

Policy hunger

Jacques Diouf of FAO is rightly disappointed that this week's World Food Summit did not result in exact targets for reducing global hunger. The UN says that one billion people are currently going hungry.

Eradicating hunger, the first MDG, is central to achieving all the others. Hunger and malnutrition undermine progress on women's empowerment, education and health, including child and maternal mortality, as well as the fight against HIV, TB, malaria and other diseases.

As [IFPRI's Global Hunger Index](#) shows, Africa lags the world in addressing hunger. While Angola, Ethiopia and Ghana have made progress, African countries rank badly, notably those experiencing or emerging from war and conflict.

Yet despite population growth and the adverse effects of climate change, food production potential is huge, as well resourced farmers are proving.

We know what is needed to boost small holder farmers' production. Diagnosis of agricultural supply and value chains must be backed by increased investment, prioritized to make the biggest difference in specific circumstances.

Investment targets include new seed varieties and technologies; water management; storage and other infrastructure such as roads; access to markets, information, research, training and credit; land tenure and reform.

An overarching requirement is an enabling environment for markets to work: law and order, trust and working partnerships between the public and private sectors. Implementation of growth and poverty reduction plans, increased domestic revenues, jobs and incomes all depend upon good governance.

Success in fighting hunger also depends upon an international policy environment that is decisively more supportive than today's: a level playing field and preferential treatment for LDCs on trade; ethical and enforceable business principles; and global agreements that give Africa, and all LDCs, a sporting chance, whether on migration, intellectual property, illicit financial flows or (perhaps above all) climate change.

Fighting hunger requires more social protection and generous assistance to those who suffer. But as the need for food continues to outstrip its availability in Africa, neither aid nor increased investment in production will be enough.

Political heavy lifting on trade, financial flows and climate change is needed. So is greater public awareness among consumers that their purchasing decisions have consequences for the poor.

More investment and coherent international policies across the board to support LDCs are needed. Otherwise, calls for ending hunger risk sounding hollow.

News Overview

At the World Food Summit, [Muammar Gaddafi called for an end to purchases of African farmland](#) by food-importing nations, calling the practice "new feudalism". [Outside of the conference, he invited 200 women to his residence](#), providing each with a copy of the Koran and offering flights to Mecca upon conversion to Islam.

[Leaders from Madagascar agreed to a transitional government](#) ahead of elections next year. Andry Rajoelina - leader of the coup - will serve as the transitional president, with two "co-presidents" from other political movements.

At a recent two day event promoting good governance in Africa, [Mo Ibrahim called for immediate integration of African states](#). Citing low levels of intra-African trade, insufficient market size and lack of accountability, the Sudanese mobile phone tycoon questioned the viability of some African countries.

[Public debate on Kenya's new constitution will commence this week](#), after the draft was released to the public. Among the particularly divisive issues are the power divisions in the executive branch and the appointment of public officials.

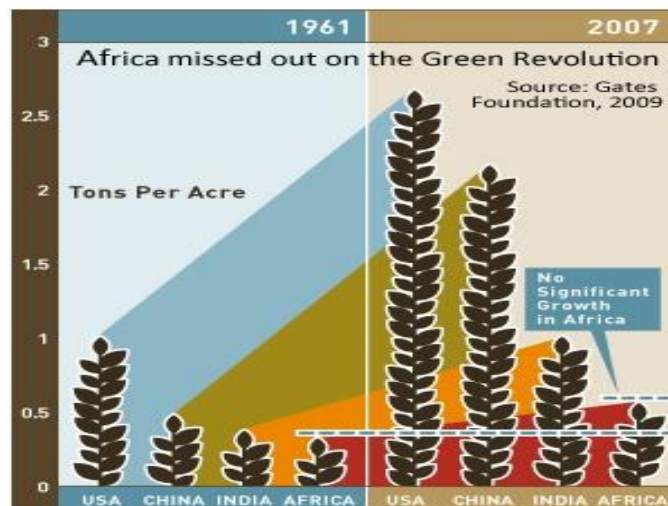
Following qualifications by Cameroon, Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, [Algeria defeated Egypt, taking final slot in Africa's line-up for the 2010 FIFA World Cup](#) in South Africa.

[Peace talks between the Sudanese government and Darfur, scheduled to begin on Monday in Doha, have again been postponed](#) amid a lingering split in rebel ranks. Progress on the resolution of conflict in Darfur has floundered despite efforts by the international community to bring representatives from rebel factions together.

[Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe lashed out at Western countries](#) while attending the World Summit in Rome. He defended the confiscation of white-owned commercial farms, blaming the meltdown of Zimbabwe's economy on "hostile interventions" of "neo-colonialist enemies" instead.

[Botswana has been ranked the most peaceful nation in sub-Saharan Africa](#), followed by Malawi, during a Global Symposium of Peaceful Nations held in Washington DC. Out of 144 countries considered, only Botswana and Malawi were selected for the award from the region.

[Fearing a resurgence of xenophobic attacks in South Africa, 2,700 Zimbabwean migrants took refuge](#) in government buildings in the town of De Doorns after several of their makeshift homes were demolished by local residents.



“Hunger is the most devastating weapon of mass destruction on our planet, it doesn't kill soldiers, it kills innocent children who are not even one-year old.”

Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, while addressing the World Summit on Food Security in Rome, 16 November 2009.

G20 Update

CHINA

[At the FOCAC meeting in Egypt, China and 49 African countries agreed to deepen and expand their cooperation](#)

[The new FOCAC action plan specifies 8 measures to foster bilateral and multilateral cooperation between Africa and China](#)

EU

[The European Investment Bank will provide €82m for the construction and operation of Namibia's only cement factory thereby helping to stimulate economic activity in northern part of the country](#)

[The EU is giving €653m to the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa \(COMESA\) member countries to finance projects that will help them develop capacity in trade with other countries](#)

FRANCE

[Agence Française de Développement has pledged €500 for development projects in Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique and South Africa, among others](#)

GERMANY

[Germany is providing support to help strengthen regional cooperation in Southern Africa](#)

INDIA

[India and South Africa have agreed to work towards a preferential trade agreement, bilateral investment promotion and protection agreement to drive trade in goods and investment between the two countries](#)

ITALY

[The Italian Ambassador to Ghana, Mr. Luca Fratini, has called for the establishment of partnership with Ghana](#)

JAPAN

[The Japanese government through its International Cooperation Agency \(JICA\) has provided fertilizers worth ¥300m \(approximately \\$3.3m\) to support Rwanda's effort in increasing its agricultural production](#)

UK

[Nigeria has received yet another £100m \(about N26 billion\) from DFID for the Enhancing Nigeria Response \(ENR\) to HIV/AIDS programme for a six-year period](#)

[International Development Minister Gareth Thomas has issued a stark warning against illegal fishing, which could have devastating impacts on fish stocks off the coast of Africa](#)

USA

[US-Japan joint message on Climate Change negotiations](#)

[Special Envoy Scott Graton and Senior Director for Multilateral Affairs Samantha Power discuss the Obama Administration's Sudan policy on a special online discussion on YouTube](#)

Multilateral Organizations

AfDB

[The AfDB has approved a total of \\$452m for the development of road infrastructure in four African countries](#)

[The AfDB underscores the need for strong African institutions at the 2009 African Economic Conference](#)

AU

[The AU, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development \(IGAD\), the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre \(KAIPTC\), ECOWAS, UNECA and the Government of Denmark sign agreement on Africa Programme for Peace](#)

ECOWAS

[The EU and ECOWAS strengthen cooperation in support of democratic values](#)

[ECOWAS security chiefs express their determination to improve the free movement of persons and good as well as to promote peace and integration within the sub-region](#)

IFAD

[IFAD and the Islamic Development Bank have reached a landmark co-financing agreement of \\$1.5b in aid for the poorest people living in Africa, Asia and the Near East](#)

THE GLOBAL FUND

[The Global Fund has given \\$336m to help pay for a major expansion of malaria prevention efforts in five African countries](#)

UN

[World leaders at Food Security Summit unanimously adopted a declaration pledging renewed commitment to sustainably eradicate hunger as soon as possible](#)

[The African Trade Policy Centre of UNECA will establish a network of policy makers, researchers, academia, civil society and private sector representatives dealing with trade and environment issues in the North African Region as a tool for capacity building](#)

[FAO provides aid in support of wheat production in Mozambique](#)

[UN organizations discuss how to help Africa achieve MDGs](#)

[A new mechanism to monitor and fight corruption has been agreed at the UN Corruption Conference held in Doha](#)

[UN Food and Agriculture Organization calls for a day-long global fast as symbol of war on hunger](#)

WB

[The International Finance Corporation \(IFC\) has granted a five-year loan of \\$40 million to Central African countries to help the small and medium-sized companies in the region](#)

[Mozambique receives \\$110m in budget support and to help the country cope with the effects of the global financial crisis](#)

[The WB has issued \\$30m to Tanzania to help deal with imminent food shortage facing 40 districts](#)

WHO

[WHO's report on women and health provides the latest and most comprehensive evidence available to date on women's specific needs and health challenges over their entire life-time](#)

Opinions

[SACSIS \(South Africa\): Climate Change Talks – Will Compromises Make Things Worse? 16 Nov](#)

The author acknowledges that any deal in Copenhagen could significantly alter the global governance of natural goods and commodities. He postulates, however, that interests of small nations will be outweighed by the profit motives of industrial interests of the US, EU and BRIC countries.

[The Monitor \(Uganda\): Africa's Soils Thirst for More Water, 18 Nov](#)

In order to increase resistance to drought induced by climate change, the author calls for further development of irrigation, while concurrently advocating for genetically modified crops. She states, though, that more research should be conducted on such crops, and regulatory measures should be implemented.

[Pambazuka News \(Kenya\): West Oppresses through Zenawi Support, 12 Nov](#)

Alemayehu Mariam, lambasts western support for the Ethiopian PM. He notes that they support dictators due to a lack of alternatives, thereby provoking state-sponsored violence and corruption in African nations. He states that institution-building, accountability and transparency would cultivate such alternatives.

[New York Times \(US\): Ill Will Grows in a Former Colonial Region, 12 Nov](#)

According to New York Times journalist Adam Nossiter, it is not a good time to be French in Africa. French officials have discouraged scrutiny of African autocrats, thus implicitly supporting corrupt regimes. In retaliation, opposition's supporters have begun attacking French buildings and throwing rocks at French citizens.

[The Guardian \(UK\): Emissions Deal is Vital, says New Greenpeace Head, 16 Nov](#)

Kumi Naidoo, the first African head of Greenpeace, states that it is vital that the climate talks in Copenhagen result in a binding treaty to cut carbon emissions.

Countdown to Copenhagen- 18 Days

While neither the US nor China have announced emission reduction targets, [a climate talks clause included in Tuesday's US-China joint statement raises hopes](#).

[African leaders demand compensation for the effects of climate change on the continent](#). But they are not revealing the exact amount until negotiations start.

Amid prospects for a new global Climate Change pact at COP15, [South Korea has pledged to cut emissions of CO2 and other heat-trapping gases by 30% below expected levels by 2020](#). This voluntary target setting reinforces the country's position as a green front-runner among developing nations.

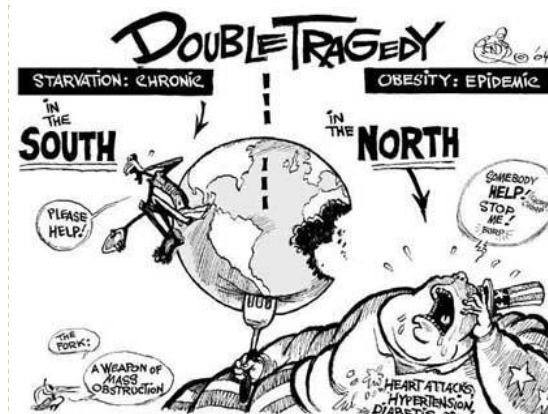
At the World Food Summit, the [UN called for a climate deal to fight global hunger](#).

[Brazil and France agree upon a common position on climate change](#) and commit themselves to cooperating to strengthen the international climate change regime through the enhanced implementation of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol.

The European Commission's annual progress report on emissions shows that [EU-15 is well on track to deliver on its Kyoto Protocol commitments for reducing or limiting emissions of greenhouse gases for 2008-2012](#).

APP Activities

[Tony Blair met with President Kagame in Rwanda](#) to discuss ways in which he and his African Governance Initiative could help build capacity to deliver on priorities. While commenting on the [newly formed partnership between AGRA and NEPAD](#) to achieve increased food production and security in Africa, [Kofi Annan](#) stated "combined efforts will be a strong force for change across Africa" [Linah Mohohlo addressed business leaders at a trade expo in Gaborone last week](#) [Bob Geldof](#) was in Berlin to mark the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall [To mark the same occasion, Muhammad Yunus stated that a wall still separates rich north from poor south](#) [Peter Eigen presented the findings of Transparency International's latest annual survey](#) on BBC's HARDtalk [Kofi Annan, Olusegun Obasanjo and Peter Eigen](#) attended the annual summit of the Club of Madrid on the political impact of the global economic crisis. [Michael Keating](#) moderated the open plenary.



As featured in the [Food Museum Online Exhibition](#)

Calendar

16-20 Nov	8th Africa Regional Conference on Women (Beijing +15) : Banjul, Gambia
19-20 Nov	7 th World Forum on Sustainable Development: Paris, France
19-20 Nov	Joint UN-IPU Parliamentary Hearing at the UN: New York, U.S.A
20 Nov	Universal Children's Day
22-23 Nov	2009 Ministerial Conference of the Middle East North Africa (MENA) on Governance and Investment for Development: Marrakech, Morocco
23-24 Nov	4th High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development : New York, U.S.A
23-25 Nov	2 nd Korea-Africa Forum: Seoul, South Korea
23-25 Nov	Conference on "Ensuring Access to Health for All Women and Newborn: The Role of Parliaments": Kampala, Uganda
25 Nov	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
27-28 Nov	Presidential and National Assembly Elections in Namibia
30 Nov- 2 Dec	7 th Session of the WTO Ministerial Conference: Geneva, Switzerland
1 Dec	World AIDS Day
1-3 Dec	High-Level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation: Nairobi, Kenya
1-4 Dec	1st African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD) Forum : Kinshasa, DRC

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