

**PRESS RELEASE Nº 160/2015****COMMISSIONER TUMUSIIME RECEIVES AfDB DIRECTOR**

Addis Ababa- 14 July 2015- Her Excellency Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture at the African Union Commission has today received Dr. Chiji Ojukwu, Director, Agriculture and Agro-Industry Department, African Development Bank (AfDB). The two parties discussed a wide range of areas of mutual interest particularly those relating to supporting the implementation of the AU Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Africa Agriculture Growth and Transformation including the African Fertilizer Financing Mechanism (AFFM).

They discussed the next steps after the operationalization of the AFFM including the work programme and budget; resource mobilization; and how to engage the private



sector in rolling it out especially in regard to importation and distribution of fertilizer; fertilizer policy and regulation; building fertilizer manufacturing facilities and so on. The Commissioner and the Director agreed to bring up these and other relevant issues during the Meeting of the Governing Council of the AFFM to be held on 16 June 2015 on the margins

of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

Commissioner commended the AfDB for the cooperation and support to AUC and especially her department in several areas including agriculture, water and sanitation as well as climate change for development.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Benedict Kanu, AfDB's Lead Agriculture Expert and Officer in charge of the AFFM Secretariat and Dr. Janet Edeme, Head of Division of Rural Economy and Food and nutrition Security in the AUC Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture.

For further information and media inquiries:

Molalet Tsedeke

Media Center Coordinator, Directorate of Information and Communications, AUC

MolaletT@africa-union.org

For further information contact

Directorate of Information and Communication | African Union Commission | E-mail: dinfo@african-union.org | Web Site: www.au.int | Addis Ababa | Ethiopia

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