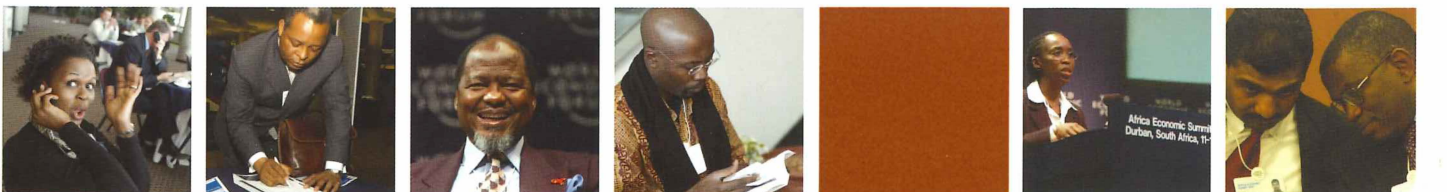


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### Breaking the Loving Embrace: African Solutions for African Problems

When viewed as a whole, the sub-Saharan African countries have shown very modest economic progress – certainly not enough to meet the challenges set by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which assume a 7% annual rate of growth.

But if one puts aside the economic record of nations beset by conflict and political turmoil, many other African countries are achieving rates of growth that are considerably better than the overall figures suggest. This, I believe encapsulates one of the major dilemmas facing the region: the lost opportunities and reputational costs suffered by all as a result of bad behaviour by some.

Progress achieved to date towards the MDGs is mixed. Two countries already have reached the goal of halving between 1990 and 2015 the number of people whose income is less than one dollar (US\$ 1) a day. Fourteen (14) countries are on track; 2 are lagging; 11 are far behind; 6 are slipping back and 9 provided no data to the UN.

No sub-Saharan African country has yet achieved the 2015 goal of universal primary education, but 7 are on track. Of the rest, nine 9 are far behind; 5 are slipping back and 23 provided no data.

Similar patterns emerge for other MDGs: Achieving gender equality in primary education, reducing under-five infant mortality by two-thirds, and halving the proportion of people without access to sustainable, safe drinking water.