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**Remarks**

**by**

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to the United Nations**

**On behalf of**

**H.E Ambassador John Ashe**

**President of the 68<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**At the**

**Joint Debate on New Partnership  
for African's Development**

**Progress in Implementation and International Support [63 (a) and (b)];  
2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries,  
Particularly in Africa [13]**

**New York**

**25 October 2013**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

I am pleased to welcome you to these important debates, particularly on NEPAD, since it provides us with a timely opportunity to review our collective efforts in providing international support for NEPAD, and is an appropriate way to culminate this year's Africa-NEPAD week.

In many ways, it is an auspicious time for the African continent and it is fitting to begin by taking note of some of the positive developments on the continent. Experts now agree that Africa offers the most promising prospects for economic growth in the world, with Sub-Saharan Africa as the second fastest-growing region. Throughout the continent, we have seen significant progress in political governance with a number of elections offering promise for future stability. Many countries can also take pride in recent developments in peace and security, and we look to those examples with the hope that the nations that are still struggling will soon follow. While we cannot deny that there are challenges confronting the African continent, the African people and leaders are poised to face them as never before, as they continue to harness their productive powers and grow in solidarity.

Today, as we assess international support for NEPAD, we can also acknowledge Africa's collaborative efforts to tackle their shared challenges. NEPAD, first launched in 2001, is a success story. Through the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which is now the African Union (AU), the African region has found a mechanism to facilitate a cohesive approach to its

challenges and opportunities; it has chosen this type of strategic and progressive coordination as an effective means to realize goals in peace and security and socio-economic development. As 2013 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the OAU, I warmly congratulate the people of Africa on this important milestone.

Excellencies,

NEPAD remains a strong framework for pan-African socio-economic development and the essential blueprint for promoting development on the African continent. The latest report of the Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon on the implementation of and international support for NEPAD (A/68/222), suggests notable progress; I commend these positive developments and Africa's commitments in the areas of infrastructural projects, agriculture and food security, health and primary education and, last but not least, redoubling efforts to achieving the remaining MDGs by 2015.

The continent can also be justly proud of the establishment of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), which has become a key component of NEPAD and marks its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Through this mechanism, African countries have committed themselves to the promotion of good governance in all its dimensions—corporate, political and economic. With over 30 African countries voluntarily joining the APRM, the Continent is clearly demonstrating its commitment to good governance, transparency and democratic principles. As we also celebrate this important milestone, I would like to encourage the countries of the region to keep up the momentum and consolidate gains achieved through the APRM; this review process is vital for promoting good governance practices among peers.

Distinguished Delegates,

Because NEPAD is so critically important for pan-African socio-economic development, it is vital that the international community continue partnering with African countries and the AU on its implementation and on alleviating developmental challenges on the continent. This support cannot be overstated and is integral to the overall success of the programme. While many countries have been affected by the recent global financial and economic downturn, international partners should continue to work with African countries to ensure NEPAD commitments are translated into concrete results on the ground.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The United Nations is an integral and committed partner to NEPAD in realizing its objectives. I would like to commend the ongoing efforts of the UN, particularly the Office of the Special Advisor on Africa, in supporting the full implementation of this programme. As President of the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly, I pledge to continue to promote a good working relationship between the General Assembly and African Members States, as well as international partners, to ensure that NEPAD remains a high priority on the agenda of the Assembly.

I also hope that several thematic debates and General Assembly mandated meetings will contribute immensely to support for NEPAD; for example: the meetings on “Contributions of South-South, Triangular Cooperation, and ICT for Development to the Post-2015 Development Agenda” and the

“High-level thematic debate on the promotion of investment in Africa and its catalytic role in achieving Africa’s development”.

Distinguished Delegates,

My remarks began with a focus on the great achievements, and I close with a reminder of the challenges that remain. It is widely reported that many African countries are unlikely to achieve most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the 2015 deadline. In the remaining time before the 2015 target date, we need to accelerate efforts and summon the necessary political will. And as we set the stage for the post-2015 Development Agenda, the General Assembly will need to focus on how this agenda relates to Africa. Africa’s development priorities, as clearly embedded in NEPAD, must be skilfully incorporated into the new development agenda.

It is my sincere hope that today’s debate will be a strong demonstration of solidarity and support. As we are one united international community, let us continue to chart a practical way forward on successfully implementing NEPAD and creating meaningful change for people across the continent.

Thank you.