STATEMENT BY H.E. CHARLES P. MSOSA, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP,

NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA’S DEVELOPMENT: PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION AND INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT; CAUSES OF CONFLICT AND THE PROMOTION OF DURABLE PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA; AND THE DECADE TO ROLL BACK MALARIA IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA, (ITEM 63(A) AND (B) AND 12 OF THE AGENDA) AT THE 69TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

NEW YORK, 17 OCTOBER 2014

Check Against Delivery
Mr. President,

It is my singular honour and pleasure to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group. This debate marks the successful culmination of the Africa NEPAD week 2014, which has truly raised NEPAD’s profile here at the United Nations at a very critical juncture, when Member States are preparing to undertake an important task of formulating the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The African Group is truly exulted to see you presiding over these momentous deliberations.

We are truly grateful to our illustrious Secretary-General for his reports on the items under discussion today, and for his continued leadership and commitment in placing Africa's agenda at the heart of the United Nations system. We fully acknowledge and can proudly attest to the United Nations' invaluable partnership with, and support to Africa and Africa's endeavours, which will undoubtedly grow stronger in the years to come.

The Group would also like to pay tribute to Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, whose visionary leadership is truly commendable. We associate ourselves fully with the statement he shall make on behalf of the Agency.

Mr. President,

The year 2014 is truly special for Africa and the world. It is in this celebrated year that we witnessed the fulfilment of the Rio + 20 mandates relating to the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, the convening of the High
Level Political Forum under the auspices of the ECOSOC, and the gathering of the first ever United Nations Environment Assembly. Africa was engaged in all these processes and will gladly engage in the impending task of integrating these inputs into the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and ultimately their implementation.

It is in this regard that the African Group fully endorses and applauds your choice of the theme for the 69th session of the General Assembly, namely “Delivering on and Implementing a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda”. In January this year, the African Heads of State and Government endorsed the Common African Position on Post-2015 Development Agenda, famously known as the CAP. The CAP identifies substantive issues of importance to the continent and arrives at a consensus on Africa’s key priorities, concerns and strategies to be reflected in the outcomes of the post-2015 negotiation process. Guided by the CAP, Africa will contribute in the discussions on how to address the unfinished business of the MDGs, with a focus on eradication of poverty in all its forms and achieve the African Union vision of “An integrated, prosperous, stable and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena”.

The launching of the CAP coincided with the formulation of the African Union’s vision 2063, an approach to how the continent should effectively learn from the lessons of the past, build upon the progress now underway and strategically exploit all possible opportunities available in the immediate and medium term, with a view to ensure positive socioeconomic transformation within the next five decades. We count on the United Nations and other partners to support the realization of Africa’s aspirations, especially the implementation of the African Union – NEPAD agenda.
Mr. President,

In the light of multitude of challenges confronting the continent, the African Heads of State and Government adopted NEPAD as Africa's vision and strategic framework for political and socioeconomic transformation, on priority areas, including agriculture and food security, climate change and natural resource management, regional integration and infrastructure. Over two decades later, 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 of contributing towards major continental priorities, including eradication of poverty and hunger, boosting intra-Africa trade and investments, rapid industrialization and economic diversification, sustainable resource and environmental management, and creating jobs for the thousands of youth as well as to improve livelihoods.

We welcomed and celebrated at the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, the tenth anniversary of the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Programme (CAADP). This year, at the climax of the commemoration of the Africa Year of Agriculture 2014, we celebrated the rekindling of CAADP through the adoption of the Malabo Declaration on Accelerating Agricultural Growth and Transformation for shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union at the Twenty-Third Ordinary Session held in June 2014 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.
The main thrust of the declaration is the undertaking by the African Governments to sustain CAADP’s momentum for the next decade; increasing financial investment in agriculture, including through domestic resource mobilization and the allocation of 10 per cent of public expenditure to the sector; ending hunger by 2025; halving poverty by the year 2025, through inclusive agricultural growth; ensuring a 6 per cent growth of the sector per annum; boosting intra-Africa trade; enhancing resilience and reducing climate vulnerability; as well as fostering mutual accountability. We wish to underscore the importance of partnerships and international cooperation in attaining CAADP’s objectives.

Mr. President,

Infrastructure development continues to be a key priority for Africa, in which 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 last October, 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 the said pilot infrastructure projects. We note the major hurdles in financing the implementation of PIDA projects, thus 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 the CAP, African countries have resolved to adopt additional measures to fight corruption, promote good political and socio-economic governance, transparency and accountability, especially in the field of natural resources management; and increase the involvement of civil society. We welcome the enrolment of Equatorial Guinea into the Mechanism, which brings the number of volunteering African States to 34. We note with concern the slow pace in which Members States are being reviewed and would encourage the Agency to seek ways of addressing the causal factors of such delays, including financial constraints.

The African Groups thanks the Secretary-General for his report entitled "Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. We acknowledge the inextricable links between development and peace, security and stability. Through the CAP we have reaffirmed that peace and security is essential for the achievement of the continent's development aspirations, especially for countries ravaged/ or which are emerging from conflict. It is in that regard we are committed to addressing the root causes of conflicts and prevent the outbreak of armed conflicts, including through the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA).

Mr. President,

Malaria remains a serious health concern for Africa. It is undoubtedly among the issues that shall require our continued attention beyond the implementation of the MDGs. It is utterly unacceptable that this disease, which is entirely preventable and treatable, should continue to kill thousands of people, especially children in our continent.
It is in this regard, we welcome the continued commitment of the international community to eradicating malaria and other diseases, as underlined in the proposals of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.

We also welcome the declaration of the 2013 special Summit of the African Union on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, which reaffirmed the commitment of African Governments to accelerate the implementation of existing frameworks, including the Abuja Declaration and Plan of Action on Roll Back Malaria in Africa. We note with great concern that funding to fight malaria is far below the resources required to reach universal coverage of interventions. We therefore call upon developed countries and other partners to fulfil all the commitments made towards eradication of this scourge.

Mr. President,

The current Ebola outbreak in West Africa speaks to the urgency of an internationally concerted action to help African countries improve their health systems and build core capacity to enhance access to water, sanitation and health services. The African group considers that the Ebola outbreak is another wakeup call that business as usual should not prevail again as we formulate the set of goals aimed to guide the global development action for many years to come. The needs of the most vulnerable must get due attention and adequate means of implementation in the post-2015 development agenda in a manner that commensurate with the huge challenges.
Allow me, here, to commend the emergency actions taken by the United Nations Secretary-General and the decisions by the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council to establish the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) to stem the spread of the outbreak, treat the infected, provide essential services, preserve stability and prevent outbreaks in non-affected countries.

Mr. President,
Let me conclude by underscoring further, the importance of fulfilment of commitments made to Africa, including relating to ODA. In light of the multitude of challenges facing the continent, Member States, vide the Rio + 20 outcome, underscored the importance of supporting Africa’s sustainable development efforts by the international community; and recognized that more attention should be given to Africa and the implementation of previously agreed commitments related to its development needs. We therefore call on development partners to fulfil their promises and commitments in the spirit of the Monterrey Consensus and G8 Gleneagles Summit. This will go a long way in terms of restoring trust, building confidence and fostering mutual respect in global partnerships.

I thank you.