



**Statement**

**by**

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**at the**

**Briefing on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD);  
the improved Monitoring Mechanisms; and the comprehensive  
review of the implementation of the recommendations contained  
in the 1998 report of the Secretary-General  
on the Causes of Conflict**

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Conference Room 6, NLB  
New York**

Distinguished delegates  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to welcome you today to the briefing on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). I am honoured to introduce Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, the Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency who has come to New York especially for this event to brief you on the integration of NEPAD into the structure and processes of the African Union, and on progress in the implementation of NEPAD projects and programmes.

I would also like to welcome Mr. Eckhard Deutscher, Chair of the OECD/DAC, who will later introduce the partnership between OSAA, NEPAD-OECD Africa Investment Initiative and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA).

Before giving the floor to Dr. Mayaki, I would like to take this opportunity to present to you the three reports of the Secretary-General produced by my Office, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, namely:

- (a) New Partnership for Africa's Development: eighth consolidated progress report on implementation and international support (A/65/167);
- (b) A monitoring mechanism to review commitments towards Africa's development needs (A/65/165); and
- (c) Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/65/152).

**I. New Partnership for Africa's Development: Eighth consolidated progress report on implementation and international support (A/65/167)**

**Actions by African countries and organizations**

The last 12 months have witnessed steady progress in the implementation of NEPAD sectoral projects and programmes in areas such as agriculture, health, education and training, environment, information and communication technology and infrastructure development. Similarly, the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) is slowly and steadily contributing towards strengthening Africa's institution of governance.

A noteworthy development in the last 12 months was the establishment of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) and its subsequent integration into the structure and processes of the African Union. This has given a renewed impetus to the implementation of NEPAD priorities. Dr. Mayaki will provide a detailed exposé on this.

This clearly shows that Africa is steadily beginning to meet its part of the bargain. However, Africa cannot do this alone but needs international support to realize the NEPAD's objectives. This now brings me to the international dimension of the partnership.

### **Response of the international community: Building on the momentum of international support for Africa's development**

The response of the international community to Africa's development has been mixed. While progress in the areas of ODA, debt relief and, to a lesser extent, FDI has been good, progress in the area of trade remains slow due to the failure to conclude the Doha Round of Multilateral Trade negotiations.

**Official development assistance:** According to the OECD, total ODA to Africa rose by 7 per cent in real terms, from \$39.1 billion in 2007 to \$44 billion in 2008. Yet, ODA to Africa is still falling short of the targets set within the Gleneagles commitment.

**Debt relief:** The past year registered substantial progress in multilateral and bilateral debt relief and cancellation efforts within the framework of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI). As of 30 July 2010, 24 African countries had reached the completion point under the HIPC initiative.

**Foreign direct investment (FDI):** Foreign direct investment inflows to Africa reached a historic high of \$88 billion in 2008. However, the global economic and financial crisis had a dramatic impact on FDI in Africa. While African countries continued to improve their investment environment to foster foreign direct investment, according to preliminary estimates from UNCTAD, FDI to Africa decreased to \$59 billion in 2009.

**Trade:** Very limited progress was made in the Doha Round of trade negotiations in reaching an agreement on issues affecting Africa, including agriculture, market access and greater reduction in trade-distorting agricultural subsidies.

**South-South Cooperation:** During the past year, South-South Cooperation grew steadily and strongly. Several countries and regions of the South such as The People's republic of China, Republic of Korea, and South America extended and deepened their partnerships with Africa to foster sustainable development.

### **Support by the United Nations system**

The 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) recognized further strengthening of cooperation and coordination among United Nations system entities and African regional and sub-regional organizations. The Meeting pointed to the need to establish a sub-regional coordination mechanism so as to provide a link between regional-level activities and country-level priorities, actions and implementation, as well as to respond to the needs of the regional economic communities.

### **Conclusions:**

The last 12 months have seen good progress in the implementation of the NEPAD agenda. We hope that this momentum will be maintained or even strengthened, in spite of difficult times for the global economy.

As we are entering a new phase in the implementation of the NEPAD agenda following the establishment of NPCA, African countries should strengthen the institutional capacity of the African Union Commission and NPCA by providing them with adequate human and financial resources. At the same time, development partners should fulfill existing commitments so as to increase the quantity and improve the effectiveness of development assistance, as well as to increase their policy coherence for development. The conclusion of the Doha Round of Trade negotiations is critical to accelerating the implementation of the NEPAD agenda. It will allow Africa to trade its way out of poverty.

## **II. A monitoring mechanism to review commitments towards Africa's development needs (A/65/165)**

The report was prepared as a follow-up to the High-Level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs, held in September 2008. In the Political Declaration adopted at the High-Level Meeting (Res. 63/1), the General Assembly called for the formulation of a mechanism to review the full and timely implementation of all commitments related to Africa's development by its sixty-fifth session.

With only five years left until the MDG target of 2015, implementation of development commitments by all partners is critical for accelerating progress towards the MDGs and other Internationally Agreed Development Goals. As highlighted at the MDG Summit just a few weeks ago, this is particularly important in view of the daunting challenges that many African countries are facing in meeting the Goals.

The process of partners holding one another accountable for the commitments that they have made is a crucial step in achieving better development results. However, there is a need to further strengthen the process of mutual accountability. This is even more important given the increasing involvement of a wide range of partners with Africa.

Against this backdrop, the report reviews major existing monitoring mechanisms, and highlights their objectives, thematic coverage, analytical approaches, participation modalities, gaps and challenges. Building on existing processes, and addressing the gaps, the report proposes the scope, priorities and institutional arrangements for an improved monitoring mechanism.

Specifically, the report proposes the establishment of a review process, either under the aegis of the General Assembly or under the purview of the Economic and Social Council, wherein commitments to Africa's development by both African Governments and their development partners would be reviewed every two years at formal review meetings. The first review meeting would be held either at the GA 68<sup>th</sup> regular session (in 2013) or at the session of the ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum in 2014. The deliberations at the formal review meetings would be based on a Secretary-General's report summarizing information on the fulfillment of the commitments to Africa's development and their translation into concrete accomplishments, building on information available from existing monitoring mechanisms.

Prior to the formal review, technical meetings and consultations with key stakeholders would be held, including the African Union Commission, African Development Bank, ECA, the African Regional Economic Communities, United Nations system, civil society and the private sector. In particular, the mechanism will place great emphasis on the participation of African stakeholders, such as representatives of civil society organizations, academia and research institutions involved in monitoring Africa's development.

The improved mechanism will bring greater coherence to existing monitoring mechanisms. Building on existing monitoring mechanisms, it will broaden the sectoral coverage, encompassing the areas identified as being critical

to Africa's development in the 2008 Political Declaration on Africa's development needs, including peace and security; governance; resource mobilization and aid effectiveness; private sector development and access to finance; infrastructure; trade promotion and regional integration; environmental sustainability and climate change; food security and agricultural development; gender equality; health; education; and South-South cooperation.

Unlike existing monitoring mechanisms, to the extent possible, the improved monitoring mechanism will strive to go beyond the monitoring of inputs, such as the disbursement of financial assistance or the implementation of a required policy by a country, to outputs and outcomes. Furthermore, the improved monitoring mechanism will extend the coverage to other development partners, including the new emerging partners.

The universality and legitimacy of the United Nations will be instrumental in helping to broaden the participation of all countries, while also opening a window for dialogue with non-State actors. We hope that improved monitoring will enhance development results through increased transparency and accountability in the use of all development resources, including domestic public resources, and lead to enhanced development effectiveness in Africa.

### **III. Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/65/152)**

After a decade of changes and progress in Africa, in his report A/65/152, the Secretary-General undertook, in response to a mandate from the General Assembly, a comprehensive review of the implementation of the recommendations contained in his 1998 "Report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa" (A/52/871-S/1998/318). In mandating the comprehensive review, the General Assembly (A/RES/63/304) acknowledged that Africa has experienced substantial progress and that the United Nations needs to take a new look at the manner in which it engages with the continent.

Assessing the degree to which the original recommendations have been addressed, the report highlights some areas that need further attention and stresses the need to change the discourse around Africa, focusing on opportunities and acknowledging the existence of different realities on the continent. The report notes that Africa is moving and changing rapidly. Through new institutions and a clearer sense of its political and economic strategic position in the world, Africa is taking full responsibility for preventing, managing and resolving its conflicts and

promoting the economic and social development of its people. The United Nations must support and reinforce Africa's own efforts through an engagement which is proactive and aligned with the vision and the expectations of African governments, peoples and institutions.

The report also highlights significant challenges. In the next decades, the persistent weakness of some states and regions will pose a great strategic challenge for the international community. Smaller-scale, low-intensity intra-state conflicts triggered by the systematic exclusion of significant portions of society from political institutions and access to key economic assets will require new and flexible approaches from the UN system and its partners grounded in the realities at the country level.

Managing diversity and identity politics; the youth bulge and youth unemployment; ending chronic poverty and ensuring food security; securing borders and maritime routes to assist in efforts to prevent activities of international organized crime, mitigating climate change and the impact of economic crises; addressing corruption and ensuring transparency in the exploitation of natural resources are some of the challenges that need urgent attention.

The Secretary-General notes that issues of social justice will increasingly be at the centre of future UN interventions. They will require a simultaneous focus on peace, humanitarian needs and development and a better understanding of the economic dimensions of armed conflict. This includes improving the economic, trade and business environment; ensuring full participation of the vulnerable segments of the population and of women in political and economic development strategies; delivering on the commitments made to Africa's development and strengthening the state so that it can perform its obligations as a source of stability, socio-economic development and protection for its citizens.

The causes and triggers of conflict are multiple and interconnected and none of them can be handled independently. While reaffirming the commitment of the UN system to stand by the continent, the report notes that the UN must acknowledge its limitations and ensure that it cooperates with partners that may be better suited to respond to new challenges. The UN's relations with regional and subregional organizations, local governments, civil society organizations and the private sector must be enhanced.

The objective of the report is to stimulate debate in the General Assembly and within the United Nations system on the need to urgently and comprehensively address the issues highlighted and reflect on how to build common UN approaches. The exceptional engagement of the UN system and other partners in preparing the

report speaks of the need to continue examining these questions and of the value of having a forum in which the system and its partners can address critical issues of common concern. This is only the beginning of a process that will necessarily take time and further consultations.

I thank you for your attention.