



**STATEMENT BY**

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REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

**AT THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING  
ON AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS**

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**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Mr. President,

First, I wish to commend the Secretary General's report no. A/63/130 on *African Development Needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward*. I fully agree with the report's recommendation that we intensify our support for Africa in addressing global challenges to development.

The recommendation is timely. Sharp rises in the prices of food and energy have a severe impact on the global economy. The development programmes of many countries, especially to alleviate poverty, have been paralyzed. This is particularly true of Africa. In the face of the situation, many African nations are not likely to reach their Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

And yet, I still believe that Africa can be a very prosperous and progressive continent—if it can get the help that it needs and deserves, and if all conflict situations resolved, and peace and security restored. We all must engage with Africa in a global partnership for development, and accelerate the pace for such support. International initiatives, such as debt relief and cancellation as well as aid for trade must be intensified.

Through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Africa's leaders and people have committed themselves to a common vision for change, in particular by eradicating poverty, to ensure sustainable growth and development. Indonesia welcomes NEPAD's role as a catalyst for peace and security, democracy, good governance, capacity building, and the means to improve macro-economic development frameworks.

Mr. President,

On its own, Indonesia for decades has actively participated in initiatives that support the development of Africa and engaged in peace building efforts, as sustainable peace must be in tandem with national development. In fact, Indonesia has been actively involved through various UN peacekeeping operations in the continent since 1960 in Congo. We are also committed to sustain this involvement through various bilateral, interregional and multilateral mechanisms.

As co-chair of the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP), Indonesia is deeply involved in NAASP projects aimed at accelerating the development of Africa. Within the NAASP framework, Indonesia has conducted many capacity building programmes that have been attended by participants from Africa. The results have been encouraging.

This means that South-South Cooperation remains an important strategy for speeding up progress in Africa. That is why Indonesia continues to promote such cooperation through the Non-Aligned Movement Center for South-South Technical Cooperation. And, despite lack of a multilateral funding mechanism, we have consistently accommodated a large number of participants from African countries.

Mr. President,

As to the challenge of food security in Africa, I believe the experience of Indonesia in developing its agriculture sector is of great relevance. For more than 20 years now, Indonesia has shared its experiences and best practices in agriculture with African countries through technical cooperation programmes. Many African farmers have attended our agriculture training and apprenticeship programmes.

And as we help Africa strive for economic growth, it is our hope that we are also able to help Africa achieve its social welfare goals, as expressed in terms of Millennium Development Goals.

Let me once again stress Indonesia's strong commitment to helping Africa's striving for development. I have no doubt that with the full support of the international community, Africa will not only achieve its development goals, it will also contribute to the attainment of a more stable and more equitably prosperous world.

Thank you, Mr. President.