DRAFT STATEMENT BY SOUTH AFRICA ON GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP, UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK, 29 OCTOBER 2013

Mr Chairman

South Africa aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of Fiji on behalf of G77 and China as well as Ethiopia on behalf of the Africa Group.

South Africa would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report, A/68/326 which has provided Member States with an opportunity to deliberate on the enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector.

Mr Chairman

Whilst South Africa notes with interest the United Nations’ continued high-level support for more effective collaboration with the private sector to achieve a lasting impact on the UN Development Agenda, efforts and requisite resources towards the achievement of MDGs by 2015 should be accelerated. In this regard, South Africa would like to re-iterate the following decisions of the Outcome document of the Special Event to follow-up on efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals adopted by the General Assembly on 09 October 2013:
• That the central role of a strengthened global partnership for development should have its main focus on national ownership. More serious International support coupled with an enabling international environment in achieving the MDGs by 2015 is therefore, urgently needed.

• Stressing the call for the urgent implementation of all commitments under the global partnership for development so as to accelerate the achievement of all MDGs. In particular, reiterating the need to achieve MDG 8, which clearly illustrates the need for progress towards meeting the target commitments of 0.7% of GNI as ODA by 2015, including 0.15% to 0.20% for least developed countries. A call on developed countries to urgently fulfil the ODA commitments they have made, individually and collectively. In this connection South Africa takes note of the Secretary-General’s Report that the United Nations must continue to push forward with new, improved and diversified forms of collaboration with the private sector to achieve a lasting impact in achieving the MDGs.

The Secretary General has though frequently highlighted the need for greater involvement of the private sector in terms of accountability through a code of conduct and a stronger monitoring of private sector’s corporate social responsibility.

Mr Chairman

Development cooperation strategies and programmes should respond to the needs of partner countries. The UN therefore becomes uniquely positioned to act as a facilitator and a leader building on its foundational spirit of cooperation over many years in such instances.

With a Post-2015 roadmap as articulated by the Outcome Document, the United Nations, on the issue of partnerships, remains uniquely positioned to act as a bridge-builder to various sectors, in particular the private sector, and to challenge them to participate in the achievement of
all internationally agreed development goals including the MDGs. South Africa will agree with the Secretary-General’s Report that this participation should be well co-ordinated in order to increase its impact on the ground. Doing so will require aligning corporate efforts within a global architecture designed to enhance business action and partnerships.

Mr Chairman

In this regard, South Africa notes the important role that Global Compact Local Networks which are business-led networks of companies and other stakeholders can play in encouraging business action in support of United Nations goals. The Global Compact and the Local Networks have made considerable progress, in particular, in sharing best global business practices that had been localized for optimum presence and corporate commitments in a transparent and accountable manner. South Africa witnessed the critical role the Global Compact played in December 2010 when the UN launched an anti-corruption project with the aim of Government and Business sharing best initiatives in combating corruption. The United Nations has continued to build a high-level support for more effective collaboration in this regard.

This includes taking advantage of impactful partnership opportunities that arise as a result of new trends, as well as the evolving role and expanding importance of Global Compact Local Networks at country levels. By continuing to shift from a risk-averse to a more risk-managed approach, the United Nations has successfully positioned itself to more strategically leverage its normative strength and reputation towards influencing business behaviour, while respecting high standards of integrity.

Mr Chairman

In conclusion, South Africa wishes to underscore the importance of the ongoing debate, within the United Nations and other relevant forums, on
the need to give more impetus on the global partnerships and its role in the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals

South Africa notes the United Nations optimistic view that the partnerships with the private sector will continue to grow. Business should continue to act as an engine for development, in collaboration with national governments, and contribute resources and skills for addressing complex global challenges and promote innovation that can help optimize United Nations work, in particular at the local level. In doing so but also promote responsible business practices and United Nations values to achieve greater coherence between the agendas of the United Nations and businesses.

Thank You