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I. Introduction

1. On 25 September 1997, the Security Council convened a meeting at the level of foreign ministers to consider the need for concerted international effort to promote peace and security in Africa. In the presidential statement issued on that day (S/PRST/1997/46), the Council observed that, despite some progress, armed conflicts remained a matter of grave concern requiring a determined response.

2. In reply to the request of the Security Council, a comprehensive analysis was undertaken in 1998 and a report, to be updated annually, was submitted on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/52/871-S/1998/318). In the report, my predecessor proposed a set of realistic and achievable measures for African countries, the United Nations and Member States to take in order to significantly reduce political tensions and violence within and between African States, build durable peace and promote socio-economic and political development.

3. In my 2007 report to the General Assembly (A/62/204), I stated my intention to undertake a comprehensive review of the recommendations contained in the 1998 report, as well as of the commitments made, actions taken, progress achieved and lessons learned since 1998. The present report is submitted in compliance with paragraph 24 of General Assembly resolution 63/304.

4. In preparing the report, I conducted extensive consultations with and greatly benefited from the views of African States, other Member States, the African Union, African regional economic communities, African and international civil society organizations, representatives of academia and think tanks, the Millennium Development Goals Africa Steering Group, the Bretton Woods institutions and the United Nations system through the Inter-Agency Departmental Task Force on African Affairs of the Office of the Special Adviser for Africa.

5. In following up the original recommendations, I intend to focus on future challenges and stimulate a debate on how to generate additional political, human, financial and technical support and effective partnerships to better assist Africa in addressing the root causes of armed conflict and in promoting durable peace and

7. Despite the numerous challenges facing Africa at the time, the report highlighted Africa's significant political, economic and social achievements. It called on all concerned to summon the political will to effect positive change and for Africans to take a self-critical look at their own role in the crises, stressing the importance of Africa's responsibility in this regard. It also defined key actors and institutions in Africa and at the international level that could assist in resolving

A. Responding to situations of conflict

11. The 1998 report noted that the ability of international actors to assist Africa hinged in large measure on the quality and strength of African institutions to respond to challenges. With the adoption of the African Union Constitutive Act and the establishment of the African Union and its Commission in 2002, African leaders have endowed the continent with an institution much more capable of meeting the challenges of the twenty-first century and have developed a vision of a more peaceful, better governed and more integrated continent. In January 2009, the African Union summit resolved to transform the Commission of the African Union into the African Union Authority, which has an expanded mandate and greater capacities.

12. The African Union Constitutive Act has replaced the principle of non-interference with the principle of non-indifference, representing a fundamental change with regard to the conduct of inter-African relations and commitment to the protection of human rights, including rejection of unconstitutional changes of government.

13. In 2002, at its first ordinary session, the Assembly of the African Union adopted the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union. The Council, responsible for implementing the African Peace and Security Architecture, is supported by the Commission of the African Union, the Panel of the Wise, the Continental Early Warning System and the African Standby Force. The African Peace and Security Architecture is represented at the regional level by the regional economic communities acting as its building blocks, thus supporting local and national efforts for early warning, conflict prevention and conflict management. The regional standby brigades will constitute an important component of the African Standby Force.

14. There has also been revitalized engagement between the African Union and the United Nations, with the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the Security Council holding annual meetings to share information and strengthen cooperation in such areas as conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding.

15. One of the elements of that engagement was the adoption of the 2006 Declaration entitled “Enhancing United Nations-African Union Cooperation: Framework for the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union (see A/61/630, annex). The programme was conceived as an evolving strategic framework for cooperation with the African Union, which would involve institutional capacity-building and human resources development for the African Union and wider partnerships between United Nations agencies and regional and subregional organizations. During its first three years, it has focused on peace and security issues and on supporting the African Peace and Security Architecture. United Nations agencies have also taken the lead in various initiatives and clusters since 2007 to support the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), including through the regional coordination mechanism. The Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme, which is currently under review, has been instrumental in improving collaboration between the African Union and the United Nations system and in enhancing coherence between the United Nations system and African institutions. **While recognizing the ongoing need to address peace and security, the focus of the Programme should now be gradually expanded to encompass social and economic development issues in the areas set out below.**

1. Early warning and conflict prevention

Affairs and non-governmental organizations, to develop measures to curb the illicit small arms proliferation. The ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials entered into force in November 2009. The East African Community and the Southern African Development Community adopted similar protocols in 2000 and 2001, respectively.

Security Council. The UNAMID mechanis

established expert groups, a number of which receive support from United Nations peacekeeping operations, which monitor the implementation of targeted sanctions and provide recommendations on how to increase their effectiveness and on how to mitigate their humanitarian and socio-economic impact. The recommendations have been implemented by the Security Council and Member States with varying levels of success. **Cooperation with expert groups should be enhanced to the extent possible through the establishment of embargo cells or focal points within relevant peacekeeping operations.**

39. Challenges to the effective implementation of targeted sanctions by Member States can often be attributed to a lack of political will, a lack of capacity to enforce them on the ground or a combination of both. **The United Nations will provide Member States with assistance to increase their capacity to implement targeted sanctions regimes.** The interest in targeted sanctions by African regional organizations, such as the African Union and ECOWAS, provides new opportunities in this regard. **A wider awareness among the private sector of the parameters of Security Council sanctions regimes should be encouraged.**

B. Promoting economic growth and social development

40. Since 1998, our understanding of and perspective on social and economic development has significantly broadened, integrally linking economic growth and socio-economic development with stability, social development, social justice and human rights. Rapid socio-economic transformation is central to progress on the Millennium Development Goals, which can only be achieved under a peaceful and stable environment. The recommendations of the 1998 report, however, fell short of considering this inclusive approach, covering each of the aspects set out below somewhat separately. Inclusiveness of socio-economic development strategies is central to our strategy to address challenges and develop opportunities in the future (see section III below).

1. Governance

41. Since the late 1990s, Africa has made substantial progress in building democratic governance, encouraging pluralism and strengthening the role of parliaments and civil society, thus ensuring more accountability by Governments. Not all countries have embraced these principles; where they have taken root, however, the principles have allowed for more responsive Governments that are better able to deliver public goods, promote security and create policies to alleviate poverty and reduce inequalities. Elected and representative Governments are also demanding greater responsibility from their citizens, including through the payment of taxes and by meeting other civic obligations. Some Governments have encouraged the participation of civil society, undertaken economic reforms that strengthen markets and promoted private and public partnerships in order to ensure better service delivery.

42. In several countries, opening up the political space has enriched national decision-making processes. In other countries, leadership capacity whether in government, civil society or the private sector, needs to be encouraged and supported. **It is necessary to strengthen the leadership capacities at the community, local, national and regional levels.**

43. Since the 1990s, the liberalization of the media and better access to information has empowered citizens to become more effective participants in political processes. In a few countries, such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the radio stations of United Nations peacekeeping operations have helped to train national broadcasters. In Sierra Leone, the United Nations radio station was merged with the State radio service to form a new public broadcasting corporation. Overall, however, the African press continues to face numerous obstacles, including State opposition, and the standards for professionalism and ethics are uneven. **The United Nations system will assist African media practitioners in strengthening the skills, objectivity, ethical standards and independence of the profession.**

44. NEPAD was established in 2001 by the Organization of African Unity as an African platform for Africa's economic recovery and integration into the global economy. NEPAD has allowed for greater ownership and leadership of Africa's own economic and social policies. It has provided the structure to develop stronger partnerships with emerging economies, south-south cooperation arrangements and a better dialogue with the Group of Eight, which resulted in the creation of the Africa Partnership Forum. As part of the integration of NEPAD into the African Union structures, the NEPAD secretariat was recently transformed into the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency. NEPAD and the Millennium Development Goals reflect African and global convergence on the priorities underscored in the 1998 report. NEPAD embodies international standards on governance, economic reforms, management of public institutions and resources and the protection of human rights, and commits African countries to sound economic and social reforms that foster growth and attract investment and enhance the voice, participation and empowerment of all members of society.

45. As of the end of June 2010, 30 countries had acceded to the voluntary African Peer Review Mechanism process, enabling evaluators to assess their performance in such areas as democracy, human rights, freedom of the press, peace and security, economic policy and the business environment. The Review Mechanism process is still nascent and only 12 countries have completed it. Where completed, the Review Mechanism has promoted consultations between Governments, civil society and the private sector and has opened dialogue on such previously controversial subjects as corruption and public integrity. The 2006 Review Mechanism country report for Kenya, for example, broached all the political and economic issues that had led to post-electoral violence in 2008. The Review Mechanism is a useful diagnostic tool, even in its present configuration.

46. A continental initiative to improve governance, such as the Pan-African Parliament, which was established by the African Union in 2004, remains an advisory body that meets twice a year, but has no actual legislative power. The Pan-African Parliament should be empowered to deliver on its mandates, especially in the areas of promoting peace, security and stability; facilitating the effective implementation of the policies and objectives of the African Union; promoting the principles of human rights and democracy in Africa; and encouraging good governance, transparency and accountability. **I enjoin Member States to support the Pan-African Parliament to deliver on these mandates, in particular on peace, security and stability in Africa.** Parliamentarians have an important role to play in integrating this regional programme of actions into national action plans.

3. Administrative effectiveness

51. Broad reforms in the governance arena have also improved administrative efficiency and capacity. Monetary and financial institutions such as central banks are gaining more independence in economic management, and efforts have been made to increase transparency and reduce corruption. The 2001 Charter for the Public Service in Africa and the 2006 African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption contain provisions that aim at creating common standards of professionalism and ethics in public administration throughout Africa.

52. Corruption remains a major problem in Africa. Its pervasiveness, which makes the management of public resources difficult and impedes productive investment

56. Africa's trade patterns are being significantly affected by changing relationships with emerging economies in the expanding South-South cooperation process. The increasing South-South trade and the political and economic presence of emerging economies on the continent provide an opportunity for Africa to diversify not only its trade but also its access to technical assistance, external funding and knowledge under the solidarity principle. South-South partnerships serve as good examples of knowledge-management and knowledge-sharing among developing countries.

57. Despite these opportunities, Africa's position in global trade is still marginal, accounting for an average of 3.2 per cent of world imports and 3 per cent of world exports, despite the increasing demand for natural resources by emerging economies. It is necessary to revisit the inequities that prevail in the global trade regime, in particular the provision of subsidies to certain sectors by economically powerful countries, which cause African exporters to be put at a disadvantage. The use of technical barriers, including sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures, also

60. The African Economic Community will require strong political will and the mobilization of resources and investments in infrastructure as well as facilitation of the removal of barriers to trade and to the exchange of goods and services. In 2008, the African Union signed a memorandum of understanding with the regional economic communities, which defines the areas of cooperation. However, there is a need for greater clarity on burden-sharing between the African Union and the regional economic communities.

61. The memorandum of understanding among the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the SADC and the East African Community in 2008 for the eventual creation of a single free trade area and the merger of the organizations reinforces the objective of the African Union to accelerate integration. The memorandum of understanding is also part of the African Union objective to rationalize the regional economic communities in order to reduce the possible

greater fiscal space for some African countries. The concern remains, however, that

assist Governments in their efforts to fight impunity and discrimination, protect the rights of victims, address inequalities and strengthen the judiciary, and human rights feature centrally in many peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions in Africa. At the global level, the universal periodic review of the Human Rights Council offers an

76. Unfortunately, the condition of civilians in many armed conflicts has worsened, with civilians, especially women, children and the most vulnerable among communities, being purposely targeted, subjected to abusive treatment or being used by the warring parties to the conflict, including members of national security forces. A lack of compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law, and the impunity of those who have committed crimes remain key challenges.

77. The United Nations is determined to ensure that the rights of civilians caught in conflicts are protected. In my report on implementing the responsibility to protect (A/63/677), I reaffirmed that prevention should be the priority, requiring a balanced and nuanced approach and a strengthening of regional arrangements. Although the issue continues to generate controversy, it is crucial to keep the dialogue going, building on what has been achieved and setting markers for the future in order to erase the complacency and cynicism that has often prevented the United Nations from acting as early or effectively as it should.

2. Children affected by armed conflict

78. In 1996, I appointed my first Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict as a result of the 1996 Graça Machel report on the impact of armed conflict on children, which concluded that in war all the rights to which children are entitled are violated and that as long as the world tolerates the situation, every one of us is complicit. Today, grave violations against children continue to be committed by both State and non-State parties in a conflict, despite the comprehensive and robust normative frameworks that are in place for their protection.

79. The subject of children and armed conflict has been firmly placed on the agenda of the Security Council. In its resolution 1612 (2005), the Council decided to establish a dedicated working group on children and armed conflict to review reports of the Secretary-General on the situations of concern listed in the annual thematic reports. The Council has called on parties to a conflict that recruit and use children to enter into action plans with the United Nations for their immediate release and reintegration and has also called for the establishment of a monitoring and reporting system on grave violations against children. In its resolution 1882 (2009), the Council introduced two new triggers, patterns of sexual violence and killing and maiming of children, for the listing of parties in the annexes to the annual reports of the Secretary-General on the issue.

80. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and its Optional Protocols (2000) on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1999), the Paris Principles (2007) and the seven Security Council resolutions on children and armed conflict, including resolutions 1612 (2005) and 1882 (2009), reflect increased global awareness about deliberate violations against children. Gaps continue to exist, however, in the implementation and monitoring of these norms. Governments in Africa are taking leadership in these areas. In the 2010 N'Djamena Declaration, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Niger, Nigeria and the Sudan made a pledge to stop the use of children in armed conflict and to strive, institutionally and through concrete actions, for the release and reintegration of children. **I call on all stakeholders to renew efforts to meet these challenges.**

3. Refugees, internally displaced persons and stateless persons

81. Africa hosts large numbers of persons displaced by conflict or other causes, requiring increasingly well-coordinated United Nations and African Union structures to respond to their protection needs. Since 2000, the General Assembly has adopted resolutions on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa in order to ensure continued support for a durable solution for displaced people. In 2005, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) started a strengthening protection capacity project to facilitate national responses to protection problems within the framework of the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme and has been working with the African Union to strengthen its response and planning capacity.

82. Over the past decade, the number of refugees in sub-Saharan Africa has dropped from 3.4 million in 2000 to 2.1 million in January 2010. Challenges remain, however, in finding solutions for the refugees, the majority of whom have been trapped in exile for protracted periods of time. The identification and protection of

issues of gender inequality and women's empowerment. While some progress has been made in reducing gender inequalities, gender-based discrimination is a reality throughout much of Africa, reflecting differences in resources, political will and cultural attitudes towards women.

86. Chronic poverty, intergenerational cycles of violence and abusive practices, and the lack of control over and access to reproductive health services, education or employment continue to undermine the advancement of women. Nearly 58 per cent of the estimated 25 million Africans infected by HIV/AIDS are women and girls. Despite Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), in which the Council recognized the major role of women in preventing and resolving conflict and as agents of peace, women continue to be left out of peace processes. At present, only six African countries have achieved more than 30 per cent representation by women in national legislatures. A common feature of the leading four countries on this indicator (Angola, Mozambique, Rwanda and South Africa) is that they have emerged from conflict or civil war. This is an indication that we can turn the threats of conflicts into development-focused opportunities in the continent.

87. Systematic rape and sexual violence against women and children in the conflicts in Darfur, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and northern Uganda have become tools of retribution, social control or collective punishment. In its resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009), the Council recognized the widespread use of sexual violence as an instrument of conflict. I have committed the United Nations to strengthen its work and the effectiveness of its interventions against gender-based violence and gender discrimination of women and girls with the appointment of my Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

88. Gender issues are at the core of the United Nations mandate. Peace and security, development and human rights will find no application and success unless women are an integral, equal and participatory part of those processes. The African Union has declared 2010-2020 as the Decade of Women in Africa. On 2 July 2010, the General Assembly decided to establish a United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women to address fragmentation by initiating stronger coherence and coordination at all levels. **I call on the international community and African Member States to strengthen the capacity of "UN Women" at the country level in order to enable it to effectively support the implementation of Africa's own commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment.**

III. Addressing challenges and harnessing emerging opportunities

3. Organized crime

96. International organized crime, trafficking in persons and illicit drug trafficking are major threats to peace and security. Illegal activities may become a source of funding for insurgent groups that are able to threaten the political and democratic institutions of a State and pose a risk to the stability and security of countries at the regional and global levels. Countries facing the challenges of recovery and peacebuilding and having weak rule-of-law institutions and large uncontrolled borders are fertile soil for the proliferation of illicit activities controlled by criminal groups. The activities of such groups threaten the democratic processes and the very integrity of the State structures in some African countries.

4. Conflicts over natural resources

97. Although the link between natural resources and political conflict is well documented, such conflicts are now aggravated by more exclusive ethnic and regionalist claims. In the Sahel or the Horn of Africa, wars over resources have increased in part as a result of desertification and declining pastures. Land ownership remains a key area of potential tension. Large segments of the population are unable to legally own property, and many women and children have difficulties in claiming their land rights after the death of a male household head. Access to land

104. We have sometimes placed unrealistic expectations on institution-building, realizing that it may take generations to create a functioning State. It is necessary to pace the timing of interventions and reverse the tendency to overload the reform agenda in fragile States to ensure that structural reforms do not themselves become a source of conflict. Dialogue with the country concerned is essential in order to identify those areas and reforms that can move faster and those that should not. We need to accept that some countries are at different stages in their democratic evolution and recognize that conflict changes many of the assumptions on which we rely.

105. The responsibility of the State in terms of its citizens can be strengthened by supporting the development of subnational systems of governance. If supported by adequate policy and legal frameworks and resources, local authorities can advance the participation of communities in the local development process, enhance social cohesion and promote local conflict resolution mechanisms. **In order to tackle Africa's diverse challenges, the international community, in partnership with**

partners to support the cooperation between the African Union and the regional economic communities for conflict prevention and mediation within the framework of the African Peace and Security Architecture and the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union.

3. Responding to organized crime

110. Responding to the operations of criminal organizations requires a concerted effort from the State and its neighbours, especially in the area of border management. Since most conflict-related instruments are designed to deal with national problems, it is necessary to establish transnational mechanisms to respond to organized crime and to strengthen the rule of law in peacebuilding and peacekeeping strategies. The joint West Africa Coast initiative (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime/Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Department of Political Affairs/UNOWA/INTERPOL), in support of priority interventions of the ECOWAS Action Plan on drugs and crime, is an example of an effective regional approach. **In order to effectively respond to threats posed by transnational organized crime and to complement existing initiatives, I will consider ways to strengthen the capacity of peacekeeping missions to deal with organized crime.**

111. Africa has experienced more than \$1.5 trillion in illegal outflows over the past four decades, most of it to western financial institutions facilitated by a shadow global financial system and money-laundering. Improving and ratifying anti-corruption frameworks and strengthening judicial institutions, dealing with the growing traffic of drugs and other illicit commodities, helping African countries to recover assets lost through criminal activities and preventing human trafficking are areas necessitating further attention. Member States should also consider adopting preventive policies, criminalize offences, enhance international judicial cooperation, especially on tax matters, and establish any other necessary and appropriate mechanisms to ensure effective implementation of international and regional instruments. **I call on Member States, the African Union and the regional economic communities to ratify or accede to and implement all United Nations and African Union instruments against terrorism, corruption, drug trafficking and transnational crime, including in the illegal trade of arms and raw materials such as minerals and timber.**

4. Peacekeeping challenges

112. Peacekeeping faces formidable challenges, mismatched resources to successfully respond to its mandate, and in some countries where it operates, minimal political support from local leaders. The role of peacekeepers in protecting civilians, including women and children, with limited resources while confronting armed groups in lawless environments is particularly challenging. Some countries hosting peacekeeping operations have signalled their preference to scale down their military and security components. Suggestions to scale down United Nations troop commitments and shrink existing missions are, in part, driven by peacekeeping processes that have not yielded durable peace or have been unable to adapt to new environments.

113. On 25 May 2010, the Security Council voted to end the United Nations peacekeeping mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) (see resolution 1923 (2000)). The Council has also decided that as of 1 July 2010, the

United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo will be transformed into the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), which will allow the civilian component of the Mission to work with the Government to consolidate the gains achieved so far (see resolution 1925 (2010)). These developments are having a profound impact on how we understand and conduct peacekeeping in Africa. Although Governments bear the primary responsibility for the security and protection of civilians under international law, I remain concerned that the withdrawal of United Nations forces will expose civilians to more violence and abuses, in both Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and impair the delivery of aid to 430,000 people in the former MINURCAT area. The United Nations, the African Union and international partners need to engage in a collective debate on how to better serve the cause of peace in a context in which African countries and institutions are increasingly affirming their responsibility and willingness to take over peacekeeping, peacemaking and the protection of civilians in their territories.

C. Promoting socio-economic development and social justice

114. The equitable distribution of resources and income remains a key challenge in many African countries. During the past decade, economic gains have not automatically trickled down and the needs of vulnerable populations have not always been addressed. Effective social safety nets are lacking in most African countries and although Africa proved to be more resilient than expected, the recent global crisis has caused a significant setback in poverty reduction and in reaching the other Millennium Development Goals. It is now time for a renewed focus on ending poverty, promoting sustainable development and attaining the Millennium Development Goals through a gender-sensitive, rights-based approach to development that takes into account the social and political triggers of today's conflicts and Africa's common position on social integration and integrated social strategies. The need to promote socio-economic development in the continent underscores the preparation of the Millennium Development Goals Africa Steering Group recommendations, which were endorsed by the African Union in July 2008 and covered such critical areas as agriculture and food security, education, health, infrastructure and trade facilitation and the national statistical system. The Steering Group is advocating for Governments, development partners and other stakeholders to place attainment of the Goals at the heart of national development strategies.

115. We must place capacity-development of the State at the centre of all our efforts in Africa. Incorporating the perspectives of diverse populations and empowering the disadvantaged and marginalized in the formulation and implementation of development plans and poverty reduction strategies must be part of these efforts. We must also revisit the debate over the economic foundations of state- and nation-

to Africa's vast natural resources and private sector development. Closer collaboration with the business community, African companies and foreign companies operating in Africa, is essential to ensuring economic growth. Accelerated industrialization and structural transformation are also a precondition to eradicating poverty and minimizing social conflicts and inequality. For this to be effectively achieved, Africa needs to add value to its primary commodities before they are exported in order to command better prices, generate employment and create wealth for Africans. **I call on African States to step up the implementation of the Ouagadougou Plan of Action for promotion of employment and poverty alleviation through the acceleration of employment and decent work programmes for all women and men in their countries.**

comprehensive approach to the most urgent needs, such as the growing demand for food in regional and global markets, and to the long-term development of sustainable food systems that can withstand external shocks, while minimizing the impact of agriculture on forests. Agriculture also has a central role in promoting broad-based sustainable growth and reducing unemployment. **I encourage African States and the international community to invest in smallholder farmers, particularly women farmers, and to promote the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, which includes the creation of safety nets for the hungry poor and direct interventions to improve nutrition.** Appropriately designed safety nets are critical in fragile contexts. **An annual investment of \$25 billion is required to support countries in the preparation of their Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme compacts.**

consider promoting migrant integration, reintegration and intraregional labour circulation as part of their regional economic integration and cooperation agendas.

5. Improving data, statistics and information and communication technologies

123. Statistics are essential to supporting the formulation, implementation and monitoring of development plans and strategies, conducting reliable censuses critical to governance and service delivery, and monitoring development outcomes and progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and the objectives of NEPAD. **I call on all stakeholders, in particular the Commission of the African Union and the African Development Bank, to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations system in intensifying their efforts to support the development of statistical capacity across the continent.** It is also critical to provide assistance to the African Union in monitoring and evaluating its own programmes and the programmes funded by partners in order to assess their impact and to ensure alignment with their own priorities.

124. Information and communication technologies can greatly assist in promoting development and social cohesion in Africa. **I call on all countries to fulfil their commitments regarding technological transfers to Africa and to increase their technical cooperation with African countries.**

IV. Mobilizing resources and partners

125. The recommendations of the Millennium Development Goals Africa Steering Group, which were adopted by the African Union in July 2008, explicitly show that implementation is critical to making appreciable progress on the Millennium Development Goals in the continent, while stressing the imperative of addressing implementation gaps in Africa. The Millennium Development Goals Africa Steering Group, through its working group, has delved extensively into bridging the implementation gaps. It has focused extensively on mobilizing experts and resources for effective implementation of the Goals in Africa. It is proposing a comprehensive implementation package of action points covering: (a) the use of the recommendations with other African Union initiatives as the catalytic basis for an Africa Millennium Development Goals action plan; (b) the creation of an African regional working group that will focus primarily on implementation of the Goals at the national and regional levels; and (c) the use of macroeconomically and sectorally sound investment plans of unfunded Millennium Development Goals interventions in national development strategies in order to mobilize resources through round-table discussions at the global and national levels. **I will proactively engage the institutional members of the Millennium Development Goals Africa Steering Group and the United Nations system to support the African Union in promoting a comprehensive implementation package with a view to accelerating Millennium Development Goals progress in Africa.**

126. The capacity of the State to deliver depends to a great extent on its ability to mobilize national resources and to achieve greater ownership of the budgeting process. Some countries have made reforms that have enabled them to widen the tax base and increase tax revenue. Other areas that require improvement are the management of revenue from natural resources and finding ways to increase the development impact of remittances. Better mobilization of domestic resources

132. What is now needed is not a renewal of the pledges but effective implementation of the commitments made, considering the changing environment and the increased capacity of African Governments and institutions to perform their obligations as effective partners. The United Nations system must acknowledge its own limitations. We must assess our comparative advantages and establish the appropriate partnerships to enhance the capacity of regional organizations as leading actors in peace, relief and development and support the role of States and local authorities in providing stability, jobs and security for their people.

133. The causes and triggers of conflict are multiple and interconnected and none of them can be faced alone. Creating a common strategic framework to reach a consensus on the priorities to be addressed and the areas that have the greatest potential for a multiplier effect is thus critical. This should include a more systematic appreciation for the political economy of armed conflicts, especially those linked to natural resources, and the social and gender-based dimensions of violence. We must ensure sufficient capacity within the United Nations system for conflict-sensitive programming at the country level by engaging with national political governance issues. Developing measurable goals on the prevention of conflict and armed violence will offer the opportunity to integrate security-related themes into the possible follow-up of the Millennium Development Goals after 2015.

134. A security policy that has people, development and social issues at its core recognizes that all efforts at peace and development ultimately hinge on the ability of countries to provide the minimum conditions for human sustenance. Going forward, United Nations interventions will require a simultaneous focus on peace, humanitarian needs and development and a more methodological approach that better integrates the national and international partners involved in humanitarian, development, economic, social and human rights agendas.

135. Working alongside African Governments and institutions, the United Nations system has an important role to play. It must be flexible, innovative, coordinated and responsive to the needs, priorities and vision of Africa and its people. This calls for effective delivery of programmes in the field, learning from recent coordination