



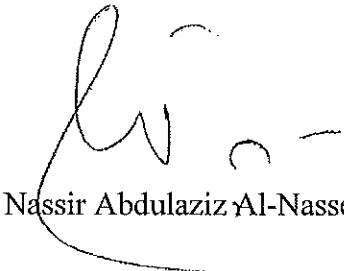
THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

13 June 2012

Excellency,

As follow up to the re-appointment of H.E. Mr Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations and H.E. Mr. Marten Grunditz, Permanent representative of Sweden to the United Nations, to continue to serve as facilitator on the establishment of "*a monitoring mechanism to follow up on all commitments related to the development of Africa*", I have the honor to transmit herewith the report of the Informal Consultations on Monitoring Mechanism and the draft resolution to be discussed during informal consultations scheduled form the 15 of June.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser

All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanente Observers to the United Nations  
New York



PERMANENT MISSION OF KENYA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



PERMANENT MISSION OF SWEDEN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

May 31, 2012

H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser  
President of the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly,  
UN Secretariat,  
NEW YORK.

Mr. President.

We have the honour to refer to our mandate to co-facilitate consultations on the establishment of a monitoring mechanism to review all commitments related to Africa's development needs.

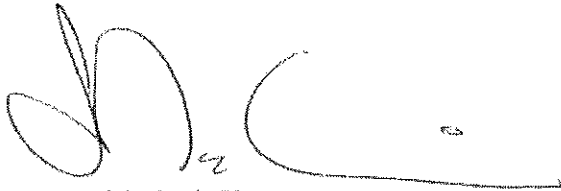
In line with this mandate, we have held very constructive informal consultations with all Member States and relevant stakeholders to find an agreement on the *nature, scope, priorities and institutional arrangements* of such a mechanism. During the informal plenary meeting which took place on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2012, we were honoured with the presence of the Secretary General and a representative from your office, all who offered the initial guiding statements on the subject. Thereafter, we had an opportunity to meet and exchange views with major regional groups and the United Nations entities as follows.

1. The African Group;
2. The Group of G77 and China;
3. The Western European and Other Groups;
4. The European Union;
5. The Eastern European Countries; and
6. The UN funds, programmes, specialized agencies, and regional commissions, Offices/Departments.

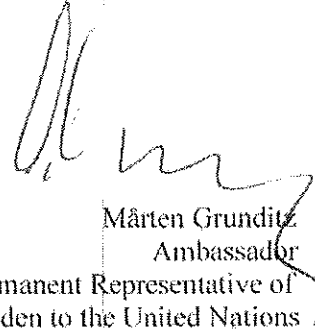
These consultations have been the basis for the draft resolution on a monitoring mechanism to review commitments made towards Africa's development needs attached to this letter. Attached is also a background note and summary from the informal consultations. It is our intention to proceed by convening informal consultations on the draft with the view to adopting the resolution before the end of the 66<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly.

We propose that with your concurrence, the report and the draft resolution be forwarded to all member states before we can commence the consultations.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of our highest consideration,



Macharia Kamau  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of  
Kenya to the United Nations



Mårten Grunditz  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of  
Sweden to the United Nations

## **Background and Summary of the Informal Consultations on Monitoring Mechanism to review commitments towards Africa's development needs.**

### **Context and Mandate**

At the High-Level Meeting (HLM) held on 22 September 2008 the UN General Assembly adopted the *Political Declaration on "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and way forward"* (A/RES/63/1). It sought to reaffirm all Member States' commitment to addressing Africa's development needs, and requested "*the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its 64<sup>th</sup> session a comprehensive report, with recommendations, on Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward with a view to the formulation, by the time of the 65<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly, of a mechanism to review the full and timely implementation of all commitments related to Africa's development, building on existing mechanism, to ensure that Member States remain seized of the issue of addressing Africa's special development needs*".

Specifically the United Nations General Assembly mandated the establishment of a monitoring mechanism to review the full and timely implementation of all commitments related to Africa's development needs, as an outcome of the HLM on Africa's development needs. With this mandate, the objective of the mechanism is to monitor commitments made by both African Governments and Africa's development partners in the spirit of partnership and mutual accountability. In paragraph 39 of the Political Declaration, Member States emphasized that the monitoring mechanism should be built on the existing mechanisms. It would be based on the principle of partnership and mutual accountability, focusing not only on commitments by development partners, but also on those made by African countries. It would also promote the broad participation of all partners including all African countries and a broad range of external development partners, including non-Development Assistance Committee donors.

Furthermore, according to the Political Declaration, the monitoring mechanism would cover most relevant sectors related to Africa's development needs. In that context, Member States took note with appreciation of the Secretary-General's report on the monitoring mechanism to review commitments towards Africa's development needs (A/65/165)<sup>1</sup>, and reaffirmed that the existing processes provided the basis for the monitoring mechanism.

Against this background, the Presidents of both the 65<sup>th</sup> and 66<sup>th</sup> sessions of the General Assembly mandated H.E. Mr. Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations, and H.E. Mr. Márten Grunditz, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations, to be co-facilitators of consultations on the establishment of a monitoring mechanism to review commitments towards Africa's development needs.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.un.org/africasaah/reports/2010\\_Monitoring\\_Mechanism.pdf](http://www.un.org/africasaah/reports/2010_Monitoring_Mechanism.pdf)

In fulfilment of the mandate, the Co-facilitators Ambassador Kamau and Ambassador Grunditz have led the intergovernmental consultation process with all Member States and stakeholders to find an agreement on the *nature, scope, priorities and institutional arrangements*. These informal consultations included: (i) the General Assembly Plenary presided-over by the President of the UN General Assembly, with the participation of the UN Secretary-General; (ii) the African Group; (iii) the Group of G77 and China; (iv) the Western European and Other Groups; (v) European Union; (vi) the Eastern European Countries; and (vii) the UN funds, programmes, specialized agencies, and regional commissions, Offices/Departments.

The UN Secretary-General, in his statement at the plenary session of the General Assembly in February 14, 2012, called upon Member States to accelerate efforts toward the establishment of the monitoring mechanism for Africa's development needs. In their statements, representatives of major regional groups expressed clear support to the process<sup>2</sup>.

### **Rationale of a monitoring mechanism**

The rationale of this monitoring mechanism is based on the notion of mutual accountability of African countries and their development partners for better delivery and performance. Only if both sides fulfil their obligations to support Africa's development, would progress be achieved. Mutual accountability would not only act as a key element for achieving development in the continent, but it would also reinvigorate the global partnership for Africa.

Given the critical importance of meeting Africa's development needs and the myriad of commitments made by various stakeholders, an improved monitoring of the fulfilment of the commitments is crucial. Moreover, there is need for an effective way to bring together the results of the various existing monitoring processes. The mechanism could monitor progress of multilateral commitments in most areas relevant to Africa's development needs and account for important linkages between the different aspects of development.

The monitoring mechanism could help to ensure the effective use of resources in order to keep the political momentum on development assistance. It could also help demonstrate that aid is working and providing value for the money. That is why prioritizing on the output of the development assistance is equally important. The NEPAD framework equally called for the establishment of complementary and independent monitoring tools to ensure that donors' performance is kept on track and that official development assistance flows are effectively utilized by recipient countries.

### **Nature of the Monitoring Mechanism**

Member States expressed a strong desire for a universally acceptable monitoring mechanism that is, *inter alia*, user-friendly, comprehensive, inclusive and cost-effective.

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<sup>2</sup> These included; The African Group, The Group of 77 +China, and the European Union

They stressed that the new mechanism should build on the existing monitoring processes. It would be a UN-based monitoring mechanism to review mutual commitments towards Africa's development needs. The new mechanism should review the quality, quantity, and, if data and information allow, impact of commitments. In addition, it should identify progress, shortcomings and development challenges.

Given the complexity of Africa's development needs, the review of commitments would promote the participation of all interested stakeholders including civil society, which is essential in terms of ownership, legitimacy and transparency. Most importantly, it would motivate and/or trigger actions by development partners and African Governments for better delivery of commitments and improve development effectiveness.

**The monitoring mechanism would be based on the concept of mutual accountability and partnership. It should have the following characteristics namely to be: user-friendly, comprehensive, inclusive, cost-effective, evidence-based, and put African priorities at the center.**

#### **Scope of the Mechanism**

With regard to the thematic coverage, while there were varying perspectives, there was a consensus as expressed in the *Political Declaration* that the review should encompass the broadest possible coverage while having a thematic focus where appropriate.

It was felt that while the monitoring mechanism could attempt a broad coverage, it might be appropriate to focus on a limited number of commitments during a given review. While Member States discussed the extent to which various commitments should be included in the monitoring process, they agreed that to keep the mechanism manageable and focused on overall Africa's development needs, it is best to consider the most significant and measurable commitments made in the multilateral context. These would include major commitments towards Africa's development needs made at key international conferences including on financing for development, Millennium Development Goals, aid effectiveness, trade liberalization and sustainable development, and various G8 and G20 Summits.

Subject to the availability of information and data, the monitoring mechanism should go beyond the monitoring of inputs, such as the disbursement of ODA or the implementation of a required policy by a country, to outputs, outcomes, and impact. It would promote a more systematic collection of relevant information including output and/or outcome indicators and stimulate a debate on development challenges that relate to those findings.

**The mechanism should focus on multilateral commitments arising from global processes and summit outcomes such as; the Millennium Declaration, Monterrey Consensus, G-8 Gleneagles summit, Doha Declaration, Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and other related Infectious Diseases, Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa, etc.**

## Priorities

The complexity of monitoring all commitments related to Africa's development needs require a measure of pragmatism. Member States were of the view that only commitments of multilateral and global nature should be monitored. These would include major commitments towards Africa's development needs made at key international conferences such as; financing for development, aid effectiveness, sustainable development, etc. Commitments made in such fora are multilateral in nature, and are easier to monitor than most, given the availability of data. The mechanism would be iterative in nature, covering a few commitments at a time, and building upon them and broaden the scope on subsequent review periods.

**The first review would focus on the key priorities as determined by African countries. Since the monitoring mechanism would be an ongoing process, the focus may first and foremost be given to key development issues including - ODA, FDI, external debt, trade and governance.**

## Institutional arrangements

Member States agreed that a General Assembly-led process was preferable to other arrangements due to the political legitimacy universality and neutrality of the UN and mandate espoused in GA resolutions 63/1 and 64/258. In addition, this process would be analogous to other reviews undertaken by the General Assembly.

They also agreed that the review should be biennial to allow enough time to gather and analyze the data systematically. Therefore, the first review would start at the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly. The review would avoid getting into problems of funding, scheduling, and other logistical issues. The review would be based on an analytical report of the Secretary-General prepared by UN Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA).

The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa should be the Secretariat for the monitoring mechanism given its unique position at the global level as focal point for NEPAD at the UN; its purview or work covering a wide area embracing *inter alia*, economic, political, and social issues. OSAA would be best placed to take on this responsibility in collaboration and consultation with other entities such as, in particular; the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), regional organizations, including the African Union Commission and AU/NEPAD Agency, the African Development Bank, and OECD, private sector and civil society organizations.

**The review should be a General Assembly-led process to benefit from its convening power, legitimacy and universality. It should be on a biennial basis and based on an analytical report of the Secretary-General prepared by OSAA in collaboration and consultation with other UN entities and therefore, first review will take place at the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the GA during the discussion of the Agenda item on development of Africa.**

## **Resources**

Member States unanimously underlined the critical importance of cost effectiveness with regards to the monitoring mechanism on Africa's development needs to ensure the relevance, timeliness and added-value for all stakeholders. They agreed that as stated in the Political Declaration, the monitoring mechanism would not seek to duplicate existing structures and arrangements, but would rather build on the existing mechanisms, and that data collection, compilation, analysis; synthesis and drafting of the reports would rely on the expertise within the UN system.

Therefore, in order to fulfil the function to establish the above-mentioned review process, including the organization of the biennial review meetings, the preparation of the related report and all additional documentation, interaction with existing monitoring mechanisms and the dissemination of information to a wider audience, appropriate human and financial resources should be programmed in the budget of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and be made available to support that function.

**To ensure the quality, comprehensive, inclusiveness, legitimacy and credibility of the analysis and extensive consultations in the process to prepare the report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring mechanism, adequate reallocation of resources (human and technical) should be programmed in the budget of the UN for this purpose.**



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**Sixty-Sixth session**

**Agenda item X**

**A monitoring mechanism to review commitments made towards Africa's development needs**

**Kenya and Sweden:\* draft resolution**

**A monitoring mechanism to review commitments made towards Africa's development needs**

The General Assembly,

*Recalling* its resolution 55/2 on the United Millennium Declaration leading to the establishment of the Millennium Development Goals, in which the special needs of Africa were highlighted,

*Recalling also* its resolution 57/2 of 16 September 2002 on the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

*Recalling further* its resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002 on the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development and resolutions 58/233 of 23 December 2003, 59/254 of 23 December 2004, 60/222 of 23 December 2005, 61/229 of 22 December 2006, 62/179 of 19 December 2007, 63/267 of 31 March 2009, 64/258 of 16 March 2010 and 65/284 of 16 August 2011 entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support",

*Recalling further* the 2005 World Summit Outcome<sup>1</sup>, including the recognition of the need to meet the special needs of Africa, and recalling also its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006,

*Recalling* the Political Declaration on Africa's Development Needs, adopted at the high-level meeting on Africa's Development Needs on 22 September 2008<sup>2</sup>,

*Recalling also* the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome, including

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<sup>1</sup> See Resolution 60/1

<sup>2</sup> See Resolution 63/1

the recognition that more attention should be given to Africa, especially those countries most off track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015<sup>3</sup>,

Stressing the need to implement all commitments by the international community regarding the economic and social development of Africa,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the Monitoring Mechanism to review commitments towards Africa's development needs;<sup>4</sup>

*Taking note* of the Constitutive Act of the African Union adopted in July 2000 by African Heads of State and Governments in which African leaders committed themselves to respect democratic principles; human rights; the rule of law; good governance; and promotion of social justice to ensure balanced economic development.

*Reaffirming* its full support for the implementation of the African Union's New Partnership for Africa's Development;

*Bearing in mind* that African countries have primary responsibility for their own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, and bearing in mind also the need for their development efforts to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, and in this regard recalling the support given by the International Conference on Financing for Development to the New Partnership

*Expressing* its determination to take effective steps to further strengthen implementation of commitments towards Africa's development in line with the political declaration on Africa's development needs.

*Reaffirming* the crucial importance of partnership in supporting Africa's own efforts in development, peace and security, taking note of the progress made by development partners, including new and emerging development partners in supporting Africa.

*Reaffirming also* its commitment to the full implementation of the political declaration on Africa's development needs,<sup>2</sup> as reaffirmed in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, adopted as the outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008;<sup>5</sup>

*Calling* for timely and effective implementation of commitments made towards Africa's development.

*Recognising* the crucial importance of monitoring of commitments in enhancing the impact of development support through ensuring greater accountability in both donor and recipient countries;

*Recognising also* a wide range of different mechanisms to monitor commitments towards Africa's development.

1. *Decides* to establish a United Nations Monitoring Mechanism to review commitments made related to Africa's development needs, building on

<sup>3</sup> See resolution 65/1

<sup>4</sup> A/65/165

<sup>5</sup> Resolution 63/239, annex.

existing monitoring mechanisms in line with paragraph 39 of the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 63/1.

2. *Decides* to conduct biennial reviews under the aegis of the General Assembly in the context of its agenda item on development of Africa ;
3. *Decides* that the Monitoring Mechanism shall be a UN General Assembly driven process and established within existing structures;
4. *Stresses* the centrality of the principles of mutual accountability and partnership in the monitoring mechanism, focusing on commitments of both development partners and African countries.
5. *Stresses also* the importance of the monitoring mechanism being grounded on reliable and timely data to enable conduct of assessment of outcomes and impact.
6. *Stresses further* the need for the monitoring mechanism to focus on multilateral commitments arising from global processes and summit outcomes.
7. *Requests* the Office of Special Adviser on Africa to serve as the Secretariat for the review and to coordinate with relevant entities of the United Nations system the preparation of the Report on the Review of the Implementation of Commitments towards Africa's Development.
8. *Calls on* relevant entities of the United Nations system, including funds, programmes, specialized agencies and regional commissions, in particular the Economic Commission for Africa and invites the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organisation, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and other relevant international and regional organisations, including the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank, within their respective mandates, to contribute to the Review upon request.
9. *Recognizes* the important role that civil society organisations, the private sector, parliamentarians, media, academia, and foundations play in mobilising support for and monitoring Africa's development, and in this regard invites them to contribute to the biennial review.
10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to mobilize and coordinate the relevant entities of the United Nations to ensure coherence and full implementation of the monitoring mechanism at the national, sub regional, regional and global levels.
11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to identify and reallocate the resources needed to strengthen the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa in order to enable it to effectively fulfil its mandate, including advocating for, monitoring and reporting on progress related to meeting the special needs of Africa;
12. *Request further* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly the first biennial report on the commitments made towards Africa's development needs at the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly.