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Agenda item 3

Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

South Africa:* draft resolution

Implementation of the social objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 56/218 of 21 December 2001, by which the Assembly established the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly for the Final Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s to conduct, during the fifty-seventh session of the Assembly, the final review and appraisal of the New Agenda and related initiatives on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General on the independent high-level quality evaluation, as well as on the basis of proposals by the Secretary-General on the modalities of the future engagement of the United Nations with the New Partnership for Africa's Development and its resolution 56/508 of 27 June 2002,

Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration¹ of 8 September 2000 and the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development² of 20 September 2002 and General Assembly resolution 57/7 of

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

¹ General Assembly resolution 55/2, annex.

² General Assembly resolution 57/2.

4 November 2002 on the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Welcoming the endorsement of the decision of the Secretary-General by the General Assembly in its resolution 57/300, by which it established the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa with the responsibilities of coordinating the United Nations support for Africa, guiding reporting on Africa and the coordination of global advocacy in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 58/233 of 23 December 2003, in which the Assembly, inter alia, welcomed the creation of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, and requested the Secretary-General to continue to take measures to strengthen the Office to enable it to effectively fulfil its mandate,

Welcoming the adoption of the chapter entitled "Sustainable development for Africa" in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,³

Cognizant of the link between the priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which the international community committed itself to addressing the special needs of Africa, and of the need to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those set out in the Millennium Declaration,

Bearing in mind the reports of the Secretary-General of 20 June 1995⁴ and 12 June 2001⁵ submitted to high-level segments of the Economic and Social Council devoted to the consideration of the development of Africa,

Bearing in mind also that, while the primary responsibility for the development of Africa remains with African countries, the international community has a stake in it and in supporting the efforts of those countries in that regard,

Noting the outcome of the Third Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD III) and welcoming in this regard the adoption of the TICAD Tenth Anniversary Declaration, in which the commitment of the international community in its support of the New Partnership was declared,

Underlining that international cooperation based on a spirit of partnership and solidarity among all countries contributes to create an enabling environment so as to achieve the goals of social development,

Recognizing also the urgent need to continue to assist African countries in their efforts to diversify their economies as well as enhance capacity-building and promote regional cooperation, and in this context note the outcome of the 4th Pan African Conference of Ministers of Public Service, held in Stellenbosch, South Africa from 4 to 7 May 2003,

³ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August to 4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

⁴ E/1995/81.

⁵ E/2001/83.

Recognizing further the serious challenges facing social development in Africa, in particular illiteracy, poverty and HIV/AIDS, malaria and other communicable diseases,

1. *Emphasizes* that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development;

2. *Recognizes* that while social development is primarily the responsibility of Governments, international cooperation and assistance are essential for the full achievement of that goal;

3. *Reiterates* the importance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development;

4. *Reaffirms* the need to strengthen, inter alia, in a spirit of partnership, international, regional and subregional cooperation for social development and implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world";

5. *Reaffirms also* the need for effective partnership and cooperation between Governments and the relevant actors of civil society for the achievement of social development;

6. *Welcomes* the New Partnership for Africa's Development as a socio-economic programme of the African Union that embodies the vision and commitment of all African Governments and peoples;

7. *Welcomes also* the Maputo Declaration on the integration of the secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development in the African Union secretariat;

8. *Welcomes further* the commitment of African countries to peace, security, democracy, good governance, human rights and sound economic management, as well as their commitment to taking concrete measures to strengthen the mechanism for conflict prevention, management and resolution as embodied in the New Partnership, as an essential basis for sustainable development in Africa, and in this context welcomes the ongoing efforts of African countries to develop further the African peer review mechanism, which is an important and innovative feature of the New Partnership;

9. *Stresses* the need for renewed and political will at the national, regional and international levels to invest in people and their well-being so as to achieve the objectives of social development;

10. *Emphasizes* that democracy, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, transparent and accountable governance, and administration in all sectors of society, as well as effective participation by civil society, are among the indispensable foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development;

11. *Emphasizes also* the objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development to eradicate poverty in Africa and to place African countries, both

individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development and thus facilitating Africa's participation in the globalization process;

12. *Underlines* the need for effective partnership and cooperation between Governments and the relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the implementation of and follow-up to the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly and the need for ensuring, in the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, their involvement in the planning, elaboration, implementation and evaluation of social policies at the national, regional and international levels;

13. *Welcomes with appreciation* actions already under way at the regional level to organize the activities of the United Nations system around thematic clusters covering the priority areas of the Partnership, and in that regard urges the strengthening of that process as a means of enhancing the coordinated response of the United Nations system in support of the Partnership;

14. *Notes* the growing collaboration among the entities of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, and requests the Secretary-General to promote greater coherence in the work of the United Nations system in support of the Partnership, based on the agreed clusters;

15. *Stresses*, in that context, the vital need for the United Nations in assisting Member States to achieve the development objectives and targets of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and to mainstream them in an integrated and coordinated manner in United Nations development activities;

16. *Recognizes* that illiteracy, poverty, HIV/AIDS, malaria and other communicable diseases add challenges to Africa's development and urges the international community to continue to increase its assistance to African countries in their efforts to address these challenges;

17. *Welcomes* the Maputo Declaration on the integration of the secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development in the African Union structures;

18. *Welcomes also* the entry into force of several institutions of the African Union foreseen in the Constitutive Act, notably the Pan African Parliament, the Peace and Security Council, the African Court of Human and People's Rights, which will be essential for the promotion of social development and strengthening of democracy in Africa, and looks forward to the rapid entry into force of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council;

19. *Urges* the international community and the United Nations system to organize support for African countries in accordance with the principles, objectives and priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development in the new spirit of partnership;

20. *Invites* the international financial institutions to ensure that their support for Africa is compatible with the principles, objectives and priorities of the New Partnership in the new spirit of Partnership;

21. *Urges* the United Nations system, in coordinating its activities at the national, regional and global levels, to foster a coherent response, including through close collaboration with bilateral donors in the implementation of the New

Partnership for Africa's Development in response to the needs of individual countries within the larger framework of the Partnership;

22. *Welcomes* the decision of the General Assembly to invite the Economic and Social Council, pursuant to its role in respect of system-wide coordination, to consider how to support the objectives of General Assembly resolution 57/7 of 20 November 2002;

23. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, in his efforts to harmonize current initiatives on Africa, to enhance coordination between the United Nations and its specialized agencies, programmes and funds;

24. *Acknowledges* reflection by the Secretary-General of the social dimensions of the Partnership in his report on the priority theme "National and international cooperation for social development" to the Commission of Social Development at its forty-first session and invites him to continue to reflect those dimensions in future reports submitted to the Commission on its priority themes;

25. *Notes [with satisfaction]* the work-in-progress in the five clusters of United Nations agencies established by the United Nations system with a view to operationalizing the renewed interaction, collaboration and cooperation with Africa on the established clusters (infrastructure: water and sanitation, energy, transport, and ICTs; governance, peace and security; agriculture, trade and market access; environment, population and urbanization; and human resources development, employment and HIV/AIDS);

26. *Acknowledges* the linkage between the work of the Committee of African Ministers of Public Service and the programmatic thrust of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

27. *Calls upon* the international development and continental development partners to actively support the governance and public administration programme of the Conference of Ministers of Public Service, through the provision of critical resources, and collaboration in building the capacity of local institutions and their staff to ensure sustainability into the future;

28. *Recommends* the Commission for Social Development continue to give prominence to the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development in its future priority themes;

29. *Decides* to bring the present resolution to the attention of the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session during its consideration of the agenda item entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support".