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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

African Regional Iss

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OUR REFERENCE
YOUR REFERENCE

UN/PR/02



July 20, 2007.

Excellency,

On behalf of the African Group, I have the honor to express our sincere appreciation to you for the appointment of H.E. Ambassador Cheick Diarra, Permanent Representative of Mali as High Representative on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. We would indeed be very happy to extend our support and cooperation to Ambassador Diarra in the discharge of his challenging assignment.

The African Group is however concerned by Your Excellency's intention to merge the functions of the Special Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States with all economic and social issues dealing with Africa, including the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD). This proposal entails the merging of sections 10 and 11 of the Programme Budget. This proposed action would undermine the role of the General Assembly as the only body empowered to review the programme budget. Needless to say any proposed change by the Secretariat of any legislative mandate of General Assembly has to be done with concurrence of the General Assembly.

You will recall that in recognition of the special needs of Africa, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa was created by General Assembly pursuant to Resolution 57/300, to specifically mobilize and promote international cooperation in support of NEPAD and enable Africa to achieve the MDGs. The said resolution was the realization *inter alia* of "The Special Needs of Africa" as contained in the Millennium Declaration of September 2000 and the ECOSOC Ministerial Declaration of July 2001 endorsing the creation of the NEPAD Office. In 2003, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union adopted declaration Assembly/AU/Decl.8 (II) on the

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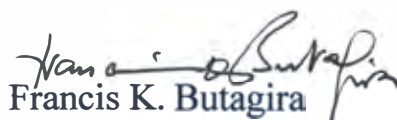
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implementation of NEPAD and to that extent welcomed resolution A/57/300.

Your Excellency, the African Group would like to register its serious reservations over the proposed move as it risks weakening both the administrative rationale and operational focus of your proposal. The African economic and social agenda is too wide, evolving and complex to be appendaged to another department. It merits undivided management attention by the United Nations. Merging the agenda with the mandate of the High Representative for LDC, LLDC, and SIDS and the mandate of its High Representative would not only overload the mandate of the High Representative, but also obscure and marginalize the wider African development agenda. We call for a separate approach to African issues at the United Nations in New York which will address distinctively the concerns of African States as well as be consistent with your repeated pronouncements on strengthening the UN focus on Africa and giving due priority on African issues and problems. We believe however that this goal to strengthen the organization's focus on Africa can best be achieved by retaining and strengthening the Office of Special Adviser for Africa. The African Group therefore stands by the decisions of the General Assembly on this matter and strongly affirms that the office of Special Adviser for Africa be retained and continues its mandate through the early appointment of the Special Adviser for Africa as approved by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination during its 47th Session in June 2007. The African Group would welcome any proposal to strengthen that office short of phasing it out or assigning its functions to another entity. To this end we express our willingness to engage in dialogue with you on how to strengthen this office.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.


Francis K. Butagira

**Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Uganda and
Chairman of the African Group Month of July 2007**

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
of the United Nations
New York, N.Y. 10017

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H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
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For SG's approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	Approved	<input type="checkbox"/>
For SG's attention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Noted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
For SG's information	<input type="checkbox"/>	Seen	<input type="checkbox"/>
For SG's signature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Signed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Date	24.07.2012	Date	
Comment (if applicable): You have already spoken to Amb Butagiro and others by			