Mr. President,

I wish to thank you for convening this joint debate. Malaysia wishes to align itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Myanmar, on behalf of ASEAN. I also would like to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive reports submitted under the agenda item 63.

2. Malaysia also would like to take this opportunity to once again congratulate our African friends, on the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) in 2013 and on its achievements so far. The ten-year celebration not only contributed to the raising awareness at the international community and the African diaspora of Africa’s progress in the area of governance but is more significant as it coincides with the 50th anniversary of the African Union, and the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa tasked with global advocacy and support for Africa’s development, in particular the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD).
Mr. President,

3. Malaysia welcomes the progress made by African countries during the last 10 years of implementation of African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), an initiative established under NEPAD. It has succeeded to fulfill its objectives to encourage and build transformative leadership and constructive national dialogue among African countries, through an inclusive and participatory self-assessment process. APRM has successfully fostered policies and practices that would lead to attainment of the NEPAD objectives of political stability, high economic growth, and sustainable development and accelerated sub-regional and continental economic integration. Though it is voluntary in nature, the increasing number of countries participating in this process, signifies the importance that African countries attach to strengthening their institutions of governance. Malaysia hopes that more African countries will participate in this process in the future, hence further enhancing the development of Africa as a whole. We hope all these consolidated efforts will assist our African friends to achieve their goals.

Mr. President,

4. Malaysia attaches great importance to its relation and cooperation with Africa especially in the area of peace and security, trade, investment and holistic development of the region. We truly believe that under the solidarity of the South-South Cooperation, the relations between Malaysia and countries in Africa have been enhanced through cooperation and mutual respect. As we can see, the growing trend of FDI flows from South-South countries into the African continent has provided the foundation for greater cooperation in the future. This is proven through the UNCTAD Report on the Rise of BRICS and Africa in March 2013, where Malaysia is the biggest Asian source of foreign direct investment (FDI) to Africa. Malaysia was the third biggest investor in Africa in 2011 after the United States and France, with a total of USD19.3 billion of investment in the continent. The investment from the Malaysian private sector has led to the creation of more decent jobs, transfer of knowledge and technology, and has assisted in projecting Africa as a vibrant investment destination in the world.

Mr. President,

5. While we welcome the progress made by many of the African countries, Malaysia also acknowledges the challenges and difficulties faced by African countries in achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. In this regard, Malaysia wishes to reaffirm our support and continue to be an active dialogue partner to Africa, under the framework of South-South cooperation. Malaysia cooperates with African countries
through specific technical courses under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) and through a triangular cooperation such as the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) - Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) - Africa (MTCP-JICA-Africa). Malaysia has also entered into specific cooperation programme with African countries through dialogue platforms such as the private sector involvement through Malaysian South-South Association (MASSA) and Malaysian South-South Cooperation (MASSCORP).

6. In conjunction with the 68th United Nations Day celebration held in Kuala Lumpur last October, MTCP has been accorded with the MDG “Global Partnership for Development” award, a recognition for its outstanding contribution to the United Nations development goal. Malaysia is proud to be the recipient of the United Nations Malaysia Award in 2013 for its contributions towards Millennium Development Goal 8 – Developing a Global Partnership for Development. We thank the developing countries that nominated Malaysia for this award as it is an acknowledgement of Malaysia’s efforts in supporting the UN Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. President,

7. Malaysia also wishes to reaffirm its commitment to host the future Smart Partnership Dialogue through the Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) at a date to be announced in due course. Malaysia believes that the Smart Partnership Dialogue is a good platform for Malaysia to continuously engage with other African countries besides bilateral engagements. Malaysia’s presence during the Dialogue in Africa and our commitment to host LID demonstrates our continuing support for Africa’s economic development. Through hosting LIDs, Malaysia remains committed in promoting the South-South Cooperation in Africa.

8. Malaysia has, since 1995, organized the LID. The Dialogue has been successful in forging smart partnership between the governments and private sectors of the South. Since its inception, a total of nine such dialogues have been held, aimed at the fostering of Smart Partnerships at all levels in society, engaging the political leadership, civil service, business, labour, civil societies, media and the population at large. The success of the LID has prompted African countries to organize a similar dialogue in Southern Africa, known as Southern Africa International Dialogue (SAID).

Mr. President,

9. Malaysia would also like to express our deep concern on the Ebola outbreak in the African region. Malaysia had mobilized resources to ensure adequate humanitarian response on the grounds in order to
combat the outbreak effectively. With regard to this effort, on 15 September 2014, the Malaysian Prime Minister has handed over the consignment of 20.9 million medical rubber gloves in 11 containers, to be distributed to the affected countries. Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea will receive three containers of the medical gloves respectively, each container carrying 1.9 million medical gloves. Meanwhile, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Nigeria will receive one container respectively. Malaysia sincerely hopes that this modest contribution will help prevent the spread of Ebola and save lives.

Mr. President,

10. To conclude, Malaysia hopes that more countries will participate in future Africa’s economy activity, thus further enhancing the development of Africa as a whole.

Thank you, Mr. President.