A Review of Science and Technology and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers in Sub-Saharan Africa O. Akin Adubifa ATPS SPECIAL PAPER SERIES No. 18 List of Abbreviations and Acronyms ADLI GDP HIPC IMF NGO NPEP PEAP PRSP SPA UNDP Agricultural Development-Led Industrialization Gross Domestic Product Heavily Indebted Poor Country International Monetary Fund Non governmental organization National Poverty Elimination Plan PRSP Poverty Eradication, Plan Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper Strategy for Poverty Alleviation United Nations Development Programme Published by the African Technology Policy Studies This article examines whether the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and donor policy statements are aligned with MDG priorities and targets. The analysis found a high degree of commitment to MDGs as a whole but both PRSPs and donor statements are selective, consistently emphasising income poverty and social investments for education, health and water but not other targets concerned with empowerment and inclusion of the most vulnerable such as gender violence or women's political representation. Yet PRSPs also potentially offer a much greater contribution to aid effectiveness, good governance and poverty reduction in developing countries. A successful strategy of poverty reduction must have at its core measures to promote rapid and sustained economic growth. The challenge for policy is to combine growth-promoting policies with policies that allow the poor to participate fully in the opportunities unleashed and so contribute to that growth. The positive link between growth and poverty reduction is clear. The impact of the distribution of income on this relationship is in particular, whether higher inequality lessens the reduction in poverty generated by growth is less clear. Initial levels of income inequality are important in determining how powerful an effect growth has in reducing poverty. At the same time, in every region of the world and particularly in Africa, youth unemployment is a major issue.