

UNU Africa Day, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
intervention by  
Dr. Bernd Fischer, Chargé d'Affaires a.i.,  
German Embassy Tokyo,  
on behalf of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany

Prime Minister Mori,  
Vice-Minister Matsushima,  
Under-Secretary General Prof. van Ginkel,  
Excellencies,

dear participants of the 2007 UNU Africa Day,

it is a great honour for me, representing the G8 presidency 2007, Germany, to be part of this very important symposium and to be able to share my government's ideas on Africa with you.

Africa is of ever-growing relevance for Europe and Germany, which currently also holds the presidency in the EU. As the neighbouring continent of Europe, Africa's stability, development and prosperity are of utmost importance and have long been in the focus of the foreign and development policies of Germany and its European partners. The European Union and its member states are by far the largest donors to Africa, providing together over 50% of the international help. Bilaterally and within the framework of multilateral donor programmes, Germany is putting strong emphasis on the promotion of peace, stability and development in Africa, or – as Prime Minister Mori put it - a beautiful Africa in a beautiful world.

This year's presidency within the G8 gives us an important opportunity to focus even more on these goals.

Just this week, the 8<sup>th</sup> Africa Partnership Forum was hosted by our Minister for Economic Cooperation. It will be followed by the outreach meetings in the framework of the Heiligendamm summit which include a number of African nations.

The fight against poverty and the promotion of development have always been a prime concern of the G8. Major achievements in this context were the debt relief for the poorest developing countries. As we believe that debt relief and ODA alone are not enough to meet the millennium-goals, it is our intention to focus on fostering economic growth and investment, sustainable development and good governance, based on the principles of regional ownership and reform processes in Africa.

To this end, we plan to continue the fruitful dialogue with our African partners mainly in the following four fields:

- *Good Governance*: Responsible governance is the key to peace, stability, and sustainable economic growth. The African Union (AU) and its NEPAD program that was developed in 2001 have already triggered important reform impulses and a process of mutual assessment and support – the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). The G8 countries are supporting the African partners in conducting the peer reviews and in

implementing the resulting conclusions. Support for the African regional organizations, the management of public finances, and the fight against corruption are additional important objectives. The donor community is also committed to working toward higher effectiveness and better coordination of its development assistance financing in the spirit of the Paris Declaration and to including new donors in the dialogue.

- *Sustainable Development*: Private investment is indispensable for attaining the millennium development objectives and a sustainable, poverty-reducing economic growth. Germany will support measures to improve the investment climate in Africa and facilitate private investment. Furthermore, the G8 will institutionally support the African regional organizations in implementing regional infrastructure programs in order to lower the high production and transport costs in Africa. The G8 will support launching a “Partnership for Making finance work in Africa”. In this framework we will create a regional micro-financing fund for Africa in order to assist individual micro-credit measures in a coordinated manner and will work to reduce the costs of transferring remittances from the African Diaspora back to their home countries.
- *Peace and Security*: Conflict settlement and peacekeeping are of key importance in the fight against poverty. As Africa's direct neighbour, Europe also has an immediate interest in shaping peace and security in Africa in the light of migration movements associated with war and conflict. The G8 support the AU in building an indigenous African Peace and Security Architecture. The development of the African Standby Force (ASF) in five regions of Africa, the support of the AU's peace and security council, the strengthening of the ASF's civilian components and the AU's post-conflict capacities, and improved donor coordination are additional goals of Germany's G8 Presidency.
- *Strengthening the Health Care System, Fighting HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria*: 63 % of the total of 40 million persons infected with HIV live in Africa south of the Sahara. Not even one million of those afflicted in Africa have access to treatment and medications. UNAIDS estimates that the GDP of some of Africa's countries will decline by more than 20 % as the result of HIV/AIDS. The disease is threatening to massively impair economic development and the reform efforts being undertaken. The G8 countries have committed themselves to stopping the increase of HIV/AIDS by 2015, and by 2010 arriving as close as possible at the goal of universal access to prevention, treatment, and care. Germany and the other G8 partners will work to ensure that additional funding is made available to the Global Fund for combating AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.

The dialogue with our African partners in these fields will be an important step towards further expanding our relations with Africa and enhancing our partnership for reform.

After this brief description of our presidency's goals this year, let me close by coming back to today's event: The successful initiation and implementation of the yearly Africa Day conferences gives proof of the strong engagement of the United Nations for Africa. With the event taking place in Tokyo, it also underlines Japan's outstanding record in promoting African development, which will be highlighted once more through the 4<sup>th</sup> Tokyo International Conference on African Development and – with Japan being the successor of Germany as the G8 presidency – the G8-summit, both of which being hosted by Japan in 2008.

I do thank Prof. van Ginkel and the UN University as well as Ambassador Hannachi and the African embassies here in Tokyo for organizing this important conference and I wish all the participants interesting and fruitful discussions.

Thank you very much for your attention.