

Sierra Leone on behalf of the African group

GA meeting on AU – 2015

It is my singular honour and pleasure to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group.

I would like to align myself with the statement just made by the representative of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

This debate marks the successful culmination of the Africa Week 2015, which has truly raised NEPAD's profile here at the United Nations at a very critical juncture when Member States are preparing to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1). The African Group would like to thank the Secretary-General for the effort he has put into compiling his reports on the items under discussion today, and for his continued leadership and commitment to placing Africa's agenda at the heart of the United Nations system.

Mr President,

This year, 2015, is truly special for the world in general and for Africa in particular in terms of its relevance to the NEPAD agenda. The United Nations celebrated its seventieth anniversary. The post-2015 development agenda was recently adopted as the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda was also adopted as the way forward in financing for development, and there are high hopes for a far-reaching agreement on climate change in Paris in December. In addition, 2015 is also a pivotal year for Africa's development with the adoption of the African Union Agenda 2063, the long-term vision for the continent's transformative development of the next century, and its First Ten-Year Implementation Plan, and ultimately their implementation.

In the same vein, monitoring and accountability remain crucial cornerstones of the successful implementation of both Agendas. The African Group underlines the valuable contribution of the United Nations monitoring mechanism to review the implementation of the commitments made towards Africa's development, established by General Assembly resolution 66/293, and believes that the mechanism should continue to provide its valuable inputs to the Economic and Social Council's high-level political forum as part of the global monitoring and accountability framework for Agenda 2030, as well as to the efforts to support the implementation of the African Union's Agenda 2063.

Moreover, the adoption in June 2015 by the African Union Summit of the Framework for a Renewed United Nations/African Union Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda 2017-2027, that will succeed the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme will constitute an important milestone in promoting closer partnership between the two organizations. An enhanced partnership is crucial for advancing the implementation of the African Union Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda.

In that vein, the African Group underscores the need for an adequate, regular, and dedicated allocation of resources from the regular budgets of the United Nations to be approved by the General Assembly in order to support the effective implementation of PAIDA. The African Group attaches great importance to that matter and will continue to pursue it in the coming months. In that regard the African Group fully endorses and applauds the choice of the theme for the seventieth session of the General Assembly.

NEPAD remains committed to facilitating and implementing Africa's priority programmes and to consolidate the positive steps already taken towards continental transformation. The African Group notes with great satisfaction that

agriculture remains at the centre of Africa's development agenda. Agriculture forms a significant portion of the economies of all African countries and has the potential to contribute towards major continental priorities, including the eradication of poverty and hunger, boosting intra-Africa trade and investments, fostering rapid industrialization and economic diversification, sustainable resource and environment management, and creating jobs for the thousands of youth, as well as to improve livelihoods.

During the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, we welcomed and celebrated the tenth anniversary of the implementation of the **Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Programme (CAADP)**. In 2014, at the peak of the commemoration of the Africa Year of Agriculture, we celebrated the rekindling of CAADP through the adoption of the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods.

The main thrust of the Malabo Declaration is the undertaking by the African Governments to sustain the momentum of CAADP for the next decade including increasing financial investment in agriculture through domestic resource mobilization and the allocation of 10 per cent of public expenditure to the sector; ending hunger by 2025 and halving poverty by the year 2025 through inclusive agricultural growth; ensuring a growth of the sector of 6 per cent per annum; boosting intra-Africa trade; enhancing resilience and reducing climate vulnerability; as well as fostering mutual accountability. We therefore wish to underscore the importance of partnerships and international cooperation in attaining CAADP objectives.

Mr President,

Infrastructure development continues to be a key priority for Africa, and NEPAD is playing a pivotal role through the implementation of the **Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA)**. We duly note the efforts undertaken since October 2013, including efforts to secure funds to implement 16 infrastructure pilot projects identified as quick wins for financing and implementation. We welcome the Dakar Summit, held in June 2014, which adopted the Dakar Agenda for Action, for financing those infrastructure pilot projects. We note the major hurdles in financing the implementation of PIDA projects. We therefore call for the mobilization of resources from all sources, both public and private.

Over a decade ago the African Heads of State and Government established the **African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)**, NEPAD's flagship governance programme, which aims at promoting good governance across the continent. Through this scheme, African countries have resolved to adopt additional measures to fight corruption, promote good governance, transparency and accountability, especially in the field of natural resources. The African Union is working hard to encourage all African member States to join the growing number of African countries that have voluntarily adhered to the APRM, currently 36, of which 18 have been peer-reviewed. As member States, we encourage the APRM to seek ways to have more countries graduate, as in the cases of Chad and Senegal.

Mr President,

The African Group thanks the Secretary-General for his report entitled "Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa". We note the growing linkages between political, social and economic exclusion and violent conflict. As a continent, we believe that arresting this trend will require inclusive, people-centred approaches in the promotion of peace, security and socioeconomic development, as emphasized in the African Union Agenda 2063 and its First Ten-Year Implementation Plan. In this regard, Africa is committed to addressing the root causes of conflicts and preventing the outbreak of armed conflicts, including through the African Peace and Security Architecture, the APSA.

As has been stated, Africa strongly believes that there can be no lasting security without inclusive development. By the same token, peace and security are indispensable factors and drivers of development. It is imperative, in this regard, to encourage all partners, including the United Nations system, to support the efforts by African countries in

carrying out the African Union's Silencing the Guns by 2020 initiative, as envisioned by the leaders of the African Union in the African Union's fiftieth anniversary solemn declaration.

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