

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), May 20-21 2010

High Level Conference on:

“Africa: 53 Countries, One Union” (Draft Program 23.04.2010)
Patronage: **United Nations, African Union and European Commission**

Friday May 21

09.30am

Greetings: Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Local Authorities

10.00am

Session 1. The Political Framework

UN Secretary General:

The prerequisite of Peace

President AU:

AU contribution to overcome continental
fragmentation

African Leaders:

The role of Leadership in Africa

General discussion

Coffee break

President European Commission:

EU and European States: is a common policy
toward Africa possible?

US Ass. Sec. of State for Africa:

A new American policy for Africa

China Ministry Foreign Affairs:

Meanings and goals of Chinese engagement in
Africa

General discussion

01.00pm

Lunch

Presentation and Trailer of AFRICA NEWS

02.30pm

Videoconference: US Secretary of State

Session 2. The Economic Dimension

DG WTO:	Free trade as a key to African development
President WB:	Steps towards a Continental African Market, a prerequisite to growth
President ADB:	A Continental Infrastructure Strategy for African Development
Panel discussion:	Economic and geopolitical effects of a Multilateral approach to Africa
Chair: 'Johns Hopkins'	
Conclusions	
Romano Prodi	A Road Map for Africa towards further Peace and Development Announcement of follow up conferences in Washington (2011) and Addis Ababa (2012)