



LOCATION: LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

DATE:08 MAY 2014

DURATION: XXXX

ENGLISH SPEECH, NATURAL SOUND

SOURCE: AFRICA PROGRESS PANEL

RESTRICTIONS: NONE

SHOWS:

LAUNCH OF THE 2014 AFRICAN PROGRESS REPORT

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM (08 MAY 2014) MOLO, (SOURCE - AFRICA PROGRESS PANEL)

1. Arrival of Kofi Annan arriving and greeting Panelists ahead of launch.
2. Various of panellists, c/ups on all panellists.
3. Various wide and midshots of launch hall with participants
4. Various of people handling launched report document
5. Kofi Annan SOT: (English speech)
6. "We have all, I'm sure, been watching Africa's impressive growth recently with fascination. The average incomes have risen by one third and exports are booming and foreign investments are on the rise. This progress is laudable however but there are disturbing increases in inequality and poverty which we should all be concerned about."
7. "We are all losing money through natural resource plunder and financial mismanagement. Africans are short-changed on money transfers from abroad. The continent loses an estimated 1.85 billion USD a year because money transfer operators are imposing excessive charges."
8. "And in Africa's coastal waters, illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing has reached epidemic proportions. This plunder destroys entire coastal communities when they lose opportunities to catch, process and trade. Commercial trawlers that operate under flags of convenience and unload in ports that do not record their catch."

Africa's rich natural resources offer a unique opportunity for a breakthrough in improving the lives of Africa's citizens, says a major new report launched today by Kofi Annan, the former UN Secretary-General, but too often these resources are plundered by corrupt officials and foreign investors. Rising inequality is also blocking Africa from seizing that opportunity, the report shows.

The 2014 Africa Progress Panel report, *Grain, Fish, Money: Financing Africa's green and blue revolutions*, calls on Africa's political leaders to take concrete measures now to reduce inequality by investing in agriculture. It also demands international action to end what it describes as the plunder of Africa's timber and fisheries.

The report calls for a "uniquely African green revolution" that adapts the lessons provided by Asia to African conditions. Africa currently imports US\$35 billion worth of food because local agriculture is dogged by low productivity, chronic underinvestment, and regional

protectionism. Increased investment in infrastructure and research could dramatically raise the region's yields and the incomes of farmers. Meanwhile, eliminating the barriers that restrict trade within Africa could open up new markets.

While critical of African governments, the Africa Progress Report 2014 also challenges the international community to support the region's development efforts. It highlights fisheries and logging as two areas in which strengthened multilateral rules are needed to combat the plunder of natural resources.

Illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing has reached epidemic proportions in Africa's coastal waters. West Africa is conservatively estimated to lose US\$1.3 billion annually. Beyond the financial cost this plunder destroys fishing communities who lose critical opportunities to fish, process and trade. Another US\$17 billion is lost through illicit logging activities.

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Chaired by Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, the ten-member Africa Progress Panel advocates at the highest levels for equitable and sustainable development in Africa. The Panel releases its flagship publication, the Africa Progress Report, every year in May.

ENDS.