Address to the 69th UN General Assembly
Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki,
Chief Executive Officer,
New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) Agency
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“Agenda 2063 - Pathway to the Africa We Want”
Strengthening International Support for NEPAD Implementation
Mr. President of the General Assembly,
Secretary General of the United Nations,
Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am pleased to warmly congratulate Mr. Sam Kahamba KUTESA on election as the President of the 69th United Nations General Assembly. I am confident that your tenure will witness global re-commitment to durable peace, inclusive development and cooperation.

The New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) is central to the continent’s transformation efforts. The necessary political determination has been renewed by African Leaders to help deliver the accelerated implementation of NEPAD under the African Union.

The foundation for Africa’s Renewal is premised on reforms of the governance systems under the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) created in 2003. The Mechanism is the epicenter for deepening democracy, and the dissemination of best practices among African Union Member States, reflecting the commitment to improving governance in all its ramifications.

To date, 34 Member States of the African Union have voluntarily joined the Mechanism. 17 countries have been peer reviewed while the second-cycle review process is in the pipeline. Going forward, the urgent task for the APRM is the effective implementation of the National Programmes of Action (NPOA) arising from the peer review exercises.

At the institutional level, APRM is being re-engineered with its integration into the African Union along with developing stronger collaboration and synergy with relevant regional organisations and programmes. In this regard, the APRM Secretariat has been re-positioned to effectively serve as Africa’s premier institution on governance.

Excellencies,
As the technical body of the African Union, the NEPAD Agency focuses on the strategic coordination of the implementation of the continent’s priority programmes and projects. This role is now more critical in the context of the African Union Agenda 2063 and the Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

NEPAD continues to spearhead the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). With 2014 declared as the Year for Transforming Africa’s Agriculture and Food security, we are taking forward the Malabo Declaration adopted by the African Union Summit in June 2014 and forging a Strategy for 2025. We have based our programmatic interventions on the six (6) strategic priorities to turnaround Africa’s agriculture. This includes up-scaling our efforts to increase agriculture investment finance by upholding the Maputo 10% public spending target. Similarly, ending hunger and reducing poverty by half by the year 2025 are core targets, while we work towards enhancing resilience in livelihoods and production systems to climate variability.

In addition, with a strong accountability and results framework and in collaboration with the AU Commission and development partners, the NEPAD Agency is implementing the Climate Smart Agriculture and Gender Climate Change Agriculture Programme. We have set up a Climate Change Fund to support countries respond adequately to the impacts of climate change.

Furthermore, we have established the African Climate Smart Agriculture Coordination Platform with Regional Economic Communities, Development Partners and Non-Governmental Organisations. The ultimate goal is to reach a target of 25 million farm households by 2025. The programmatic emphasis is to promote the nexus between climate, agriculture and poverty eradication. The global alliance with NGOs will help strengthen grassroots adaptive capacity for resilient communities aimed at boosting agricultural productivity. Equally, NEPAD is working to enhance human capacity by establishing a Knowledge Hub for agriculture education training at the continental level. This is being done based on institutional
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reforms at 10 Agriculture Education and Vocational Training schools for youth and farmers in 6 countries.

Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Infrastructure development remains a critical enabler for sustainable and inclusive growth while the current economic landscape provides unique opportunity to collectively address the infrastructure deficit. Africa should no longer lag behind the rest of the developing world in terms of access and quality of infrastructure.

Under the leadership of President Macky SALL of the Republic of Senegal and NEPAD Chairperson, the Dakar Financing Summit for Africa's Infrastructure was convened last June. With the support of the AU Commission, African Development Bank, UNECA, World Bank and UNDP, the landmark Summit inspired the mobilization of investment towards the construction of modern infrastructure starting with 16 identified projects from the Priority Action Plan (PAP) of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA).

Based on the Dakar Agenda for Action, the NEPAD Agency is focusing on accelerating Development Corridors and Infrastructure Project Preparation in cooperation with the Africa50 operated by the African Development Bank. The collective support of the African private sector in Africa and world-wide, is necessary to effectively raise the required investment resources to implement the regional infrastructure projects.

Overall, the NEPAD Agency has continued its programmatic coordination by designing and implementing the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA) for 2014-2024; and the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonization (AMRH) which is to increase timely access to high quality and efficacious medicines. This was launched recently in the East African Community and other Regional Communities are in the pipeline. The harmonization programme is a major instrument of implementing the African Union’s Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan. NEPAD is also implementing the African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators (ASTII) Initiative to build the capacity of over 35 African countries to collect and analyse relevant data. Similarly, we promote the building of functional biosafety frameworks through the African Bio-safety Network of Expertise (ABNE) in order to improve biosafety regulations and competencies for the safe application of bio-technology for economic development.

Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:
The place for a new Africa in the global arena is vital to durable peace, stability, progress and security. The Post-2015 Development Agenda can only be catalytic to Africa's efforts if the whole programming approach is informed by the understanding that “development is a process of empowerment and self-reliance. It is the recognition of the value of African people as the key agents of their own development and the architects of their own up-liftment”

But key challenges still abound in Africa! A case in point is the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, which compels the imperative for united global action and solidarity to ensure that Africa's transformative vision is not derailed. A swift, collective and well-coordinated policy response is vital for this global threat. We therefore welcome the UN Mission for Emergency Ebola Response (UNMEER) and strongly call for more direct international support to combat Ebola. This challenge shows us the importance of strengthening the capacity of the public health systems in many African countries. The multi-sectoral dimensions of addressing public health issues including Malaria, Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS or Ebola cannot be over-emphasized.

1 NEPAD base document, October 2001, para 27
It is in this context that the African Union will launch AGENDA 2063 as a long-term strategy to address the commonality of challenges facing the continent. Africa devoted the past 50 years to defeating colonialism and apartheid. The motivation is that the next 50 years should focus on structural transformation and inclusive development for socio-economic change to happen.

With 7 aspirations prioritized, Agenda 2063 is a call to action to fulfil Africa’s development objectives. The Agenda is a consolidation of the continent’s transformative frameworks which is firmly anchored on the vision of a prosperous and integrated Africa, motivated by the ideals of Pan-Africanism. Africa aspires to become a continent where development is people-driven and centred, to unleash the potential of women and the youth. Our desire is also to become a strong and influential player on the global stage. Hence, ‘the Africa we want’ is more pertinent! Through the lead coordination of the AU Commission, NEPAD will be the driving force for the programmatic implementation of Agenda 2063.

Importantly, Africa will be working with the international community on “Delivering on and implementing the Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda”. The overriding factor is that the new global agenda MUST support and complement Africa’s own priorities and development efforts. In particular, the target of ending extreme poverty through multi-dimensional approach is critical for Africa. This is fundamental to the implementation delivery of the second decade of NEPAD.

The Post 2015 Agenda should help be the foundation for promoting coherence between regional and global efforts to achieve Development Effectiveness. In essence, we welcome the global community’s readiness to consolidate the legacies of the MDGS by addressing the unfinished business. We are encouraged by the consensus to promote sustainable infrastructure and industrialization to foster innovation, along with the desire to achieve peaceful, inclusive societies, while building effective and capable institutions.

We are convinced that structural economic transformation will help defeat extreme poverty. The evolving commitment to strengthen the means of implementation and build stronger global partnerships is a defining approach that NEPAD embraces. Recently, our Leaders endorsed the establishment of the Africa Global Partnership Platform as an umbrella mechanism for new and existing international partners of the continent. This Platform will be supporting the African Union vision and the integration of Africa’s priorities into the global agenda.

Excellencies,

Finally, we appreciate the continued international support of UN Member States and Agencies for NEPAD implementation. The inspiring leadership and strategic steering of the work of the UN by Mr. Ban Ki Moon, the Secretary General of the United Nations is commendable.

We welcome the UN Monitoring Mechanism adopted by the General Assembly Resolution 66/293 to review the delivery of commitments to Africa’s development as a step in the right direction. We commit to supporting the Mechanism through the measures put in place by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA). Let me thank the Under Secretary General, Mr Maged Abdelaziz; as well as UNECA and UNDP for their support.

The NEPAD Agency and APRM as key institutions of the African Union, re-commit to sustaining the partnership and cooperation with the United Nations.

As we move from the MDGs to the Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Agenda 2063, Africa has the aspiration to inspire!

Je vous remercie.