Talking Points for Chair’s Opening Remarks

Mr. Maged Abdelaziz, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa

Africa-NEPAD Week 2013: Celebrating the APRM @ 10

High-Level Panel Discussion:
Africa’s Innovation in Governance through 10 Years of the APRM
Monday, 21 October 2013, 11:00 AM to 13:00 PM
ECOSOC Chamber, UNHQ, New York

• Welcome to this High-Level Panel Discussion, which constitute the official launching of the Africa-NEPAD Week 2013.

• I would like to welcome:

(a) The Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, and thank him for his steadfast support and role in fostering a closer partnership between Africa and the United Nations, and for being with us today;
(b) The Honourable Minister of Finance of the Republic of Liberia, **H.E. Mr. Amara Konneh**, the Chair of the APRM Focal Points Committee and representing Her Excellency, **Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf**, the President of the Republic of Liberia and Chairperson of the African Peer Review Forum;

(c) The Chair of the African Group for the Month and Representative of the Chair of the African Union, **H.E. Mr. Tekeda Alemu**, the Permanent Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the United Nations;

(d) The Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, **H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki**;

(e) The Vice Chair of the African Peer Review Panel of Eminent Persons, **Her Excellency, Ambassador Fatuma Ndangiza Nyirakobwa**, accompanied by distinguished Members of the Panel, APRM focal points; and
(f) The Chief Executive Officer of the APRM Secretariat, Dr. Assefa Shifa.

- The Africa-NEPAD Week is an annual event that is held in conjunction with the General Assembly Debate on Africa, scheduled on the 25th of October, to provide a platform for Member States, the United Nations system, civil society and the private sector to directly engage on the state of implementation of the AU’s New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD).

- The Week is jointly organised by OSAA with the strong support of the other two entities that share our mandate in support of NEPAD, namely: the Economic Commission for Africa and the Department of Public Information and in partnership with the African Union Observer Mission to the United Nations and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency. This 2013 Week is also organised in partnership with the African Peer Review Mechanism.
• This year’s Africa-NEPAD Week is special as it coincides with significant anniversaries. First, it coincides with the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the forerunner of the African Union (AU), under the overall theme of “Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance”. It also coincides with the 10th anniversary of the AU’s Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) – one of the leading NEPAD vision and continental programme.

• The Week also coincides with the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). The African-led voluntary instrument for self-monitoring that was established by the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC) of NEPAD in recognition of the importance of good governance for poverty reduction and sustainable development. This 10-year anniversary is an opportune time to take stock of the experiences, achievements, best practices, lessons learned of the APRM, as well as the important challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.
• The Week finally coincides with the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA), as the focal point in the United Nations Secretariat, charged, *inter alia*, with the mandate of coordinating global support of Africa’s development in general and NEPAD in particular; to ensure a coherent and integrated approach for United Nations support for Africa, in particular on the interrelated issues of peace and development; as well as to follow up on the implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences related to Africa.

• Throughout the Week we will hear firsthand, from Africa, concrete examples of its initiatives in each of these areas. We will hear about the progress that has been made, as well as the challenges that remain. We will also hear about Africa’s future prospects and priorities, how these relate to the global development priorities and agenda, and how the United Nations can assist Africa in its endeavours.
• Today, this inaugural High-Level Panel Discussion will focus on ‘Africa’s Innovation in Governance through 10 Years of the African Peer Review Mechanism’.

• This meeting will be divided into two segments – an inaugural and thematic session. Each of them will be for one hour as indicated in the programme that is available in the folders before you.

• Without further ado, I would like to invite H.E. Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General, to deliver his opening remarks for the Africa-NEPAD Week 2013.