Statement

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The NEPAD: Progress in implementation and international support: causes of conflict and the promotion of durable and sustainable development in Africa

New York, 16 October 2014
Mr. President,

As we celebrate Rio + 20, allow me to join others in congratulating you, on your choice of the theme that will drive our development agenda in the next 15 years; Delivering on and implementing a transformative post-2015 agenda. This is a continuation of the immense work achieved in tackling the MDGs even though some of our countries will not meet their targets by the due date. We remain confident that the new agenda will give us an impetus to carry on with renewed hope as the future bodes well if we take into account the recent sustained growth registered across Africa.

Mr. President,

Everyone currently concurs that Africa is the land of opportunities and that it is on the rise. We have reason to believe in ourselves as Africa is often referred to as the fastest growing region and home to the fastest growing economies. We therefore have a lot to celebrate as we have come a long way. We can now push a sigh of relief and concur that the worst is behind us. With the freedom vested in us to shape our own destiny, there is no way we can go wrong if we join hand to prepare a decent future for our people.

Allow me to strongly commend Africa for the consultative exercise put in place in shaping the common African position. The opportunity offered to devise on her own development agenda and identify as a continent her priorities and the way forward to achieve them for the wellbeing of her people is worth mentioning. We therefore understand that it is time for all Africans to rise as one to seize the
momentum and continue to strive together as we put forward a unified agenda.

Mr. President,

Africa understood that her strengths lie in her people who are the main asset to invest in. With a human centered approach, and guided by the CAP, Africa will rise to tackle poverty in all its forms. In our global quest for poverty eradication, every nation will strive to reduce inequality by ensuring that no one is left behind.

This resonates more in the wake of new challenges Africa is confronted with which call for a unified action to confront emerging threats such as the outbreak of Ebola, food shortage, climate change, terrorism and ensure that our gains are not reversed.

Driven by two agendas, The African Union Vision 2063 and the Common African position, the continent is ready to take off on a new path more invigorated by the lessons of the past.

Mr. President,

The priorities set in the NEPAD agenda with regard to health, education and gender mainstreaming are being implemented in every corner of the continent. In addition, Africa has learned that agriculture will play a pivotal role in its development and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme has shaped that understanding. To ensure food security, Africa should also go along with the Maputo Declaration and devote a great share on agriculture in national budgets.
Another key enabler will be the acceleration of infrastructure development. Africa is indeed on the move when you note all infrastructure development projects mushrooming at national and regional levels aiming at unleashing the growth potential of the continent, such as in transport, water, energy and information and communications technologies.

Other prerequisites include ensuring Gender equality and women’s and youth’s empowerment as they catalyze action by driving and generating productivity. To insure an inclusive growth, their participation and mainstreaming into national development policies are vital if we are to achieve real social and economic gains.

Mr. President,

In insuring a sustainable future, let’s point out the need of our mindset change in our habits of production and consumption to preserve our planet. The protection and management of the environment should be our daily concern in all our deeds.

Mr. President,

As we discuss the post-2015 agenda, it is relevant to talk about peace-building given the hundreds of intra-state conflicts that are raging in Africa and the changing nature of conflicts that have acquired a new dimension in the wake of the global financial crisis where everyone is preoccupied by having his lion’s share of the economic benefits at the expense of people’s lives. With the high cost on civilians, there is an urgent need to focus collectively on how we can go beyond managing conflicts and rather invest in their prevention.

I wish to emphasize the role of national and regional actors in addressing the underlying causes of conflict. In this respect, it is imperative that each state incorporates its own strategy of addressing challenges affecting the wellbeing of the people. In ensuring peace and security, regional involvement in the policy
formulation and capacity building is needed to address the root causes of conflicts. Finally, the United Nations, the international Community has also a role to play in preventing and ending conflicts.

In closing, allow me to state that the post 2015 development agenda cannot be achieved without adequate means of implementation. In order to consolidate gains and become resilient to external shocks, all countries will work in tandem for an enhanced international cooperation based on a renewed global partnership for sustainable development. All the enabling environment and global governance needed to promote financing for sustainable development should therefore be strengthened. In addition, catalyzing public-private platforms and mobilizing domestic funds will be essential to meet the cost of sustainable development. In particular, Africa’s development partners should contribute to Africa Transformation by honouring all their commitments. Finally, the real transformation lies in the hands of each nation to create an atmosphere conducive to attracting private investment. Levering ODA and mobilizing domestic resources should be some of the avenues to attain that goal.

I thank you.