



STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA BY MR. SULTAN AL-MAHMOUD, PERMANENT MISSION OF THE STATE OF QATAR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON AGENDA ITEMS: 38(A): NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT: PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION AND INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT; AND 38(B): CAUSES OF CONFLICT AND THE PROMOTION OF DURABLE PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA, AT THE PLENARY OF THE FIFTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (New York, 23 December 2004)

Mr. President,

I have the honour, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, to present to the General Assembly a draft resolution A/59/L.33/Rev.1 entitled, "New partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support". The draft resolution has been arrived at by consensus and is co-sponsored by a number of countries.

Africa faces serious challenges that require collective action both on the part of African countries and the International Community to overcome. The adoption of the New Partnership for Africa's Development by the African Union in 2001 as the continent's owned and led initiative, and its subsequent endorsement by the General Assembly as the framework for international support for Africa, demonstrate the determination to address the daunting challenges of Africa. NEPAD offers great hope which, if matched with requisite political will and commitment would enable Africa to claim the twenty-first century for itself.

The main aim of the resolution that I have introduced here is to keep the spotlight on the efforts of African countries as well as underscore the continuing need for international support to complement those efforts. In the past year African countries have taken concrete steps to implement NEPAD. They have done this through the development of sectoral policy frameworks, design of specific projects and establishment of expenditure targets in NEPAD priority areas. These efforts would require an enabling national and international environment conducive of growth and development with the participation of multi-stakeholders. Furthermore, it is important to keep the special circumstance of Africa in focus as the countdown to the 2005 Major Event begins. Accordingly, the draft resolution highlights areas of progress and needs.

Mr. President,

May I use this opportunity to thank all delegations for their cooperation and support during the informal consultations on the draft. I should thank in particular, Mr. Abdallah Benmellouk of Morocco for his tireless efforts as facilitator of the resolution. Without the support of all, it would not have been possible to reach a consensus on the draft. In this regard, I would like to inform and invite delegations other than members of the Group of 77 and China, who may still wish to co-sponsor the resolution that they can do so from the floor before its adoption.

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the co-sponsors of draft resolution A/59/L.33/Rev.1, I have the pleasure to present the draft to the General Assembly for its adoption as a consensus text.

Mr. President,

Now, I would like to introduce to the General Assembly, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, a draft resolution A/59/L.50/Rev.1 entitled, "Implementation of recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa".

The draft resolution has been arrived at by consensus. It takes note of the significant progress made in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, while recognizing that a lot still remains to be done especially with regard to new and emerging trends that could undermine the gains made in the consolidation of peace and sustainable development. The resolution welcomes the establishment by the African Union of the Peace and Security Council and looks forward to the establishment of companion structures of the Peace and Security

institution. It also welcomes the contributions of the UN system, development partners and other relevant stakeholders in conflict prevention, management and resolution in Africa.

Mr. President,

The consensus we have achieved was due in part to the skills of the facilitator, Mr. Philippe Leglise-Costa who gave his best during the informal negotiations. But more than that, were the flexibility, and cooperation shown by all delegations, which resulted in a consensus after the second reading of the original text. We sincerely hope that this spirit would prevail in 2005. I would like therefore, to thank all who took part in the informal negotiation for their cooperation and support.

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I have the pleasure to present draft resolution A/59/L.50/Rev.1 to the General Assembly for its adoption as a consensus text.

I thank you.