

United Nations  Nations Unies

THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LE PRESIDENT DE L'ASSEMBLEE GENERALE

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belief that they have a duty to address the development challenges facing their individual countries and the continent as a whole.

The NEPAD initiative has another advantage in that it is not trying to compete with existing initiatives and development plans. Rather it strives to consolidate these ongoing activities by establishing links between them while introducing new elements. African countries are themselves undertaking particular responsibilities and obligations in their own interest. This process has also introduced the concept of new partnerships with quantifiable commitments, contributions and benefits.

The concurrent discussion on UN-NADAF and NEPAD during the 57th Session of the General Assembly gives us a unique opportunity to learn from the lessons of UN-NADAF and outline the conditions required for success of the new initiative.

Today, during the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa's Development, we will hear from distinguished representatives of Member States, who will express their views on how the international community, including the United Nations, can participate in the New Partnership for Africa's Development. During the informal panel discussions in the afternoon, distinguished panelists from the countries that initiated NEPAD will relate their first-hand experiences and their views on the potential for co-operation between the African countries and the United Nations.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish you fruitful discussion and success in your deliberations.