Egypt’s statement
Before the General Assembly plenary meeting
On Agenda 63 (a)
Friday, October 17th 2013.

Mr. President,

Egypt welcomes the three reports of the Secretary-General on African issues under item 63 (a): New Partnership for Africa’s Development: progress in implementation and international support. I would like to thank the Secretary General and the Office of the Special Advisor for Africa for preparing the three reports, and for the thoughtful conclusions they included.

The New Partnership for African Development NEPAD represent Africa’s inspiration to take its matters into its own hands. As Africa’s instrument aiming at reducing poverty and achieving sustainable development, NEPAD translates African priorities into specific programs and projects. It, thus, crystalizes Africa’s vision on specific thematic issues, namely: Agriculture and Food Security; Regional Integration and Infrastructure; Human Development; Information and Communication Technology. NEPAD has received additional impetus, as it has become the vehicle of the implementation of Agenda 2063, Africa’s vision towards regional integration and African renaissance. As a proud founding member, Egypt continues to support the work of NEPAD in various programs and thematic activities, and calls for increased international support for the implementation of NEPAD programs.

Mr. President,

This year’s deliberations of the item coincide with the negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals. As the deadline of the negotiations comes closer, it is important to emphasize the need to incorporate African priorities in the new agenda. No global development agenda will ever succeed if it does not tackle the African priorities of increasing economic output, creating jobs, and eradicating poverty through increased industrialization, infrastructure and agriculture development. African development needs significant and diverse financial resources, technology transfer and capacity building. It is noteworthy that Official Development Assistance ODA should continue to constitute the backbone of financing for development. Furthermore, Africa needs the support of the international community for the recovery of illicit transferred assets. We look forward to the upcoming International Conference on Financing for Development in July 2015 to help the continent in that vein.
The outbreak of Ebola in the last few months is yet another reminder of the special needs for Africa. We welcome the efforts of the Secretary General, the General Assembly and the Security Council to establish the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) to curb the spread of the outbreak, treat the infected, and prevent Ebola from becoming a worldwide Pandemic. In order to succeed in combating Ebola, the international community should mobilize enough resources that amount to $1 billion in the next six months. Unfortunately, the majority of these pledges are yet to be met. The Ebola outbreak also emphasises the need to improve Africa’s health systems and to build resilience in fighting health emergencies. Moreover, the global efforts to combat Ebola should not amount to putting the affected countries under siege. We reiterate our concern about the detrimental effect of the isolation of the affected countries because of trade and travel restrictions imposed. These measures are not effective in containing the epidemic. They create impediments to the delivery of the required assistance to the affected countries, thus prolonging the plight of these countries and rendering recovery more difficult.

Efforts to achieve sustainable development and growth are doomed to failure unless coupled with serious efforts to create, keep and build peace. In this regard, we welcome the report of the Secretary General on “Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa”. We also highlight Africa’s initiative to achieve a conflict-free Africa as outlined in the OAU/AU Solemn Declaration of 2013. This initiative is complemented by the work of the African Peer Review Mechanism APRM, which manifests Africa’s commitment to enhance good governance and the respect for human rights and democratic values.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, it is important to emphasise the need to sustain and consolidate the support provided to Africa by the Office of the Special Advisor for Africa OSAA, as the leading entity dedicated to advancing African issues in the UN system.

Thank you.