremely important role in the potential fulfillment of MDGs for example in trying to reduce climate change, science has largely been done in developed countries.
- MDGs made targets associated with health, child mortality, education, agriculture — some of the contributions to these goals have come as a result of science

Africa's position in the post 2015 Agenda

- Africa has a history that impacts on involvement, ownership and program implementation
- There was little involvement of Africa in the formulation of the MDGs which led to very weak ownership and slow progress

Five major issues to be fronted as the African position

- Structural economic transformation and inclusive growth
- Innovation, technology transfer and research and development
- Human development
- Financing and partnerships to improve domestic resource mobilization
- Development of enablers by promoting peace and security, developing institutional capacity

Four key steps for making country ownership a reality in achieving MDGs.

- The first step is **planning**.
- The second step is resourcing the plan.
- The third step is implementation
- The fourth step is monitoring and evaluation

What countries can do to improve ownership

- **Capacity building** throughout their administrations and strengthen institutions
- **Good governance, accountability and transparency**
- Accountability is a prerequisite for good governance and it ensures that governments are answerable to their people for the way they run the country

What should partners do?

- There is need for change in the perspectives of donors and their role in Africa countries to improve ownership
- they should not transform African economies and societies but allow them time and space to come up with their own solutions
- The donors should recognize the right of African governments to choose their policies rather than dominating decision-making over policies

Recommendations

- The different stakeholders should play various pivotal roles such as providing evidence based advice with regard to the processes of developing the post 2015 agenda
- The Governments should have the ultimate responsibility and accountability for wellbeing of their people by investing in people, improving technologies, and revising their policies
- The countries should provide a conducive environment for research and its application, so as to establish a link between research centers, universities and industries
- At a higher level, donor countries and international aid agencies should focus their resources on improving governance structures to ensure that the rural poor are