

## Climate Change

17. The Commission underlined that Africans are likely to be hardest hit by climate change, although they contribute least to the problem. Africa has very few resources to invest in adaptation and in sustainable sources of energy and other technologies. Limited access to energy remains an obstacle for development for many African countries.
18. Africa therefore has a special need for increased and additional support to adapt to climate change. Africa also has a special need to take advantage of the direct and indirect opportunities that arises from mitigation efforts that would significantly increase access to sustainable energy sources, including access to energy technology, for example through the Clean Development Mechanism. The challenge is to raise additional funds, and gear them to effectively address adaptation and mitigation needs. High and sustained economic growth is necessary for Africa to take advantage of the many challenges of climate change.
19. The Commission found that the role of private-public partnerships should be further explored.

## Women's Economic Empowerment

20. The Commission underscored that women are likely to invest more in the welfare of families and communities than men. Yet, women have less access to good jobs, receive lower pay and work in poorer conditions than men. Increasing women's employment and income is good economics and good for poverty reduction. Gender equality is part of most policies and strategies, but concrete actions that would increase gender equality are not receiving sufficient attention. Better opportunities and capabilities for women must reach the top of the agenda, including in agriculture where African women have proven the backbone of that sector.
21. The Commission found that increasing and sustaining economic growth is important, but would not be sufficient to ensure gender equality. Special initiatives would be necessary to enhance women's entitlements and capabilities, in areas such as access to land, access to finance, access to education, participation in development of policies, and strategies. The Commission also found that including concrete actions and benchmarks on gender equality into national policies and national budgets would enhance accountability and transparency.

## Economic Growth

22. The Commission welcomed the increased and relatively high economic growth in Africa reaching more than 6 per cent in 2007, above world average. Focus should be on how to increase growth further and sustain it in a way that creates employment, reduces poverty