

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Committee**

13/09/2005 – Statement by H.E. Ambassador Ismael Gaspar Martins, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Angola to the United Nations, at the General Assembly Session to Review the four-year old New Partnership for Africa's Development

**Mr. President,**

My delegation aligns itself with the statements made by the distinguished representatives of Namibia on behalf of the African group and the Kingdom of Lesotho on behalf of the Southern African Development community. We thank also Ambassador Stafford Nei of Jamaica on behalf of Group 77 and China

**Mr. President,**

Allow me to express, through you, my Government's profound gratitude to the Secretary-General for his third consolidated report on the progress in the implementation and international support for New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) contained in document A/60/178. This and other reports provide useful insight into the progress made, and measures needed to address the special needs of Africa.

**Mr. President,**

Four years have elapsed since the document that outlined NEPAD's vision, principles and priorities was adopted by the Assembly of African Heads of State. What followed was the preparation and approval of policy frameworks and indicative plans for the following priority areas: the AU's peace support operations capacity; standards and guidelines for the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), NEPAD's instrument for promoting good governance; the NEPAD Health Strategy; the Education Action Plan (now under review); the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP); the Short-Term Action Plan (STAP) for Infrastructure Development, the Science and Technology Strategic Plan, the Environment Action Plan, the Tourism Action Plan and the Africa Productive Capacity Action Plan.

These reaffirm the principles of African ownership and responsibility for the continent's development; the promotion and advancement of democracy, human rights, good governance and accountable

leadership; self-reliant development to reduce dependency on aid; building capacity in African institutions; accelerating regional economic integration; advancing women; strengthening Africa's voice in international fora; and forging partnerships with African civil society, and the private sector.

**Mr. President,**

My Government shares the Secretary-General's assessment that in the past year "there have been important regional actions and greater international response in support of Africa's development". We note with satisfaction the engagement of national, sub-regional, regional as well as partners and relevant stakeholders on the implementation of projects encompassing the full range of priority areas identified by NEPAD.

In some instances, this engagement has taken the form of facilitating the implementation of and seeking support for agreed actions on capacity building of regional economic communities and national implementing authorities, while in others, it amounted to the financing of facilities by the African Development Bank.

The agencies and organizations of the United Nations remain an important partner in the advocacy for and delivery of international support for Africa. The adoption of resolution A/RES/57/7 gave special momentum to the process. In this regard, it is imperative to continue to take measures to strengthen the office of the Special Adviser on Africa, including through adequate staffing for this office, in order to enable it to effectively fulfill its mandate. In addition, we encourage the United Nations funds, programs and specialized agencies to strengthen coordination, cohesion and programming mechanisms as a means of enhancing support for African countries.

Mr. President,

Analyzing the progress made in the implementation of NEPAD is in many ways a test of the international community's engagement in addressing Africa's special needs development. Its success depends greatly on changes in the Donor-Recipient relationship, in particular, as it relates to improving the role and impact of AID. The Secretary-General's report provides us with information on actions taken thus far, but also clearly recognizes that a lot more still remains to be done.

**Allow me, Mr. President, to outline a few:**

During the last year, we have been afforded the opportunity to welcome initiatives and commitments to significantly increase aid flows to Africa. In particular, the very positive and encouraging decision of the EU to establish a timetable to attain the 0.7% target for ODA and would hope that other developed countries will follow suit. However, according to the OECD, increases in the levels of ODA have not necessarily meant equivalent increases in aid to Africa.

Furthermore, an increasing percentage of Aid to Africa is allocated to non-development activities such as emergency relief and debt forgiveness. While these are important and necessary objectives, they ought not to undermine or compete with the support needed for the implementation of development projects and programs envisaged under NEPAD. In addition, increases in ODA must be accompanied by actions aimed at scaling up AID effectiveness. NEPAD was conceived to enable ownership, alignment of support, harmonization and mutual accountability, thus represents a singular opportunity for progress in this area. In this regard, we welcome the signing of the Common policy

framework between TICAD and NEPAD and the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership. Furthermore, we encourage continued efforts with a view to the early approval of a common policy framework between the G-8 and NEPAD.

**Mr. President,**

Debt relief represents another opportunity for meaningful and immediate assistance in support of Africa's development. Debt relief can play a key role in liberating resources that can be directed towards activities consistent with NEPAD.

We welcome the recent proposals of the Group of Eight and subsequent approval by the board of the IMF and the World Bank to cancel 100 per cent of the outstanding debt of eligible heavily indebted poor countries owed to the International Monetary Fund, the International Development Association and African Development Fund and to provide additional resources to ensure that the financing capacity of the international financial institutions are not reduced.

However, we note with concern that many African nations continue to struggle for a durable solution to their debt problems. Therefore, the proposed debt relief should be broadened to cover all African low-income and middle-income countries where debt relief can free resources for the implementation of projects consistent with NEPAD that ultimately contributes towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and the implementation of national development strategies and programs.

**Mr. President,**

My delegation remains concerned with the levels of Foreign Direct Investment into Africa. Although it has recently increased to 2001 levels, it represents a 3% of global foreign investment flows. Moreover, FDY tends to flow towards mineral extraction industries, that traditionally generate limited employment and increases a country's dependency on natural resources.

We are convinced that actions and support in capacity building, infrastructure development, can increase private investment flows into Africa. In this regard, we look forward to the launching of the Investment Climate Facility and call upon member states to fully support it as this is intended to identify and overcome the obstacles to the creation and improvement of a business-friendly investment climate in Africa. This will enhance Africa's attractiveness to foreign direct investment.

**Mr. President,**

Angola has adopted its poverty reduction strategy paper aimed at improving the macroeconomic framework, and the structural and social policies to foster growth and reduce poverty. Angola stands ready to continue its participation in regional and sub-regional programs that will enhance the capacity of African countries to respond to African challenges and foster peace, stability and economic growth in the continent.

**Mr. President,**

The government of Angola is encouraged by the progress made in the resolution and prevention of conflicts in Africa. In the past seven years, there has been a significant reduction of conflicts in Africa. Promoting peace in Africa requires an integrated and coordinated approach to address the nexus between peace, security, humanitarian, development and post conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding.

Africa's capacity to harness opportunities for the establishment of durable peace, by deploying and undertaking effective peacekeeping operations, must be supported. In this regard, we call upon the international community, including the United Nations, to scale up their support to the African Union towards that end as well as the establishment of an early warning system.

Post-conflict reconstruction is understood as a complex system that provides for simultaneous short-, medium-, and long-term programs to prevent disputes from escalating, avoiding a relapse into violent confrontation.

Post conflict reconstruction is ultimately aimed at addressing the root causes of conflict and lays the foundations for social justice and sustainable peace. The continent is currently preparing an Africa Post-Conflict Reconstruction Policy framework that integrates security, political transition, governance, participation, socio-economic development, human rights, justice, reconciliation, coordination, management and resource mobilization to provide a common framework to the multidisciplinary, multifunctional and multidimensional nature of post-conflict situations.

It is essential that the international community supports and participates. In this regard, we welcome the decision to establish a Peace Building Commission and look forward to its early operationalization to tackle the root causes of conflict in Africa.

**Mr. President,**

Before concluding, allow me to welcome the establishment of new initiatives to control Malaria. Such initiatives as the World Bank Booster Project, The United States Government's new international Malaria initiative, and the Malaria Evaluation Partnership in Africa, hold the promise for increased funding to tackle a preventable disease.

While so called "Quick wins" can assist the control of the disease, greater emphasis must be placed on the strengthening of health systems as well as the development of human resources that in the end are responsible for program planning and implementation. We wish to take this opportunity to thank those Governments in particular the United States of America as well as WHO for their important contribution towards that end in Angola.

I wish to conclude by quoting the Secretary-general's report on NEPAD, by stating that  
"this is the moment of opportunity for making progress in Africa's development for  
which NEPAD is the main policy guideline".

**Thank you.**