

THE PARIS DECLARATION

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS DERIVED FROM THE FIRST EDITION OF THE GRAND DIPLOMATIC NORTH-SOUTH CONFERENCES – 4 JULY 2008

CORE RATIONALE: AFRICAN LEADERSHIP

Africans can induce change by demonstrating leadership on issues that concern them directly (aid, trade, development). Development aid in the framework of partnership relations and the fight against poverty implies agreements between valid, sovereign and respectful interlocutors; where partners are well aware of each other's interests and of their responsibilities towards the people to whom the aid is destined.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Ethics label**: at the same time a principle and an aid evaluation criterion, an ethics label is to be set out in terms of Guaranteed Minimum Human Development (GMHD). Established on a non-economic basis, the ethics label replaces the economic and political conditionalities that translate donor domination.
2. **Governance**: conceived as a measure of transparency, and never as a tool for political pressure, governance commits governments, who are accountable towards their populations. Dialogue between partners, public access to information, civil society implication in diversified ways, and parliamentary control are the approaches that will lead to decent funds management.
3. **Fairness** requires giving priority to the most vulnerable countries. It also aims at the recognition of resource regions and of exploitation patterns that allow the populations to benefit rightly from these.
4. **Representativeness** (participatory strategy): the development process requires the full involvement of all segments of society. A strategy integrating civil society from the conception up to the evaluation of development plans is essential.

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