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Resources Development**

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**Statement to the Meeting of Senior Officials**

**By**

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**Representatives of the Government of Mozambique**

**The Director of Trade and Industry at the AUC**

**Representatives of UN Agencies**

**The Representative of the AfDB**

**Representatives of Regional Economic Communities**

**Senior Officials from member States**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

**It gives me great pleasure to address you this morning on behalf of Mr Carlos Lopes, the United Nations Under Secretary General and Executive Secretary of ECA. Let me start by expressing our gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Mozambique for hosting this meeting, being held under the theme: 'Leveraging the Africa Mining Vision for Africa's Renaissance: towards broader ownership'. We are truly thankful for warm hospitality extended to us since our arrival in the beautiful city of Maputo.**

**We thank you for answering our call to attend the meeting at a time when many of you have important family obligations as the year comes to a close. As I acknowledge your presence here in such large numbers, let me also acknowledge emphatically, that the basis of Africa's transformation resides in the manner in which we manage the mining sector and the extractive industry. Mineral resource wealth in Africa has often been described as a curse or a blessing. And, many of us will retort that it is neither a curse nor a blessing. However, some will argue that the curse will follow our**

**generations and future generatios if our efforts are not weighted against the singularly compelling desire of our people to turn their backs at poverty for good, and to do so using the extractive as a compass for prosperity. The blessing is to reset the compass points to a future on which we can weigh the scale of our ambition against a sector that will shore up new jobs, create novel opportunities and design policies, frameworks and mechanisms that will support, accompany and deliver on the bold lifelong project of the Africa Mining Vision.**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

**As you are all aware, it has been more than four years since the Africa Mining Vision (AMV) was adopted by African Heads of States and Governments. The Heads of States and Governments, when they approved the Vision directed that Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resources provide them with a road map for implementing it – a plan of well thought out activities which in their words create, and I quote, a “transparent, equitable and optimal exploitation of mineral resources to underpin broad-based sustainable growth and socio-economic development”. Such a mining sector does not seek to simply address the challenges of African mining, but must re-set the dials of the compass to industrialization to ensure that in the new climate of natural resource exploitation that we not only extract, and but add value to our resources. A new climate of resource exploitation that is cognizance of the environment, and that future generations are not handed down a legacy that is short changing their environmental prosperity and security.**

**As you know, the Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resources Development at their 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session in December 2011 endorsed the Action Plan for the implementation of the Vision, which was subsequently adopted by the Heads of States and**

**Governments in July 2012. Furthermore, the Ministers directed the AUC, in collaboration with UNECA and the African Development Bank to establish an African Minerals Development Center to spearhead the implementation of the AMV. Since then, tremendous effort has been invested in developing the Business Plan for the establishment of the African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC). We will have an opportunity to consider the Business Plan during this meeting. Furthermore, since the 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference of Ministers, efforts have been deployed in broadening knowledge of the AMV throughout the African continent. This work is on-going and this meeting is opportune to broaden the ownership of the AMV among stakeholders.**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

**For the ambitious goals of the AMV to be realized, it is required that the Vision is domesticated at the regional and national levels. At the national level, the development of AMV compliant policies and Country Mining Visions requires multistakeholder participation, including communities. Critically, broadening the ownership of the Vision implies deepening the developmental role of the sector, including its contribution to industrialisation through value addition, economic diversification, and forward, backward and lateral linkages. I strongly believe that an integrated mineral sector contributing to infrastructure development plays a critical role in providing impetus for national growth and development. Furthermore, good mineral sector governance ensures that the benefits of mineral exploitation are optimally collected and utilized in a transparent manner. In that regard, the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) provides a credible home grown framework to entrench good governance principles in the mining sector. I am convinced that the transformative agenda envisaged under the AMV requires an exploration of the linkages and coherence of the interventions**

**that will contribute to the realisation of the AMV and the achievements of the AMDC. Indeed, our theory of change for the AMV needs to embody the core principle of a people centred development; a development that rimes with welfare of the many and a strong coalition of governments and people working collaboratively to prepare a foundational legacy of minerals and extractive that can create the buffer potential for future generations to build on, leverage and nurture.**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

**I would like to assure you that UNECA is committed to supporting the member States and Regional Economic Communities in this journey. As we collectively re-write the new narrative on mining and extractive, we remain determined in our resolve to enter into broad agreement with governments, regional economic communities, private sector, research institutions and men and women of Africa and beyond who remain tireless in their fight for an inclusive and sustainable i growth. The vision of the AMV is a bold one that demands a new narrative. This new narrative can only be achieved if partnership becomes an important lever to redress the balance and create equality of opportunities for the marginalised groups in our respective countries. Together with our other partners in the AMDC, the African Development Bank and UNDP and under the leadership of the AUC, we believe that Africa has made a bold statement in adopting the Vision and creating the roadmap to accelerate the implementation of its aspirations.**

**Ladies and gentlemen, your ideas will enable us to refine our course and to ensure that the vision is riding on a new crest, a change that will usher in a new scripture that will weaken the current power asymmetrical relations, and enable the millions of people in our continent to power their way through to prosperity**

**in a competitive, open and equitable manner. The extent of the vision has been articulated, what we need is to give the vision the wings it needs to take off driven by a firm resolve that the new business model is one that supports profit redistribution, entrepreneurial effort, transparency, knowledge generation and sustainability.**

**Thank you and I wish you a productive meeting.**