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STATEMENT

BY

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**OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO THE
UNITED NATIONS**

ON BEHALF OF

**THE AFRICAN GROUP ON NEW PARTNERSHIP
FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT: PROGRESS**

**IN IMPLEMENTATION AND INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT;
CAUSES OF CONFLICT AND PROMOTION OF
DURABLE PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA; AND "2001-2010:**

**DECADE TO ROLL BACK MALARIA IN
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY
IN AFRICA, IN THE PLENARY OF**

**THE 63RD SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON 15TH OCTOBER 2008,**

NEW YORK

Mr. President

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the African Group. The African Group associates itself with the statement made by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

The African Group is thankful to the Secretary-General for the submission of the two reports under consideration, namely agenda items 57 (a) and (b), entitled “New Partnership for Africa’s Development: progress in implementation and international support; causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa”; and agenda item 43 entitled “2001-2010: Decade to roll back Malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa”. However, we wish to note that the world has changed significantly since the publication of the reports due dynamics in the global economy, particularly the current financial crisis in the developed countries.

In this context the African Group welcomed the adoption of the Political Declaration by Heads of State and Government on 22 September 2008 on Africa’s development needs. The declaration is a clear undertaking at the highest political level to strengthen support for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) which is Africa’s overarching framework for sustainable socio-economic development. It is also important to point out that the declaration came at a time when all economic indications showed that globalization and the global partnership

for Africa's development has yet to deliver Africa's poor from dehumanizing poverty and hunger.

Furthermore, the international community undertook to reinvigorate and strengthen a global partnership of equals based on our common values, mutual accountability, shared responsibility and the determination to collectively act for our common future and to mobilize the resources required to eradicate poverty, hunger and underdevelopment in Africa. We believe the main objective of this undertaking is to turn existing commitments into concrete actions.

Mr. President

It is important to focus Africa's development against the backdrop of the weakened global economy resulting from energy crisis, food and oil price rises and the current financial crisis in developed countries. These are contributing to the adverse impact on growth and economic prospects of all African economies, with the potential for severe consequences for least developed countries in the continent.

The evident slowdown in global growth, the danger posed by current high commodity prices and the possibility of entrenched long-term effects, the diminished access to finance for investment and the erosion of the balance of payments positions of many countries threaten to undermine the policy gains we have made over the last decade. This has a likelihood of pushing millions over the poverty line across the African continent.

In view of the foregoing, Africa's growth is projected to slow down in 2008. The growth outlook for Africa may worsen if the global economy experiences a protracted slowdown. It is therefore essential that the international community's policy actions must be aimed at supporting NEPAD's objectives to improve economic infrastructure and creating an enabling environment for investment and growth.

Mr. President

Through NEPAD, African leaders have committed themselves to consolidating democracy and good governance and to implementing sustainable socio- economic development programmes in the African continent. NEPAD adopted the Millennium Development Goals as the centerpiece of Africa's development agenda. The UN system as a whole is mandated to co-ordinate programmes of action on the continent within the framework established by the NEPAD. At the individual country level, the MDGs also inform the framework for national policy and planning. The Africa Peer Review Mechanism is being rolled out, providing a framework for the sharing of best practices on the continent. Assistance and support from the donor community is important for the long- term success of NEPAD.

Recent reports suggest that Africa is off track in meeting the MDGs targets. The achievement of the MDGs by Africa will require rising above current crisis and taking pro-active action to substantially accelerate progress. There is an urgent need to scale up support to African countries to enable them achieve the MDGs. Specifically, action is needed to identify precise areas of need in accordance with Africa's own development strategies. Commitments made must continue to be translated into concrete action, in particular in the

areas of development and poverty eradication. In this respect, the report of the MDGs steering group provides recommendations on how the challenges of achieving the MDGs can be met.

Mr. President,

We note the report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the recommendations on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. The causes of conflict in Africa are many and include: pervasive extreme poverty, weakness of State institutions, poor management of natural resources, failure to protect fundamental human rights and increased threats related to climate change.

In this respect, the African Union has pledged to address conflict and political instability in Africa with the aim of achieving a conflict free Africa by 2010. The African Union Peace and Security Council continue to play an important role in the prevention and resolution of conflicts in the continent. We therefore welcome efforts by the United Nations to collaborate with the African Union with a view to building and enhancing the latter's capacity for peacekeeping.

The African Union endeavors to address the challenges facing Member States emerging from conflict. Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development is one of the tools of the African Union designed to curb the severity and repeated nature of conflicts in Africa as well as bring about sustained development. The African Union Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development also endeavors to compliment the United Nations Peace Building Commission's work in identifying States that are at risk of becoming failed states by providing timely help to such States and peoples

mechanisms, to ensure that member states remain seized on addressing Africa's special development needs.

This is essential if the United Nations is to fulfill its mandate of achieving an equitable, integrated, coordinated and comprehensive approach to the global partnership for Africa's development to create a better life for the millions of people in Africa. This is the least we can expect from the UN, and indeed from all of us.

I thank you