**General Assembly
Security Council**

Distr.: General
1 August 2011

Original: English

**General Assembly
Sixty-sixth session**

2004 to $48 billion in 2010, while net disbursements by Development Assistance Committee countries increased from $19.4 billion to $29.3 billion.

for perpetrators to be publicly listed and punished with sanctions. My Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, whose office is now fully operational, has completed a number of missions to shed light on allegations of widespread and systematic rape. The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has taken innovative approaches and put in place mechanisms to help protect civilians in the country, including women and children. The United Nations system and, through it, UN-Women, remains committed to further assisting Member States in implementing gender equality policies and promoting the equitable representation and effective participation of women in all areas of peace, security and development.

29. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in cooperation with other departments and offices, such as the Office for Disarmament Affairs, has provided capacity-building training to defence/security forces on the protection of human rights and accountability for their violation, in particular during election periods.

IV. Emerging challenges

30. In its resolution 65/278, the General Assembly requested me to develop, in consultation with relevant partners, policy proposals on issues identified in my review report. In so doing, it has become clear that as a system we need to better integrate the different policy frameworks in which we engage with Africa. In today's resource-constrained environment, imaginative ideas to ensure synergies and prioritization will be necessary, including the leadership and commitment of the General Assembly and the Security Council in guiding the United Nations system and in establishing appropriate policy spaces to engage with the United Nations and other partners. **I call on the General Assembly and the Security Council, through its Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, to further engage with the United Nations system in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the present report and to provide guidelines on the most pressing and emerging issues.**

31. In the light of the implications for the political and economic development and stability in Africa, this section provides an in-depth analysis and proposes practical recommendations to address two of the most pressing issues on the continent, namely, "youth, education and employment" and "conflict and natural resources".

A. Youth, education and employment

32. Adequate access to quality education and to decent employment is a vital component for poverty reduction, political stability, peace, security and sustainable development. This complex issue requires coordinated and innovative responses that address both the socio-economic dimension of youth education and unemployment as well as the consequences of the exclusion of youth from political participation.

33. In my review report, I called on the United Nations to mainstream and operationalize policies and programmes aimed at empowering youth and creating the necessary conditions to enable them to fully participate in all aspects of society. I also highlighted the need to ensure the appropriate inclusion of youth-related

policies in post-conflict peacebuilding strategies and to step up the implementation of the Ouagadougou Plan of Action for promotion of employment and poverty alleviation.

34. According to the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, 60 per cent of Africa's approximate population of 1 billion is under the age of 25. With the increasing youth bulge, much greater emphasis needs to be placed upon the urgent need to provide them with quality education, skills and decent jobs as well as adequate spaces for effective political and social participation and representation. One of the main drivers of the current discontent in some parts of Northern Africa is, in large measure, the result of years of economic mismanagement, inadequate social investment and the lack of political participation and decent job opportunities for young people.

35. These movements are as much about jobs as they are about justice, equity and democracy. They are creating conditions that could either generate more social, political and economic opportunities or make the aspirations of youth even more difficult to achieve. The outcome will depend, to a great extent, on our success in responding to those expectations. In assisting communities to tackle the root causes of discontent, we must be better aware of their historical, social and political context and ensure that programmes appropriately incorporate local concerns and sensitivities.

36. We must be conscious at all times of the enormous contribution that young people can make to the development of their societies. If we do not recognize and utilize youth assets, the generational cycle of instability, underdevelopment and inequity will continue. The United Nations, through the proclamation of 2010 as the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding, and the African Union, which, at the Summit held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, from 23 June to 1 July 2011, held a debate on "accelerating youth empowerment for sustainable development", have acknowledged that there are today fewer issues more pressing than positively and urgently responding to the aspirations and dreams of the young people.

1. Education

37. The average net primary school enrolment rate is about 76 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa and 94 per cent in North Africa. The majority of African countries are on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of universal primary education by 2015. In general, progress in enrolment rates has been achieved through the abolition of school fees, greater public investments and improved donor support.

address the issue of girls' right to education. In addition to young women, young persons who have disabilities or are refugees or migrant workers are often excluded from the educational system.

39. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization *Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2010: Reaching the marginalized* (Paris, 2010), the average annual financing gap in education for 2008-

cent. The current and ongoing uprisings in North Africa have been attributed partly to youth unemployment, which stands at 31 per cent and 34 per cent in Tunisia and Egypt, respectively.

44. Unemployment figures do not hint to the real challenge. They do not capture other dimensions, such as underemployment and the working poor, which are prevalent in subsistence agriculture and the urban informal sector and affect mostly women, who tend to be congregated into low skilled, low paying, low entry and low exit sectors. Urban unemployment is higher than in rural areas, and young women and young persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected because of social issues and discrimination at the workplace.

45. The economic, social and political costs of non-educated and unemployed youth are extraordinarily high. Without opportunities to earn a living, intergenerational cycles of poverty will persist. Joblessness may fuel young people to engage in crime and violence. With no social protection, many young people, including graduates, survive by taking up activities in the informal economy or migrating to urban areas or to other countries. Although any type of unmanaged migration may create competition for resources and jobs in destination areas, the positive effects of migration, such as financial and social remittances, must be enhanced in order to reap development potential.

46. The private sector in Africa has a central role to play in addressing youth unemployment. There are also significant employment gains to be made if the entrepreneurial potential of women is unleashed towards growth opportunities rather than the informal economy and low-yield, saturated sectors. Now is the time to carefully consider job-generating fiscal, monetary, trade and industrial policies with more local methods of employment creation that respond to local and community aspirations and contribute to the maintenance of social peace and locally based economic development.

49. In December 2009, the General Assembly adopted resolution 64/134 proclaiming the year commencing 12 August 2010 as the International Year of Youth under the theme "Dialogue and mutual understanding". A high-level meeting on youth was held on 25 and 26 July 2011 in New York. The International Year marked an important step in the international community's initiatives to focus on the role of youth and to strengthen their voice in global affairs. During its 17th Ordinary Session, held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in June 2011, the African Union decided to elaborate a technical and vocational education and training framework, specifically addressing the domains of agriculture and information and communications technology, while accelerating the implementation of the Youth Decade Plan of Action. The Economic and Social Council held a high-level segment from 4 to 29 July 2011 and adopted a ministerial declaration calling for more effective international cooperation to achieve the Education for All goals: quality of education, early childhood care and education, skills development and adult literacys7nw 0 a.gple of s7nw educat

participation in decision-making processes through formal and informal consultations in order to identify and aim at removing sources of social, political and economic discontent among young people. United Nations entities should enhance their coordination and efforts towards a more comprehensive and integrated approach to youth development.

55. **I will consider ways to ensure that social and psychological support to youth groups affected by conflict is included, when necessary, in peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development mandates and that adequate assistance is provided to the Ministries of Health, Education or Social Affairs and the Ministries of Employment and to community-based support systems for youth and adolescents in conflict areas.**

56. **I reiterate my call to the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa to mainstream the issue of youth into all clusters and to support sectoral priorities, as identified by NEPAD, capable of securing investments and facilitating the creation of jobs for young people, namely, improvement of infrastructure, development of new information and communications technologies, investment in small farming and small and medium-sized enterprises, and ensuring that health epidemics are brought under control.**

57. **United Nations country teams and presences in post-conflict countries can assist in engaging with young people and prioritizing quality and innovative education (formal and non-formal), such as internships, volunteerism and e-learning, entrepreneurial learning, enterprise training and facilitation of the involvement of youth diaspora as well as on the transition to green economy based on green jobs and renewable energy, especially for women. This could be achieved by partnering with the Global Compact, private businesses and other entities.**

B. Conflict and natural resources

58. The General Assembly has underlined on several occasions the need to address the negative implications of the illegal exploitation of natural resources in all its aspects as a way to promote peace, security and development in Africa, and has condemned the illicit trade in natural resources that fuels armed conflict.

61. In some instances, countries have experienced the so-called "resource curse", as mineral and fuel abundance has generated negative developmental outcomes, including poor economic performance, growth collapses, high levels of corruption, displacement, environmental degradation, serious human rights violations, ineffective governance and erosion of State authority and greater political violence.

62. A number of complex issues arise in this context. These include struggles for land and natural resources fuelling instability and insecurity, significant amounts of pressure for patronage, corruption and conflict among contending groups at the national and international levels and inequalities in the distribution of benefits and revenues, especially to the elite. Some foreign-based companies and sovereign wealth funds have been accused of seeking to exploit Africa's resources in ways adverse to the long-term interests of local populations, thereby promoting the growth of local corrupt elites who, in turn, obstruct the emergence of responsive and accountable states.

63. The extractive industries and the management of land, forests and water and energy security are critical areas that merit further attention.

1. Extractive industries

64. Extractive industries in Africa tend to be export-oriented. Control over the exploitation of and the benefits derived from mineral wealth, such as gold, diamonds and other gemstones, coltan, uranium and timber, have been important factors in the resource wars in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia and Sierra Leone, where the increasing involvement of criminal networks and foreign and national armed groups in economic activities, notably mining, have contributed significantly to insecurity and violence.

will become a growing concern. As the availability of natural resources in non-protected areas dwindles, the protected areas become a focus for poaching, illegal grazing and other human activities, affecting the sustainability of those areas and often increasing the illegal transportation of natural resources across borders, which is often linked to national and/or regional conflicts.

68. The combination of the importance of land rights and tenure systems in determining political and social hierarchies means that Africa's lands are often a matter of intense contestation. Most of the recent conflicts over land are local, have been going on for generations, often feed on pre-existing historical differences between neighbours and are traditionally dealt with at the local level. Indigenous capacities in relation to remedies to climate change issues over land need to be further explored.

69. Land reform, and especially access to it, is a highly sensitive issue throughout Africa. Large-scale acquisition of land by foreigners for industrial agriculture or biofuels has become controversial, and it is seen by some as a threat to the food supply, sovereignty and survival of small-scale farmers. A very small proportion of land is owned or controlled by women. This has negative consequences for the capacity of communities to recover from conflict and re-establish food security, especially when, after conflict, female-headed households are not permitted to reassert control over the land of absent males.

70. Africa is home to the second largest tropical rainforest in the world and to a variety of dry forests. Forests play essential ecological, social and economic roles, and the problems affecting them intersect with issues related to land, food security, water and energy security, fuelwood being one of the main contributions of forests to poverty alleviation. Forests have played a role in fuelling conflict, such as in Liberia, where the term "conflict timber" was coined. They can also stimulate economic growth. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a concessionary and taxation system has been established to ensure equitable benefit-sharing among all relevant stakeholders, including local populations and the State, both at the local and national levels.

3. Water

71. The management of conflicts over water is one of the biggest challenges in the effort to achieve effective global environmental governance. Whereas water is potentially a conflict issue, most major differences over water resources have been resolved through cooperation and negotiation. The UNESCO programme "From potential conflict to cooperation potential: water for peace", for instance, helps promote cooperation and development related to the management of transboundary water resources.

72. Africa has 80 transboundary rivers and lake water basins, including 38 groundwater aquifer basins shared by more than one country. Concerns over the availability of water in the semi-arid region of southern Africa continue as well as those in the Senegal River Basin and the Nile River Basin in the light of the growing populations of the riparian States and an ever-increasing need for energy and water, aggravated by the impact of climate change.

73. Approximately 40 per cent of the population of sub-Saharan Africa still lacks access to safe drinking water, and 69 per cent does not have access to adequate

sanitation facilities. The situation in rural areas is worse, with 53 per cent and 76 per cent of the population not having access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation, respectively. The number of people in Africa experiencing water scarcity may increase by 75 million by 2020, and several hundred million by 2050. The underdevelopment of water resources and services as well as its poor health, energy and power predicament, is at the heart of Africa's food security. The African Development Bank estimates the investment required to meet Africa's water needs at $50 billion to $54 billion per year for each of the next 20 years. Water scarcity also accounts for one of the most significant constraints to women's productivity, with women in sub-Saharan Africa spending over 40 billion hours a year collecting water, the equivalent of a year's worth of labour by the entire workforce of France. The Darfur International Conference on Water for Sustainable Peace was held in Khartoum on 27 and 28 June 2011 to underline the importance of water not only for

Initiative, or the Kimberly Process. NEPAD and the African Peer Review Mechanism provide a platform in which African countries can effectively tackle natural resource management in evaluating governance. It is equally critical to address issues related to corruption, so often linked with the exploitation of natural resources. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime already provides assistance aimed at strengthening anti-corruption authorities and at developing national policies against corruption, in line with the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, FAO, IFAD and the World Bank are developing principles for responsible agricultural investment.

77. The abundance of minerals, fuel or land does not need to determine either the political or the economic trajectory of African countries. Where the illegal exploitation or corrupt and inequitable management of natural resources has been central to conflict dynamics, the early restoration of transparent and accountable resource governance in the post-conflict period is crucial. The UNEP "conflicts and disasters" programme serves as an example of this. The programme provides capacity-building for better governance of natural resources and best practices in

better informed policymaking. Since June 2009, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support have a dedicated environmental policy for United Nations field missions that covers key areas, such as waste, energy, water, and management of cultural and historical resources.

81. The United Nations inter-agency framework team for preventive action, hosted by the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), manages a joint United Nations-European Union programme that brings together the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Political Affairs, the Peacebuilding Support Office, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UNDP and the United Nations Environment Programme to support countries in improving natural resource

86. **I will consider the possibility of deploying experts in natural resource management in peacekeeping operations.**

87. **I call on United Nations country teams and peacebuilding support offices to include in national poverty reduction strategies programmes to promote responsible, equitable, gender-responsive and economically productive resource management in conflict and post-conflict countries in Africa.**

88. **Where national resources form an important national asset, the United Nations should support a national dialogue on the role of natural resources revenues in the society with a view to defining an inclusive growth and development strategy and promoting a more accountable and transparent use of natural resources, including through the enforcement of effective anti-corruption policies. This should be done in coordination with community-based institutions, regional economic communities and the African Union-NEPAD.**

89. **I call on international partners and the private sector to uphold corporate responsibility codes and comply with existing regulatory mechanisms to ensure that natural resource revenues are not diverted into activities that exacerbate conflict.**

90. **I call on all partners to consider the effective use of indigenous and women's knowledge and practices in natural resources management and in mitigation of and adaptation to the impact of climate change, including local mediation mechanisms for land use, such as councils of elders and local peace councils.**

91. **I call on the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa and other partners to assist in building the capacity of existing river basin institutions, such as the Nile River Basin Initiative and Mano River Union secretariat, and the Nubian aquifer system countries so that they are more responsive to the challenges of climate change and conflict in line with existing frameworks for the African Union, the regional economic communities and other partnerships and programmes, such as the ten-year capacity-building programme for the African Union.**