

Mr. President,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of South Africa on behalf of the group of 77 and China.

We take this opportunity to thank the Secretary General for his 4th consolidated report on the progress in implementation and international support for NEPAD, contained in document A/61/212; as well as the reports on the decade to roll back malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa, contained in document A/61/218; and on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-general on the causes of conflict and promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa contained in document A/61/213.

Mr. President,

This report, which coincides with the 5th birthday of this partnership conceived by Africans for Africans, revealed that we are living a moment of great political will and commitment at all levels towards achieving Africa's renewal, through sustained economic growth and sustainable development. However, the key challenge remains on translating commitments and will into tangible actions and projects consistent with NEPAD throughout the continent.

We are pleased to see that some projects conceived under NEPAD are being implemented. In Infrastructure, Information and communication technologies, Health, Education, Environment, Agriculture, science and technology, gender mainstreaming and civil society involvement there are visible signs of progress owing to a global partnership, involving member states, organizations of the United Nations system, regional and sub-regional organizations, international and regional financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society. It is our hope that what was achieved in certain sectors, in certain regions or countries, can be duplicated throughout the continent.

Africa is committed to good governance. Accordingly it established the African Peer Review Mechanism. It is a critical instrument for advancing reforms in governance and social economic development and in building capacity to help implement national development plans. I could not refrain from mentioning the accession of 25 African countries, including Angola. Of these, many have hosted support missions aimed at evaluating the national capacity for self-assessment and are preparing national action plans, constituting an important step on the road to the African Peer Review Forum.

While there are reasons to believe that the partnership is yielding positive results there are challenges for Africa and its development partners. Individual governments in Africa must continue to mainstream NEPAD principles and vision into their development plans and institutions. To this end, my government is engaged in initiatives aimed at sensitizing public institutions of the pillars and philosophy of NEPAD. In addition, the conception

and implementation of projects in the areas of infrastructure, health education as well as others have been integrated in NEPAD.

Mr. President,

Placing Africa on an irreversible path to sustained growth and sustainable development requires coordinated and complementary actions on the part of its development partners. While we acknowledge renewed efforts, a decisive action remains to be taken in a number of important areas. Among these, trade constitutes a fundamental area. We express our concern over the lack of progress in the elimination of trade-distorting domestic price support and agricultural tariffs, as they hinder Africa's ability to integrate the world economy.

In the area of Foreign Direct Investment, while recognizing recent increases in the levels of FDY directed to the continent, it is important to note that it is largely directed to oil, gas or minerals exploration. Consequently, these flows often augment a country's dependence on one or two commodities, and are concentrated in a few countries. In addition, an aggregate examination of these flows, falsely leads some to conclude that the entire continent is benefiting from increased levels of investment, whereas the reality is quite different. To improve flows to non-traditional sectors, African governments have and continue to implement regulatory reforms, including under the NEPAD-OECD Africa Investment Facility. It is our hope, that these initiatives will lead to real improvements in the quality and impact that Foreign Direct Investment can have in the diversification of African economies.

Lastly, we welcome the recent increases in Official Development Assistance to Africa, as well as the establishment of mechanisms to track aid promises. However, we stress that current ODA levels remain significantly below the target of 0.7% of GNI. In addition, recent increases of ODA flows to Africa are 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 support needed for the implementation of development projects and programs envisaged under NEPAD.

The agencies and organizations of the United Nations remain an important partner in the advocacy for, and delivery of international support for Africa. In this regard, 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.

NEPAD is inextricably dependent on a global partnership, wherein all stakeholders play a pivotal role in its success.

Mr. President,

The Government of Angola is encouraged by the recent progress made in the resolution and prevention of conflicts in Africa. In the past year, there have been concrete steps to consolidate peace where previously established, and actions to re-establish peace where needed. The establishment of the African Union Peace and Security Council and its leading role in promoting the resolution of conflicts in Africa is to be commended. In addition, African countries are participating and leading peacekeeping operation in the continent, following clear mandates from the council. Consistent with the will and aspirations of African, the Government of Angola is assisting the Democratic Republic of Congo and others, in their quest for durable peace.

Mr. President,

The adoption of the Abuja Declaration to Roll Back Malaria in Africa, in 2000, marked the recognition by African leaders that the devastating effect of the disease could no longer be allowed to spread. This preventable and curable disease is responsible for high infant mortality rates and hinders social and economic development. We welcome ongoing efforts and initiatives to combat this disease, in particular those of a global nature. However, we stress that pledges of support must be converted into support. In addition, the proliferation of initiatives can in some cases lead to wasteful duplication and under funding of critical areas.

I Thank you Madam President