

**Talking points for Mr. Legwaila's address to the
Friends of Africa Network**

Wednesday, 20 September 2006 – 11:00 a.m.

- Dear friend and colleagues,

- Thank you for responding to this invitation. You have all been good friends of Africa and this office. We very much appreciate your diverse and significant forms of support for OSAA.

- I intend to sustain and strengthen the good working relationship between OSAA and all of you.

- This is a very exciting and challenging time for Africa, and with the General Assembly about to commence, it is appropriate that OSAA is meeting with you all today.

- First of all, I thought I might briefly share my views on the current situation in Africa.

- We all welcome the elections in the DRC, and anticipate a successful second round in October. The challenges remain enormous.

- Critical that the international community sustains its support for the DRC, especially during the second round of elections, **and especially afterwards.**

- The International Conference on the Great Lakes region, scheduled to take place soon, could be a very useful complement to the peace process in the DRC, and to the stabilization of the whole region.
- We welcome the positive developments in Burundi and hope that the recent difficulties will be temporary.
- On Sudan, major challenges remain regarding the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), but there has been significant progress. International support will remain critical.
- Darfur remains an unfolding tragedy posing a severe challenge to the United Nations Security Council. A way must be found out of this current impasse immediately.
- Ongoing efforts on Somalia must be supported.
- On Eritrea/ Ethiopia, there is a real risk of escalation.
- In West Africa, the Ivorian Peace process now appears to have reached a crisis point. Here as well, the Security Council should rise to the challenge.
- The challenges of peacekeeping and peace consolidation in Africa today remain enormous and the United Nations peacekeeping capacity has been stretched.
- Similarly, on the humanitarian front, the international community is falling far short in meeting the urgent human needs in a number of African crises situations.

- African Union efforts to build up its architecture of peace and security are progressing and the United Nations is in close consultation with it on the 10-year Capacity-Building Program, and on establishing a strategic partnership between the two organizations. In this regard, I recently went to Addis Ababa on a joint mission with Mr. Gambari for discussions with Mr. Konare at the African Union. This illustrates OSAA's close working relationship and coordination, not only with DPA, but indeed with all other key departments in their work on Africa (DESA, DPKO, OCHA, UNDP, ECA).

- On NEPAD and the APRM, the Secretary-General's Advisory Panel on International support for NEPAD (SAPIS-NEPAD), chaired by Chief Emeka Anyaoku, continued its work. Their most recent report, "From Commitments to Results: Moving forward NEPAD Implementation", is now available on the OSAA website.

- On the APRM, 25 countries have signed on and several have already completed their review (Ghana, Rwanda, and Kenya). This exciting, important and innovative initiative deserves sustained support.

- On the economic side, several recent reports highlight the sustained economic growth in much of Africa in the past year, as well as the positive trends in ODA and debt cancellation, respectively.

- The growing role of India and China in economic partnership with Africa is an important new development.

- However, it is a fact that many African countries remain off-track in terms of the attainment of the MDGs, and it is quite clear that unless efforts are redoubled,

Africa will remain the one region in the developing world which will fail to meet the MDG targets.

- Now let me say a little about OSAA's role and vision.

- Our mandated role:

1. Preparation of the annual progress report on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa, and the progress report on the Implementation of NEPAD, have been completed. They can be accessed through the OSAA website.

2. On our global advocacy role, OSAA continues to fulfill its mandate, while working in close collaboration with ECA and DPI.

3. We were very pleased at the level of international support for our work, as demonstrated at the recent CPC deliberations.

4. We are also hard at work on our coordination role here at headquarters and have participated fully in many high-level policy discussions regarding the African agenda.

5. We continue to work closely with OHRLLS, as 35 out of the 50 LDC's are from Africa. OSAA participated in the recently ended mid-term review of the Brussels Program of Action.

6. We have also tried to pay particular attention to our anticipated role of helping to put the spotlight on new and emerging themes of particular relevance and interest to Africa, for example, DDR and Stability in Africa, Natural Resources and their role in Armed Conflict, and the Youth and Women in post-conflict countries.

- Perhaps, I will end with a few words about my vision for OSAA.

- My vision for OSAA is for the office to continue as an effective advocate for Africa, both within the United Nations system, and in the inter-governmental processes, in general.

- I see OSAA continuing as an important interlocutor for, and friend of, the African agenda, in coordination with other UN departments and the international community, in pursuit of the MDGs; to implement NEPAD; and to support the African Union.

- And finally, I see OSAA helping to spotlight the new and emerging issues of interest to Africa, such as International Migration and Development, Youth Unemployment and Asia- Africa Cooperation, respectively.

- Now, I would particularly appreciate your candid views and comments. I see this as just the beginning of a regular process of interaction which will enrich our mutual work in support of Africa, and our determination to keep Africa at the top of the global agenda.

- I thank you for listening.