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**Address on behalf of the CAADP development partners**  
**AU ministerial meeting**  
**1 May 2014**

Excellency, Commissioner Rhoda peace Tumusiime

Honourable Ministers,

CEO of NEPAD, Dr Mayaki

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The European Union, as Chair of the CAADP Development Partners Task Team, is honoured to be given the opportunity to take the floor and address this impressive assembly of over 70 African Ministers.

We wish to congratulate the African Union and NEPAD for organising this Conference of Ministers in charge of Agriculture (including livestock), rural development, fisheries and aquaculture; the Conference constitutes a major milestone leading up to the AU Summit next June.

Development partners have participated and contributed to a number of events, over the last semester, which have progressively built up the agenda that you, Honourable Ministers, will discuss over the next two days. In particular, it is fitting to recall last month's successful CAADP partnership platform organised in Durban and the CAADP Business meeting that endorsed a final draft of the partnership agreement.

This partnership agreement lays out clear roles and responsibilities for CAADP stakeholders, describes relationships and related decisional structures, as well as coordination and accountability mechanisms for delivering efficient CAADP support that is aligned to national priorities.

The African Union's decision to make 2014 the African Year of Agriculture and Food Security is giving agricultural policies a renewed thrust for the next decade. Development partners,

many of them long standing CAADP supporters, recognise that agriculture has the potential of growing millions of smallholders out of poverty. As a consequence, an inclusive and sustainable agricultural development figures high on our development agendas.

We are therefore expecting an ambitious AU summit **Declaration** in Malabo that demonstrates a renewed high level African commitment towards CAADP and agriculture as a key contributor to addressing the major challenges Africa faces in terms of food and nutrition security, economic development and unemployment.

In this perspective, we regard the CAADP **results framework** as a critical component of the CAADP architecture for the years to come (underlying the new CAADP Strategy for 2014-2025).

Above all, it elevates the overall attention to agricultural policy issues, whilst recognising the inclusive engagement of the private sector and civil society.

We also acknowledge that the Results Framework potentially:

- Broadens the CAADP agenda, providing greater coherence between the goals related to agricultural, livestock and fisheries, and an overall African development agenda (employment, value addition, nutrition, environment...).
- Deepens the CAADP agenda, recognising where are the areas requiring a particular impetus of efforts
- Assists to focus on results and impact as well as actions at country level

We expect the Results Framework to help strengthen multi-sector coordination, inter institutional information sharing and cross-ministerial consultation and planning at national and decentralised level beyond agricultural production and product marketing. With agricultural markets, infrastructure and trade being such an important focus for CAADP, it will be important to build bridges with other key Pan African agendas such as Boosting intra African Trade (BIAT) or the Partnership for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA).

It is not a coincidence that many DPs if not all, are also working on aid for trade which is essential to increasing inter African trade.

We also underline the importance of strengthening the CAADP institutional framework giving their full role to regional institutions.

Within such a context, we have been particularly interested in the discussions the present conference has developed around key targets and commitments related to the 5 AU Year of Agriculture sub themes.

Similarly, we welcome the development of a Pan-African Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy Framework and Reform Strategy that should facilitate the integration of this sector into CAADP processes.

Established under an **African leadership**, these commonly agreed targets will drive the objectives and activities of CAADP, at all levels, in the next decade. The adoption of a few common continental priorities and targets for agricultural transformation will offer partners a clear sense of orientation, leading to a better alignment of development assistance.

It should in our view also guide mutual accountability processes of all CAADP partners.

To strengthen the accountability, you will possibly need some form of harmonised national data collection systems, as well as mechanisms to support evidence based planning, implementation tracking and impact identification.

In conclusion,

Allow me to restate the determination of Development partners to contribute to make this African Year of Agriculture a success; this was reflected in the recently held AU-EU summit as it should also in the forthcoming AU-US Summit.

For the next decade, we encourage you to maintain and strengthen your level of leadership and ownership through the elaboration of clear, consistent and long term agriculture policies, strategies and work plans, supported by strong institutions and mechanisms fully integrated into national budgets.

Such focus on implementing CAADP at country level will no doubt catalyse our further support. This support would benefit from a transparent and global mapping of CAADP support flows.

I thank you for your attention and wish you all a constructive conference.