

Annex 3 Timeline of milestones in international development before and after the Africa Commission Report

The Evaluation has sought to put into a time context the recommendations of the Africa Commission members by developing a narrative that records the key points with respect to development internationally around the issues raised in the Africa Commission’s ten policy recommendations and how these issues evolved both before and after the report was published. The evolution over time of these important development areas should allow the Africa Commission’s contribution to be seen in a global context.

The Africa Commission’s Private Sector Development recommendations

R1: Increased emphasis on the role of the private sector, including agriculture, in delivering growth and employment. Achieving the MDGs and sustaining progress in health, food security and education requires strong growth and employment opportunities for African youth. This must be recognised at the 2010 UN MDG review conference

R2: Shift focus from donor-led growth to private sector-led growth. Increased competitiveness of the private sector combined with international trade liberalisation is the best way to reduce poverty, create jobs for young Africans and ensure sustainable development.

R3: Increase support from development partners to build the private sector, including through value chain approaches and other strategies that can help transform and grow African economies and create jobs for African youth.

Before the publication of the Africa Commission Report ¹	Africa Commission Report (6 May 2009)	From the time of publication of the Africa Commission
1991 “A broad consensus is emerging on a new model for sustainable development. Key features of the new model are the changing role of the state and the private sector. Increasingly the creation of wealth and the generation of employment are seen to involve the state primarily as the architect of the enabling environment, while the private sector is primarily responsible for the production of goods and services”. ”Since the mid-19080s, the widespread adoption of an economic development paradigm based on policies to strengthen market forces, increase competition and refocus the role of the state has heightened the importance of private sector development. Many developing countries are undertaking structural reforms aimed at encouraging private enterprise to take root and flourish”. ²		2010 “The private sector plays a vital role in development in many countries, including through public-private partnerships and by generating employment and investment, developing new technologies and enabling sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth. We call upon the private sector to further contribute to poverty eradication, including by adapting its business models to the needs and possibilities of the poor.” ³

¹ Since 1979, members of the DCED (made up of 23 bilateral donor agencies, UN, World Bank Group and international development foundations) have come together to learn and improve their Private Sector Development policies and the effectiveness of their PSD Programmes.

² DAC Orientation for Development Cooperation in Support of Private Sector Development.

³ Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals
<http://www.un.org/en/mdg/summit2010/pdf/mdg%20outcome%20document.pdf>

Before the publication of the Africa Commission Report ¹		Africa Commission Report (6 May 2009)	From the time of publication of the Africa Commission	
1999	DFID pioneer the use of Challenge Funds – starting in Africa ⁴ . DFID created the Financial Deepening Challenge Fund (FDCF) and the Business Linkages Challenge Fund (BLCF) in 1999 as a means of providing financial support to business.		2013	The World Bank set out their twin goals of ending extreme poverty across the globe within a generation and promoting shared prosperity. The World Bank is unequivocal that economic growth is still central to the notion of shared prosperity, which will require ‘expanding the size of the pie continuously’ while sharing it in a way that ensures that the welfare of the bottom 40% increases as quickly as possible. ⁵
2001	Research demonstrates the existence of a one-to-one relationship between growth of income of the poor and growth of mean income. The determinants of growth such as trade openness, financial development, strong property rights and rule of law were found to have benefitted the poor as much as the average household, contrary to the arguments put across by many critics of globalisation. ⁶		2012	“To make progress, governments need to provide the conditions that enable formal-sector wage employment, predominately in the private sector, to grow rapidly.” ⁷
2002	“While Governments provide the framework for their operation, businesses, for their part, are expected to engage as reliable and consistent partners in the development process. We urge businesses to take into account not only the economic and financial but also the developmental, social, gender and environmental implications of their undertakings.” ⁸		2012	“We recognize that the active participation of the private sector can contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, including through the important tool of public-private partnerships. We support national regulatory and policy frameworks that enable business and industry to advance sustainable development initiatives, taking into account the importance of corporate social responsibility.” ⁹
2003	Formation of the UN Commission on the Private Sector and Development ¹⁰		2014	“The private sector is not only a source of financing, but is also an actor in development. Its role, especially when motivated by long-term sustainability interests, lies in core operations and the wide impact of business, and relates directly to UN values, poverty eradication and the spectrum of issue areas covered by the proposed SDGs. This dynamic role as a driver of sustainable economic growth brings with

⁴ DFID (and others) define Challenge Funds as “a competitive mechanism to allocate financial support to innovative projects, to improve market outcomes with social returns that are higher/more assured than private benefits, but with the potential for commercial viability”.

⁵ <http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/WB-goals2013.pdf>

⁶ Dollar, D. and Kraay, A. (2001). Growth is Good for the Poor. Washington DC: World Bank.

⁷ Jobs, Justice and Equity Africa Progress Report 2012 Seizing opportunities in times of global change, Africa Progress Panel, 2012.

⁸ Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/monterrey/MonterreyConsensus.pdf>

⁹ “The future we want”, UN http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288&Lang=E

¹⁰ The Commission was co-chaired by Canada's 21st Prime Minister, Paul Martin, and Mexico's former president Ernesto Zedillo and convened by Secretary-General Kofi Annan in July 2003 in an effort to identify and address the legal, financial and structural obstacles blocking the expansion of the indigenous private sector in developing nations. The Commission's Report, Unleashing Entrepreneurship: Making Business Work for the Poor, was finalised on March 1st, 2004.

Before the publication of the Africa Commission Report ¹		Africa Commission Report (6 May 2009)	From the time of publication of the Africa Commission
			it opportunities in value creation as well as important responsibilities for business as a driver of sustainable economic growth.” ¹¹
2005	“[A] vibrant private sector is the most important engine of growth and job creation.” “If we can liberate the energies of the African people and unleash the potential of the private sector to create jobs, Africa will not only become a continent of hope, but a continent of accomplishment.” ¹²		2015 Sustainable Development Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all ¹³ . This indicates a move away from aid towards trade, growth, competitiveness and jobs.
2005	“A successful pro-poor growth strategy should have, at its core, measures to achieve sustained and rapid economic growth. These include macroeconomic stability, well-defined property rights, a good investment climate, an attractive incentive framework, well-functioning factor markets and broad access to infrastructure and education.” ¹⁴		2015 “Private business activity, investment and innovation are major drivers of productivity, inclusive economic growth and job creation. We acknowledge the diversity of the private sector, ranging from microenterprises to cooperatives to multinationals. We call upon all businesses to apply their creativity and innovation to solving sustainable development challenges. We invite them to engage as partners in the development process, to invest in areas critical to sustainable development and to shift to more sustainable consumption and production patterns.” ¹⁵
2005	“We also recommend that governments prepare a long-term private sector development strategy within the context of their MDG-based framework, consulting with the local private sector in the development of that strategy” ¹⁶		
2005	The Commission for Africa suggested promoting the private sector by creating a good investment climate; supporting the		

¹¹ Engaging the Private Sector in the Post-2015 Agenda, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the United Nations Global Compact, 2014, https://www.unido.org/fileadmin/user_media_upgrade/Resources/Publications/Final_Consultation_Report_Engaging_with_the_Private_Sector.pdf

¹² Paul Wolfowitz, World Bank President “Charting a Way Ahead – The Results Agenda, Annual Meetings”. Also see OECD’s 2004 ‘Accelerating Pro-Poor Growth through support for Private Sector Development’; Recommendation 3: Increase support from development partners to build the private sector, including through value chain approaches and other strategies that can help transform and grow African economies and create jobs for African youth.

¹³ A number of the targets for SDG 8 are directly relevant to the Africa Commission’s recommendations: 8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7% gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries; 8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors; 8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services; and 8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.

¹⁴ Pro-Poor Growth in the 1990s: Lessons and Insights from 14 Countries, World Bank, 2005.

¹⁵ Addis Ababa Action Agenda, http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf

¹⁶ UN Millennium Project. 2005. Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals. New York – The Sachs Report.

Before the publication of the Africa Commission Report ¹	Africa Commission Report (6 May 2009)	From the time of publication of the Africa Commission
	provision of infrastructure; and supporting SME development. ¹⁷	
2005	'African governments must unleash the strong entrepreneurial spirit of Africa's people. To promote this, donor governments and the private sector should coordinate their efforts behind the proposed Investment Climate Facility (ICF) of the African Union's NEPAD programme.' ¹⁸ ICF was publicly launched at the World Economic Forum Africa Summit (Cape Town) in June 2006 ¹⁹	
2006	The UN's Growing Inclusive Markets (GIM) Initiative established as "a global multi-stakeholder research and advocacy initiative that seeks to understand, enable and inspire the development of more inclusive business models around the globe that will help to create new opportunities and better lives for many of the world's poor".	
2006	"The private sector remains the key driver of growth and wealth creation as employer, investor, source of finance, motor of competitiveness and in building capacity and human capital." ²⁰	
2006	OECD's Promoting Pro-Poor Growth: Private Sector Development" addresses the six areas of creating an enabling environment for growth" ²¹	
2008	"It is the private sector that drives the economic growth developing countries need. If we want to achieve the MDGs and make a difference to the lives of the poorest we need to work with businesses" ²²	
2008	"Government provides the environment for growth, but it is the private sector that invests and creates wealth for the people." ²³	
2008	The Global Competitiveness Report (2008) found that, together, macro level conditions	

¹⁷ "Our Common Interest", Commission for Africa (2005) http://www.commissionforafrica.info/wp-content/uploads/2005-report/11-03-05_cr_report.pdf

¹⁸ "Our Common Interest", Commission for Africa (2005) http://www.commissionforafrica.info/wp-content/uploads/2005-report/11-03-05_cr_report.pdf

¹⁹ <http://www.icfafrica.org/page/about-us>

²⁰ The Private Sector as a true partner in development:

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/CGCSRLP/Resources/Theprivatesectorasatruepartnerindevelopment.pdf>. The paper continues "Beyond this core role of providing opportunities for people to lift themselves out of poverty, business can contribute to resolving particular development issues. It can be the source of valuable expertise, ingenuity and capacity that help find new solutions, be it to educational needs, health needs, environmental problems, or the supply of public goods. Multinationals already have a particularly important role to play in upholding and advancing principles on human rights, labor, environmental and anti-corruption practices in countries with weak regulatory capacity."

²¹ These are defined as: i) removing barriers to formalisation; ii) implementing competition policy; iii) promoting the supply-side response; iv) the financial sector's contribution to pro-poor growth; v) enhancing women's market access; and vi) constructing inclusive public-private dialogue." See <http://www.oecd.org/dac/povertyreduction/36427804.pdf>

²² DFID's 2008 PSD strategy to make markets work for the poor.

²³ The Growth Report: Strategies for Sustained Growth and Inclusive Development, 2008.

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	(such as macro policy, social infrastructure and political institutions) that affect investment, and micro level factors that affect productivity and competitiveness of firms (including the business environment and company operations), explain 85% of the differences in prosperity amongst countries (equalising for natural resource endowments and geographical advantages). The evidence that both investment and gains in productivity are needed for the private sector to deliver economic growth is compelling.	
2009	Inclusive growth becomes more important: World Bank noted that rapid and sustained poverty reduction requires inclusive growth – rapid growth which is sustainable in the long-run, broad-based across sectors and inclusive of a large section of a country’s labour force. Inclusive growth therefore encompasses both the pace and the pattern of growth, which are interlinked and must be addressed together.” ²⁴	

²⁴ <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTDEBTDEPT/Resources/468980-1218567884549/WhatIsInclusiveGrowth20081230.pdf>.

Debate on relative and absolute pro-poor growth becomes more common: the absolute definition states that economic growth can only be pro-poor if the average incomes of poor people rise and as a consequence income poverty falls, whilst the relative definition describes economic growth as being pro-poor only if the incomes of poor people increase at a rate which is greater than that of the non-poor i.e. that poverty falls more than it would if all incomes increased at an equal rate.

The Africa Commission’s Governance recommendation

R4: Ensure progress on governance, which is a prerequisite for economic growth and development. Efforts should aim to develop effective public sectors able to combat corruption, protect property rights and ensure the rule of law, promote gender equality and strengthen the role of civil society and the private sector in holding governments accountable.

Before the publication of the Africa Commission Report		Africa Commission Report	From the time of publication of the Africa Commission	
1995	Transparency International produced the inaugural Corruption Perceptions Index		2010	In 2010, the Assembly of the AU Heads of State and Government decided to build an African Governance Architecture (AGA), which was designed to establish a framework for developing and interlinking the numerous initiatives and processes at national and regional levels.
1997	Africa Governance Forum launched: the eighth forum was held in Botswana in 2012.		2015	Sustainable Development Goal 16 is dedicated to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, the provision of access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable institutions at all levels. ²⁵
2003	The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) was established in 2003 by the African Union in the framework of the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The objectives of the APRM are primarily to foster the adoption of policies, standards and practices that lead to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated sub-regional and continental economic integration through experience sharing and reinforcement of successful and best practices, including identifying deficiencies and assessment of requirements for capacity building.			
2003	The initiative for the creation of the Africa Governance Institute (AGI) emerged in 2003 from discussions between the Chairman of the Commission of the African Union (AU) and the Regional Director for Africa of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)			
2003	The African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption came into force			

²⁵ The targets for the goal include: promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all; substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms; develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels; ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels; broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance.

Before the publication of the Africa Commission Report		Africa Commission Report	From the time of publication of the Africa Commission
2003	The United Nations Convention against Corruption came into force.		
2005	Publication of the first Africa Governance Report by UNECA		
2007	The annual Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) was established to provide an annual assessment of the quality of governance in African countries. Compiled by combining over 100 variables from more than 30 independent African and global institutions, the IIAG is the most comprehensive collection of data on African governance.		
2008	OECD/AfDB Initiative to Support Business Integrity and Anti-bribery Efforts in Africa		

The Africa Commission’s strategic planning recommendation

Recommendation 5: Develop and implement national development strategies through broad consultative processes involving the private sector, business associations, labour market associations and civil society. The aim should be to improve the business environment by expanding and maintaining major infrastructure, financial markets and skills development and other measures that enhance competitiveness. International development assistance must build upon and support such strategies.

Before the publication of the Africa Commission Report		Africa Commission Report	From the time of publication of the Africa Commission	
1999	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) were introduced in 1999 by the World Bank and the IMF as a new framework to enhance domestic accountability for poverty reduction reform efforts; a means to enhance the coordination of development assistance between governments and development partners; and a precondition or access to debt relief and concessional financing from both institutions' HIPC Initiative.		2011	The Busan Partnership Agreement recognises that for development co-operation to increase its effectiveness as a catalyst for poverty reduction, a fundamental change of focus was required: from global structures to a country-led approach, recognising the range of actors in development partnerships and the important but different roles each plays
2002	The World Bank launches the <i>Doing Business</i> project to provide objective measures of business regulations and their enforcement across a wide range of economies and selected cities at the subnational and regional level.		2015	Several Sustainable Development Goals have targets involving national development strategies.
2004	World Economic Forum launches the Global Competitiveness Report as an annual report ranking countries based on the Global Competitiveness Index.		2015	First High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation confirms principles of country ownership and using national development strategies ²⁶
2005	The Paris Declaration called for “strengthening partner countries’ national development strategies and associated operational frameworks (e.g., planning, budget, and performance assessment frameworks) and Increasing alignment of aid with partner countries’ priorities, systems and procedures and helping to strengthen their capacities. iii. Enhancing donors’ and partner countries’ respective accountability to their citizens and parliaments for their development policies, strategies and performance.”			
2008	The Accra Agenda for Action stresses ownership: <i>countries have more say over their</i>			

²⁶ The communiqué reads: “we agree to strengthen our actions to continue enhancing country ownership and leadership by aligning and tailoring aid to the national development agenda and context. In particular, we agree to invigorate efforts to strengthen and use country systems as the default approach and promote assessment and dialogue on the extent to which their use is appropriate, consider budget support in the appropriate mixture of delivery instruments, continue untying aid, enhance the localization of development cooperation, including by promoting local procurement, and support partner countries’ ambitions to better coordinate, assess and manage the plurality of aid.”

Before the publication of the Africa Commission Report	Africa Commission Report	From the time of publication of the Africa Commission
<i>development processes through wider participation in development policy formulation, stronger leadership on aid co-ordination and more use of country systems for aid delivery.</i>		

The Africa Commission's public-private partnership recommendation

Recommendation 6: Establish strong partnerships between the public and the private sector to eliminate barriers to growth and to strengthen the competitiveness of the private sector. African governments should support private sector initiatives to develop value chains and promote labour-intensive manufacturing, especially in areas such as agriculture and agro-processing. Support from the public sector should aim to help develop competitive markets, which attract private investments and create jobs.

Before the publication of the Africa Commission Report	Africa Commission Report	From the time of publication of the Africa Commission
1992 The United Kingdom's Private Finance Initiative (PFI) began and is currently responsible for about 14% of UK public investment, with projects in most key infrastructure areas. Other countries with significant PPP programs include Australia (and in particular the state of Victoria) and Ireland.		2012 Recommendation of the Council on Principles for Public Governance of Public-Private Partnerships, OECD stress the need to ground the selection of Public-Private Partnerships in Value for Money and to use the budgetary process transparently to minimise fiscal risks and ensure the integrity of the procurement process
2004 Danida commenced operating a PPP programme ²⁷ and this was independently evaluated in 2008. ²⁸		2012 UK Treasury publishes "A new approach to public private Partnerships setting out a revisions to the PFI in the form of a new programme PF2 aiming to provide access to wider sources of equity and debt finance to improve the value for money of financing projects; to increase the transparency of the liabilities created by long term projects and the equity returns achieved by investors; to speed up and reduce the cost of the procurement process; and to provide greater flexibility in the provision of services. The UK taxpayer would also become a shareholder in projects and share in the ongoing investor returns.

²⁷ The Programme was launched as a five-year programme with a budget of DKK 100 million (with DKK 20 million to be spent annually) focused in Danida's 15 programme countries with a window for other countries to be included. The Programme had the possibility of extra funds related to the establishment of a pension fund or other special initiatives. The Programme included five sub-programmes: 1. Company CSR initiatives. 2. Training programmes for CSR. 3. Transfer of management know-how. 4. Capacity-building for researchers in programme countries. 5. Business linkage programme, starting with Vietnam.

²⁸ <http://www.oecd.org/derec/denmark/42211210.pdf>

Before the publication of the Africa Commission Report		Africa Commission Report	From the time of publication of the Africa Commission	
2005	NEPAD produced a Policy Focus “Assessing Public–Private Partnerships in Africa” ²⁹ . This concludes that “the issues discussed in this report all raise significant challenges to African governments wishing to conduct successful public-private partnerships. The complexity of such arrangements and the high costs involved should cause African governments to take a careful approach to PPPs. They should also recognise that PPPs pose many of the same problems inherent in procurement or privatisation and are not a panacea for development” ³⁰ .		2012	The World Bank Group strategy <i>A Stronger, Connected, Solutions World Bank Group</i> expresses the firm intention to “increasingly promote public-private partnerships
2009	EIU initiated the Infrascopie: a benchmarking index assessing countries’ enabling environment for the design and implementation of successful and sustainable PPPs.		2015	Sustainable Development Goal 17 has a target No. 17.17 is to “encourage and promote effective public, public-private, and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships”

The Africa Commission’s trade development recommendation

Recommendation 7: Ensure more is done to open markets, including for South-South trade. Developed countries must give African goods full and free access to their markets, including easing “rules of origin” requirements and phasing out trade distorting subsidies. Relative to other developing countries, there is a case for allowing African countries privileged access to markets in developed countries, at least for a limited period of time.

Before the publication of the Africa Commission Report		Africa Commission Report	From the time of publication of the Africa Commission	
2003	South-South trade in Africa was supported by DFID/SIDA’s Regional Trade Facilitation Programme between 2003 and 2009 (when it changed into TradeMark)		2013	The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Handbook of Statistics 2013 shows that the share of South-South trade in total world exports has doubled over the last 20 years to over 25%.
2004	The UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) was established		2014	According to the World Trade Organisation’s annual International Trade Statistics report exports by emerging-market nations to other emerging-market nations increased by 0.7% in 2014: the slowest rate of increase since the global financial crisis.

²⁹ <http://www.oecd.org/investment/investmentfordevelopment/34867724.pdf>

³⁰ The report continues “But whether or not African governments decide ultimately to follow the PPP route for any or all sectors of infrastructure and service provision, the principles that underlie PPPs such as affordability, cost effectiveness, value for money, transparency and risk management should form part of the way that they approach service delivery in general. Such partnerships are a means towards the goal of better service delivery and improved infrastructure.”

Before the publication of the Africa Commission Report		Africa Commission Report	From the time of publication of the Africa Commission	
2005	The G-8 meeting at Gleneagles acknowledged, that even with increased Northern commitments of ODA and enhanced debt cancellation, the MDGs could not be met without increased South-South interactions and assistance.		2015	SDG Goal 17's tenth target is "to promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the WTO including through the conclusion of negotiations within its Doha Development Agenda"
2005	"We welcome the discussions of Finance and Development Ministers in various fora, including the Development Committee of the World Bank and IMF that have taken place this year on expanding Aid for Trade. Aid for Trade should aim to help developing countries, particularly LDCs, to build the supply-side capacity and trade-related infrastructure that they need to assist them to implement and benefit from WTO Agreements and more broadly to expand their trade." WTO Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration			
2009	The first High-level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation took place			

The Africa Commission's gender empowerment recommendation

Recommendation 8: Unleash the potential of women as drivers of economic growth and development. Gender equality and improvement of women's economic opportunities should be promoted by mainstreaming and benchmarking gender equality in all policies, strategies and actions for private sector development and through special efforts by government, the private sector, labour market organisations, civil society and development partners.

Before the publication of the Africa Commission Report		Africa Commission Report	From the time of publication of the Africa Commission	
1979	The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly		2010	Launch of African Women's Decade by the African Union ³¹
2000	Millennium Development Goal 3 sets targets for gender equality		2011	Adoption of the Global Partnership indicator on gender equality to track the implementation of the Busan commitments ³² .

³¹ "We the African Ministers responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs meeting in Nairobi, Kenya on 14th October, 2010 for the Launch of the African Women's Decade 2010-2020 under the theme "Grassroots Approach to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment"

³² The Global Partnership indicator on gender equality measures the proportion of developing countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality.

Before the publication of the Africa Commission Report		Africa Commission Report	From the time of publication of the Africa Commission	
2000	The European Commission published “Promoting excellence through mainstreaming gender equality” ³³		2011	Fund for African Women was created as a single mechanism to ensure policy implementation as well as the effective mainstreaming of gender in policies, institutions and programmes at regional, national and local levels. ³⁴
2002	The Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women published “Gender mainstreaming: an overview”		2015	AfDB launches Africa Gender Equality Index
2003	Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa signed			
2004	Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa approved by the member states of the African Union			
2009	African Union Publishes its Gender Policy			

³³ Target: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015.

³⁴ <http://wgd.au.int/en/sites/default/files/Fund%20for%20African%20Women.pdf> The Fund was implanted: (i) To mobilize financial resources to support development programmes and projects for women; (ii) To support women initiatives to fight poverty, close the gender gap and halt their marginalization; (iii) To share experiences and best practices on economic, political and social empowerment of women; (iv) To facilitate the dissemination of information on the activities of African Women; (v) To strengthen the capacities of African women in leadership, management and entrepreneurship.

The Africa Commission's youth empowerment recommendation

Recommendation 9: Realise the potential of African youth by giving them influence over policies and strategies. Young people should be given a much needed voice and the opportunity to participate in decision-making, including through improved career opportunities.

Before the publication of the Africa Commission Report		Africa Commission Report	From the time of publication of the Africa Commission	
1965	The Member States of the United Nations endorse the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples.		2009	United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 64/134 proclaiming the Year of Youth
1985	International Youth Year: Participation, Development and Peace		2009	The African Youth Decade has been operational since 2009. ³⁵
1995	World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond			
2003	First World Youth Report			
2006	The African Youth Charter (AYC) was endorsed on 2 July 2006 by the African Union Heads of States and Governments meeting in Banjul. It entered into force on 8 August 2009. ³⁶			
2007	Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (2007–2015) established ³⁷			
2007	From 2007 to 2010, the Youth Empowerment Program worked in close partnership with local organisations across Africa to offer youth training in life skills, employability and entrepreneurship ³⁸			
2008	The African Youth Panel (AYP) was initiated with encouragement from the Danish NGO Forum in spring of 2008 to enable African youths give inputs into the Danish Africa Commission processes. The project for the establishment of the Panel was funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.			

³⁵ <http://africa-youth.org/sites/default/files/African%20Youth%20Decade%20Plan%20of%20Action.pdf>

³⁶ The Charter is a political and legal document which serves as the strategic framework for African States, giving direction for youth empowerment and development at continental, regional and national levels. The AYC aims to strengthen, reinforce and consolidate efforts to empower young people through meaningful youth participation and equal partnership in driving Africa's development agenda.

³⁷ <http://www.youthdevelopmentindex.org/cms/cms-youth/images/7150051245204522383408.pdf>

³⁸ <http://www.iyfnet.org/initiatives/youth-empowerment-program#sthash.XNduUJLW.dpuf>

The Africa Commission’s climate change recommendation

Recommendation 10: Strengthen efforts to include climate change considerations in all development strategies. The international community should support African governments in adapting to the risks and impacts of climate change and benefiting from mitigation measures, including through reaching an ambitious agreement during the UN Conference of Parties (COP15) in Copenhagen in December 2009³⁹

Before the publication of the Africa Commission Report		Africa Commission Report	From the time of publication of the Africa Commission	
1985	The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) was established in December 1985. ⁴⁰		2009	UN Conference of Parties (COP15 – Copenhagen, 2009): “The negotiations failed to make necessary progress and the conference ended with only a weak agreement called the Copenhagen Accord, which placed no firm obligations on any countries to act. Moreover, because not every party to the UNFCCC accepted the accord, it remained unofficial.” ⁴¹
1992	UN Conference on the Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro		2015	COP 21 – Paris – reaches new climate agreement. ⁴²
1994	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change established			
2005	Kyoto Protocol entered into force ⁴³			
2007	Parties to the UNFCCC agreed that African nations, the Least Developed Countries and small island states are the most vulnerable to climate change: they receive funding to produce National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) to identify their most urgent needs to adapt to climate change.			
2008	AMCEN’s work on climate change in Africa (African Process for Combating Climate Change) was initiated as a follow up to the			

³⁹ The 15th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and the 5th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol took place in Copenhagen and was hosted by the Government of Denmark.

⁴⁰ Its mandate is to provide advocacy for environmental protection in Africa; to ensure that basic human needs are met adequately and in a sustainable manner; to ensure that social and economic development is realized at all levels; and to ensure that agricultural activities and practices meet the food security needs of the region.

⁴¹ <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002254/225451e.pdf>

⁴² The key elements are: to keep global temperatures "well below" 2.0C (3.6F) above pre-industrial times and "endeavour to limit" them even more, to 1.5C; (ii) to limit the amount of greenhouse gases emitted by human activity to the same levels that trees, soil and oceans can absorb naturally, beginning at some point between 2050 and 2100; (iii) to review each country's contribution to cutting emissions every five years so they scale up to the challenge; iv) for rich countries to help poorer nations by providing "climate finance" to adapt to climate change and switch to renewable energy.

⁴³ The Kyoto Protocol obliged developed nations to reduce their emissions to an average of 5.2% less than their 1990 levels, between 2008 and 2012 (the protocol’s first commitment period). To help countries meet their targets, the protocol created ‘flexibility mechanisms’ – such as carbon trading and the Clean Development Mechanism, which allows industrialised nations to reach their targets by investing in emissions reductions in developing nations.

Before the publication of the Africa Commission Report	Africa Commission Report	From the time of publication of the Africa Commission	
	twelfth session of AMCEN in June 2008.		