STATEMENT

BY

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DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON

DEBATE ON AGENDA ITEM 62:
NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT: PROGRESS
IN IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HALL,
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

FRIDAY, 17 OCTOBER 2014, 3.00 PM

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY
Mr. President,

We welcome this debate on NEPAD. We salute the vision and sagacity of African leaders for establishing the NEPAD which today forms the veritable agency for Africa's Renaissance. We commend the Secretary-General for his three significant reports on the present challenges and future prospects of Africa. They serve as the bases for honest, constructive and critical discussion, and building of scenarios and structures towards the adoption of credible measures to implement the policies, programmes and activities that support Africa's vision for sustainable development, peace, stability and progress. It is therefore significant that this debate is taking place at the same time that we are discussing the contours of the Post-2015 global development agenda, and prepare to take stock of the implementation of the MDGs as they come to their end.

2. We associate ourselves with the statement delivered by Malawi on behalf of the African Group. We thank Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer of NEPAD, for his efforts and leadership of the Agency and the inputs that he has made so far towards its regeneration. We also commend Dr. Maged Abdulazeez, the Special Adviser of the Secretary General on Africa, for the valuable service that he continues to render to Africa and the United Nations at large in his esteemed position.

3. We thank all the delegations that have spoken today, and expressed solidarity with Africa, and showed concern to our challenges and share with us the promise and opportunities that our continent provides. We stand ready as always to work with you for the advancement of our region and the entire world. In this regard, we welcome the various initiatives that have been put in place within the frameworks of regional cooperation with Africa, such as EU-Africa summit meetings and their outcomes, the Japan-Africa summit and
technical meetings, the China-Africa meetings and initiatives emanating therefrom, the Arab-Africa summit meetings whose latest version was held in Kuwait City, and many other beneficial initiatives that give concrete expansion to the various aspects of the work of NEPAD and the aspirations of the African Union.

Mr. President,

4. Conflicts are the most significant challenges that face our continent today. The Secretary General's report on the causes of conflict and promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa therefore, is a fundamental document whose diagnosis and prescriptions should be given a careful consideration. In this regard, Nigeria notes in particular the nexus that has been established by the report between peace, security and development. In this connection, Nigeria is of the view that efforts at the sub-regional, regional and international levels should be intensified to support and advance national efforts at conflict prevention and management, as prerequisites for durable peace and sustainable development. Reinforcing best practices and supporting national programmes aimed at reconciliation, development and building of inter and cross-communal relations are of the highest importance.

5. Where conflicts inevitably break out, the regional peace and security structures must be enabled to react on timely a basis, to forestall mass atrocities and systematic human rights abuses, and protect civilians and vulnerable persons and groups from excesses committed under cover of war. The United Nations should, as obligated by its own Charter, address expeditiously any threats to peace and security in Africa, and implement without delay all relevant resolutions of the Security Council towards forestalling the outbreak of conflicts, and responding where appropriate, to conflicts in order to prevent massive losses of lives and dislocation of communal activities.
Mr. President, Africa's challenges in the area of peace and security are not restricted to conflicts alone. Development challenges have long impacted on Africa's capacity and readiness to respond to threats to peace and security. Today, more than ever before, we are faced with the threat not of a man made disaster, but that of a natural phenomenon represented by the Ebola Disease Outbreak in West Africa. The world is now reeling from the threat posed by this outbreak. The debilitating impacts of Malaria and other killer diseases have long held back Africa's development prospects especially its human resource capacity and labour productivity.

6. The AU Summit Meeting on Malaria, Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS held in Abuja on 15 - 16 July, 2013 adopted a landmark decision to intensify efforts at rolling back Malaria and eradicating other killer diseases. No doubt, the present Ebola outbreak has compounded the situation in Africa. International efforts must be intensified to address this danger and overcome the threat it poses to the subregion, and continent and the entire world, as the Ebola virus is spreading exponentially. We have no alternative but to face this existential threat to all of us collectively and show unity of purpose.

7. Rather than stigmatizing and isolating countries and communities from where the outbreak emanated, solidarity, compassion and understanding should be our watchwords, with speedy and timely support rendered to these countries. Nigeria has so far disbursed $3.5 million to the affected countries in West Africa, having overcome the importation of the virus into country. We will continue to show empathy and solidarity with the affected countries in our region, and give them the support that they need to meet this grave challenge.

Mr. President,

8. In addressing NEPAD priorities and the sustainable development of Africa, we should highlight the infrastructure needs of the continent,
and develop strategies for meeting those needs. The African Union and NEPAD have developed blueprints to address these needs, and adopted policies at the highest level in the continent to integrate Africa by rail, land and air, as well as by electronic means such as fibre optic and undersea cable for telecommunications and the Internet.

9. The most important infrastructure gap in Africa today is to be found in the power sector. According to a World Bank report, Africa's largest infrastructure deficit is to be found in the power sector. It is instructive to note that only 24 percent of Africa's population is reported to have access to sufficient power, while 48 sub-Saharan countries with about 800 million people are said to produce roughly the same level of power as Spain, with only 45 million people. Africa's infrastructure deficiency is of course being addressed under the ambitious programme for infrastructure development in Africa or PIDA.

10. The adoption of the Agenda 2063 by the AU presents a landmark opportunity to address Africa's priorities, on long term basis, in the areas of infrastructure, industrialization, agriculture, human development and peace and security. We therefore wish to highlight the need for a global appreciation of the conclusions and final outcomes of high level meetings of the African Union and NEPAD, and the various Regional Economic Communities in Africa, towards the development of viable partnerships for implementation of our continent's development strategies, in consonance with the global partnership envisaged under MDG 8, and the relevant provisions of the unfolding Post-2015 development framework.

11. In this regard, we wish to reiterate the importance of the Common African Position that was adopted at the highest political level in Africa, in addressing Africa's priorities in elaborating the post-2015 agenda. The Secretary General's report on the review of the implementation of the commitments made towards Africa's
development is therefore highly significant and of extreme relevance. We wish to reiterate our readiness to cooperate with the NEPAD and African Union to intensify regional integration and achievement of a common market in our continent. We shall strive to encourage greater private sector participation in this process, whereby indigenous banks, industries, and trading companies will be availed of the opportunities to expand their scope and reach in all countries, and reduce dependency on external factors and open up African markets for African businesses.

12. I thank you.