

Ladies and Gentlemen, Mesdames et Messieurs:

Representatives of governments, parliaments, civil society, donors, and international organizations:

Let me ask you to take a look around at this gathering. We're at least 180 people, and we represent at least 35 African countries, around 10 donor countries, and at least 5 multilateral associations and institutions. We speak a host of different languages, and we bring a multitude of different perspectives.

Amid all this diversity, what stands out for me is that we all gathered here for the same purpose. We are all driven by a strong desire to help make sure that development resources are used as effectively as possible to bring about real development that improves the lives of real people.

As we all know, the upcoming High-Level Forum in Accra will be the latest milestone in a process that has been evolving over the last few years. You know, we really have come a long way together. Even five years ago, we could barely think of having some of the conversations that have taken place here in Kigali. I hasten to point out, however, that on both sides—partner countries as well as donors—we still have quite a way to go. That's why the development community will be meeting in Accra in a few months: to review where we've been and to lay an even stronger foundation for making greater progress as we meet the evolving challenges of development.

If the Accra Forum is to accomplish what it should, its preparation must involve the widest possible participation. And that is what brought us all here to Kigali. We who organized and sponsored this workshop wanted to provide a forum in which a wide spectrum of Africans who are involved in their countries' development issues could meet, compare notes, describe their experiences, express their concerns, and create uniquely African messages that will inform and enrich the Accra event and agenda.

No 10-minute summary could do justice to the breadth and richness of the dialogue here. However, I want to mention a few of the main ideas that have struck me as I listened to the discussions.

We heard that countries are pushing for greater ownership of their own development process and working to shift the balance from partnership to

stronger ownership. We heard that ownership requires countries to exercise leadership, develop a vision and agenda that are shared by a wide range of stakeholders, and define clear aid management policies. Equally, ownership requires donors to align their interventions with countries' own priorities—not just their strategies, but also in implementation. Donor alignment is not always consistent with country priorities, and better division of labor, led by countries, is key if important sectors are not to be left behind as donors fund their favorite sectors. One area that raised many concerns was conditionality; and we heard a call to move toward mutually agreed objectives and targets instead of conditionality.

On managing for development results, we heard that there has been progress over the past few years: more countries are linking their budgets to expected results, for example. We also heard good examples in mutual accountability—for instance, the use of an independent monitoring group. We heard about the growing role of communities of practice, which allow practitioners to exchange information and help build capacity. But we also heard about the need for countries to develop statistics systems on which managing and monitoring can be based, and the need to build capacity in this area in both countries and donors. We heard concerns about the difficulty of holding donors accountable for fulfilling their commitments. We were reminded about the fundamental importance of accurate statistics.

In the area of harmonization and alignment, we heard a recognition that partner countries need to strengthen their country systems so that donors can rely on them, but we heard even stronger frustration about donors' apparent reluctance to use countries' systems even after reforms have been made. Many people pointed out that using a country's systems is itself a way to strengthen them. We heard a call for donors to untie their aid. We also heard that donors need to improve the predictability of their financing.

On approaches for addressing the particular challenges of fragile states and areas that are affected by conflict, we heard a plea for the development community to give greater attention to the causes of conflict and ways to prevent it, to develop appropriate instruments for providing assistance to fragile states, and to close the gaps between humanitarian and development aid. We heard a call for attention to establishing peace, stability, and social cohesion so that aid can be effective in these difficult environments. We heard calls for additional financing in the post-arrears, post-conflict phase,

including a proposal to establish a global stabilization fund in fragile situations.

As regards the sectoral applications of the Paris principles, we heard that the sectorwide approach is an important instrument to make aid more effective at the sector level. The approach should start from a results-oriented policy and strategy dialogue between stakeholders, underpinned by good sector analysis. We heard that sector aid must be put on budget, with the Ministry of Finance coordinating closely with sector ministries; and we heard about the importance of not earmarking funding.

Today the very architecture of aid changing—aid is increasingly being provided through earmarked vertical/global funds and new donors. We heard about ensuring the quality of this scaled-up assistance, by bringing all donors under a common platform (led by government), supported by high-level political commitment from donors and partner countries, aligned with country priorities and systems, and transparent to all stakeholders. On the other hand, we heard a recommendation that traditional donors take note of the speed with which these new donors can provide funding. Respecting the principle of ownership, global funds, too need to be aligned with country priorities and systems. We heard about the importance of ensuring that these funds are on budget and fit into sectorwide dialogue. We heard that long-term commitments are needed to ensure the sustainability of the programs supported by these funds.

In addition to all this, we heard a number of recurring themes that refer to all of the areas of discussion. In particular, we were urged to include considerations of gender equality and the empowerment of women—in all policies and in the Accra Agenda for Action. We were reminded of the fundamental importance of building capacity—at all levels, in all of these areas, in both donors and partner countries. We heard about the increasingly important roles of parliaments in the development enterprise as an expression of the national vision. We discussed the growing contribution of civil society in the work of development, especially in strengthening government's accountability to its stakeholders, and we heard about how important it is for civil society also to be transparent and accountable. We heard about the unique advantages of South-South cooperation and sharing.

As I said, these are a few of the main ideas we heard over the past two days. Time prevents me from mentioning every point that was raised, and from

doing justice to the complexity of these issues. However, none of them are lost. We will take the summaries prepared by yesterday's groups to Maputo later in May, and we will transmit them to the Accra Steering Committee. They will also be available on the website for the High-Level Forum. They will be a rich source of materials that will contribute to the preparation of that event, and they will help ensure that the voice of Africa is heard, and heard clearly.

We must remember that our work together here has been aimed at substantiating the work of the nine Roundtables in Accra and contribute Africa's voice, issues, and concerns to the preparation of the Accra Agenda for Action. We need to ensure that the AAA as a political-level commitment at Accra addresses high-value actions that contribute to raising the level of development impact. As you go back to your capitals, it is important for you to bear this in mind as you prepare your ministers for Accra.

Mesdames et messieurs, ladies and gentlemen,

In closing, I want to bring up one other thing I heard during the past two days—frustration among partner countries, donors, civil society, and parliaments over the pace of change. Perhaps a certain amount of frustration isn't all bad; it helps us keep the heat on our efforts. But we must take care that it does not spill over into antagonism. Our different approaches stem from different mandates, different legal frameworks, different histories, different roles. But despite these differences we are all united in pursuit of a single goal—using development resources as effectively as possible to make a difference in people's lives.

In a few minutes this workshop will be over. But let us not end the dialogue here. Let us continue talking together and working together until we reach the goal we seek. I am convinced that—with the kind of dedication I have seen among the participants here, and with a generous measure of patience and mutual confidence—we will succeed.

Thank you.