Statement

By

H.E. Aman Hassen Bame,
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Federal Democratic
Republic of Ethiopia to the United Nations (On behalf of the
African Group)

On

Agenda item 21: Globalization and Interdependence

At

The 68th Session of the General Assembly of the United
Nations

23 October 2013
New York
Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group.

The Group associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished Ambassador of Fiji on behalf of the G77 and China.

We thank the Secretary General for his reports on the Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence, science and technology for development, development cooperation with middle-income countries and culture and development.

Mr. Chairman,

As the international community advances towards the post-2015 development agenda, the African Group wishes to reiterate its attachment to the centrality of multilateralism in crafting the next development framework. Collective action in the eradication of poverty, which remains the greatest challenge of our times, is critical. In that vein, we emphasize the importance of an enabling international environment and an effective global partnership in the mobilization of resources, building on existing agreements and arrangements. The United Nations has a central role to play in that regard.
Mr. Chairman,

This debate gives me the opportunity to say few words on technology. As clearly indicated in the Rio+20 outcome document, technology is fully part of the means of implementation of the SDGs in addition to financing and capacity building. However, it seems that it does not enjoy the attention it deserves among the Rio+20 follow up processes. That is the reason why the African Group calls for the launching, in the coming months, of the technology process which is similar to the process on sustainable development financing. It is important from our perspective to work with partners to develop a global framework that includes technology and skills transfer and that takes into account Africa’s specific characteristics and conditions.

Mr. Chairman,

Technology as well as research and development are at the heart of any development process, especially in the fields of education, health, agriculture and food security and infrastructure. The technology gap between rich and poor countries reinforces inequities and undermines efforts aiming at eradicating poverty. Therefore, we call on the international community to assist in enhancing regional and international cooperation for research and technological
development, including through the setting of a financing mechanisms.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The issue of development cooperation with middle-income countries remains important in the United Nations agenda. While it is critical to support this category of countries, we would like to emphasize the significant diversity of middle-income countries and the specific needs of African which fall in this category.

The Group also believes that African LDCs should be given the necessary attention in the global development framework so as to address their multifaceted development challenges in an effective manner.

**Mr. Chairman,**

With regard to culture, the African Group recognizes its potential to contribute to the achievement of the three dimensions of sustainable development, as “enabler” and “driver”. The Group will consider, as appropriate, the possibility to define it as a separate goal or as a cross-cutting issue in the post-2015 development agenda.

In the meantime, the Group would like to underscore the need to respect cultural diversity as well as the
importance to incorporate issues related to the protection of traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions in the global development framework.

I thank you.