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Statement

By

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Entities on:

Two Reports of the Secretary-General

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New York/NHQ - Conference Room 6 (CB)
Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have the pleasure to introduce to you the two reports of the Secretary-General prepared by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa for discussion in the General Assembly on Friday October 16, 2015. Namely the report on “New Partnership for Africa’s Development: thirteenth consolidated progress report on implementation and international support” (A/70/175), and the report on “The causes of conflict and promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa” (A/70/176-S/2015/560).

First, I will present the NEPAD report which, benefitted from substantive inputs received from the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and I wish to thank Dr. Mayaki and
his team for their continuous support and excellent collaboration with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa.

Since its establishment, NEPAD has brought focused attention to the implementation of sound public policy necessary for growth and development. The effect of this has been evident in unprecedented economic growth and improved social development, including declining poverty, improving education and health outcomes.

These and other concrete gains generated through the implementation of NEPAD provide a good foundation on which to build the implementation of Agenda 2063, the long-term strategic vision for the continent’s transformative development over the next 50 years as well as, the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development adopted at the just concluded UN Sustainable Development Summit on 25th of September in New York.
The present report shows continued progress in the implementation of the NEPAD agenda in several key priority sectors, including infrastructure, agriculture, governance, education and training and gender mainstreaming among others.

**In the interest of time allow me to highlight a few salient findings of the report.**

African countries continue to prioritise **infrastructure development** in their national budgets. According to the NEPAD agency, national spending on infrastructure (including for development, maintenance and upgrading) reached over U$50 billion last year. In particular, steady progress continues in the implementation of the PIDA priority projects, including the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative. A noteworthy result in the latter is the completion
of the Algeria section of the “Optic Fibre from Algeria via Niger to Nigeria” project.

To accelerate further progress toward infrastructure development, the January 2015 AU Summit endorsed the PIDA Acceleration Strategy as the basis for scaling up the implementation of the 16 PIDA priority projects. Similarly, progress was recorded in the agriculture and food security priority area with an increasing number of African countries now engaging the CAADP process. This is a testimony of the increased value-added that African countries see in the CAADP process in strengthening agricultural development.

To spur further progress towards the CAADP objectives, the AU Summit in January 2015 endorsed the Strategy and Roadmap for the Implementation of the Malabo Declaration on Africa’s Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation.
With respect to **health**, whilst implementing important initiatives such as the Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA) and, providing increased funding to the expanded mandate of the AU Special Emergency Assistance Fund for Drought and Famine and Public health in Africa, the considerable efforts were focused on addressing the Ebola outbreak in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The AU’s response to the Ebola outbreak was broad and comprehensive, including the establishment of the AU Support to the Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa (ASEOWA) mission to work hand in hand with UMMEER.

The outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease in 2014 exposed the glaring weaknesses in Africa’s health systems and underscored the need for increased investment towards strengthening the continent’s health care systems. This will be an important policy imperative for African countries as they
move toward the realization of the first Ten Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063.

The report shows also that steady progress has continued in **gender equality and women empowerment**, as evidenced by an increasing number of African countries introducing special measures in favour of women. To catalyse further actions toward full gender equality and women empowerment, the 24th AU Summit in January 2015 declared 2015 “the Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Agenda 2063”, and 2016 “the African Year of Human Rights, in particular, with focus on the Rights of Women”. This spurred greater national efforts toward women empowerment, including through dedicated funding envelope to finance projects geared at promoting women’s welfare, and had a strong support from OSAA through convening two side events on the margins of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in 2015.
Excellencies,

Despite progress in key NEPAD priority sectors during the review period, challenges remain. The report identifies financing and weak capacity in several countries as some of the key factors that militate against accelerated progress toward the NEPAD objectives. The strong accountability embedded in the monitoring and evaluation framework of Agenda 2063 provides an excellent opportunity for holding member states accountable for domestication and implementation of agreed goals and targets in close cooperation with NEPAD and the RECs. This should lead to improved implementation of commitments made by African countries.

To build on the gains made through the implementation of NEPAD priority and spur further actions towards Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,
African countries are strengthening their capacities to mobilise domestic resources, coupled with leveraging private financial resources to finance the ambitious development agenda. They are also exploring the considerable synergies and complementarities between the two processes so that implementation in one will lead to progress in the other.

These national efforts should be complemented by a supportive international environment through a revitalised global partnership for sustainable development.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me now turn to the international dimension of the partnership with Africa;

Official Development Assistance (ODA) will remain an important pillar of the global partnership for development in the foreseeable future. Overall trend points to declining ODA
volumes to the region. Based on OECD available data, the report shows that bilateral aid to Africa fell by 5 per cent to U$28 billion in 2014. In the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, donors reaffirmed the target of 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI. We hope this will be followed through with concrete plans to meet agreed targets, including the 0.15 - 0.20 per cent ODA/GNI target to LDCs, as well as those made at Gleneagles to double ODA to Africa.

Despite these gains through debt relief, several countries are yet to benefit from debt relief and the debt situation of some countries who had initially benefitted from debt relief is worsening. This calls for sound fiscal policy management in African countries, with improved debt management as an important pillar. This must be supported by international efforts to address debt sustainability.
Trade will also remain an important means of achieving inclusive sustainable development and fostering industrial development in Africa—a key aspiration of Agenda 2063. The conclusion of the Doha round will be important in further unlocking the benefits of trade for African countries. Efforts should be made to enhance the participation and integration of African small-scale industrial and other enterprises into global value chains. Through trade, increased financial resources can be mobilised in the form of foreign direct investment, which can contribute directly to Africa’s structural economic transformation. Moreover, Africa’s efforts to establish the Continental Free Trade Areas (CFTA) will not only facilitate regional integration but also advance the continents’ inclusive sustainable development agenda.

While the report highlights progress made in the past year, it provides some forward looking recommendations. The report emphasises that industrialization and diversification as key
aspirations of Agenda 2063 should be supported to facilitate efforts towards broader diversification of African economies with a view to improve employment and decent work for all. In addition, the international community should consider supporting African women and girls through targeted means of implementation, including financing, technology transfer and capacity development. In view of the importance of the new agendas adopted this year, the United Nations General Assembly should cease this opportunity and strengthen its engagement with and support for African transformative development agenda. We look forward to your support to these recommendations.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I will now turn to the second report on “The Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and
Sustainable Development in Africa.” This report benefited substantial contribution from members of the Interdepartmental Taskforce on African Affairs (IDTFA) and I thank all members for their close cooperation in this regard.

The report consists of three parts. In part one “the year in review” outlines major developments in the continent, focusing on peace, security and governance. During the review period, Africa continued to experience progress overall in improving governance and election management, preventing and resolving conflicts and combating terrorism and violent extremism, while challenges still remain in preventing and mitigating election-related violence and sustaining fragile security situation, among others.

On elections and governance, a number of countries, including Nigeria, Togo and Tunisia, on one hand, showed significant improvements in the management of electoral
processes. On the other hand, challenge still remains in preventing and mitigating election-related violence, as observed in Burkina Faso and in Burundi.

On peace and security, the report outlines some positive steps in peace and reconciliation processes including in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali and Somalia, although the security situations still remain fragile in these countries. Large scale violence also took place in South Sudan undermining peace, stability, and economic development in the country. Terrorism and violent extremism remained a serious threat to peace and security. Libya, Nigeria, Somalia and other African countries experienced terrorist attacks, perpetuated by Al-Shabaab, Boko Haram and the Islamic States of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), among others.
Part two of the report “Implementation of the recommendations contained in the 2010 review report” highlights recent actions undertaken by the United Nations system to implement the recommendations contained in the comprehensive review report of the Secretary-General.

I will cite here three examples. First, on institutional cooperation, the joint UN-AU Technical Working Group, within the context of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa (RCM-Africa), developed the framework for a renewed UN-AU Partnership on Africa’s Integration and Development Agenda (PAIDA). PAIDA, which was adopted by the 25th African Union Summit in June 2015, is anchored on the AU’s Agenda 2063 and highlights Africa’s priorities that the United Nations is called upon to support in the period from 2017-2027.
Second, on peace and security, two major United Nations reviews, namely the review on UN Peace Operations and the review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture are being conducted. In addition, the review of Security Council resolution 1325 on “Women, Peace and Security” has just started at the high level. The African Union, by developing its Common African Positions on these reviews, actively contributed to the processes. In his report, “the future of United Nations peace operations” (A/70/357–S/2015/682) published in September 2015, the Secretary-General called for a stronger UN-AU strategic partnership, guided by a division of labour that is based on comparative advantages, and that was among the main recommendations contained in the African Common Position in this regard.

Third, on countering terrorism and violent extremism, the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Taskforce and the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre have been supporting African
efforts to counter terrorism and address conditions conducive to the spread of violent extremism. Going forward, the UN Secretary-General plans to present to the General Assembly at the beginning of 2016, Plan of Action to Prevent and Combat Violent Extremism with proposals and recommendations to Member States, the United Nations system, and other multilateral organizations.

**Part three of the report** addresses the “persistent and emerging challenges for Africa: the role of regional and sub-regional organizations in democratic governance in Africa.” The report outlines how African regional and sub-regional efforts have enhanced democratic governance through coordination and collaboration, including through the establishment of key frameworks and mechanisms, such as the African Governance Architecture and the African Peer Review Mechanism.
In spite of these African efforts in promoting democratic governance, challenges still remain. The report categorizes the challenges in the following six areas; (i) Preventing and mitigating electoral violence, (ii) Human rights and the protection of vulnerable populations, (iii) Insecurity and continued militarization of societies, (iv) Limited capacity of critical democratic institutions, (v) Relation between civil society and governments, and (vi) Challenges of coordination and harmonization.

The report critically examines these challenges, presents examples on how Africa and its partners, including the United Nations address them, and makes recommendations to further strengthen the role of African regional and sub-regional organizations in advancing democratic governance.

For instance, in order to prevent, manage and resolve election-related violence, the report highlights increasingly successful
political approach taken by the African Union and the RECs, often in collaboration with the United Nations, to utilize continental institutional mechanism, such as the Pan African Network of the Wise, special envoys and representatives to support the efforts of the African Union Peace and Security Council.

Among other things, the report calls for ensuring the provision of adequate resources for predictable and sustainable programming at national and regional levels in order to build transparent and accountable public institutions to enhance democratic governance. The report also points out the necessity to fill gaps between norm-setting and norm implementation of a range of policies of the African Union, NEPAD, the APRM and the RECS to facilitate the engagement of civil society and the private sector in democratic governance.
Finally, the report concludes with a set of concrete and forward looking recommendations to the international community, including the United Nations and its Member States to promote democratic governance in Africa.

The international community should continue to support the African Peace and Security Architecture and the African Governance Architecture to address challenges, though, inter alia, institutional and human capacity development, policy advice, technical support and strategic partnership. In order to further enhance the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, the international community, including member states, should extend support for the implementation of PAIDA. I am confident that you have carefully studied these recommendations and will lend them your support in the General Assembly.
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

As the year 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, we have just witnessed the historical adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which emphasizes the importance of effective, accountable and inclusive institutions in its Goal 16. At regional level, the African Union adopted transformative Agenda 2063 and its First 10-Year Implementation Plan, which also underscore the importance of governance in its Aspiration 3, ”An Africa of Good Governance, Democracy, Respect for Human Rights, Justice and the Rule of Law.” The African Union entrusted the RECs with increasing role in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of these ambitious agendas.

Given the new impetus provided by these new global and regional agendas, the international community should further strengthen support to African regional and sub-regional
organizations in fostering democratic governance, while ensuring coherence and synergy between these agendas.

Thanks for your attention.