

AFRICAN UNION
الاتحاد الأفريقي



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STATEMENT

MADE BY

**HER EXCELLENCY TUMUSIIME RHODA PEACE
COMMISSIONER FOR RURAL ECONOMY ND AGRICULTURE
AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION**

ON THE OCCASION OF

**THE CONCLUSION OF THE CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS OF
THE AFRICAN GROUP OF NEGOTIATORS
WITHIN THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE
OF THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON
CLIMATE CHANGE (COP18 OF THE UNFCCC) AND THE
EIGHTH MEETING OF PARTIES TO THE KYOTO PROTOCOL
(CMP8)**

07 December 2012 Doha, Qatar

**Honourable Terezia Huvisa, President of the African Ministerial
Conference on Environment
Dr. Emmanuel Dlamini, Chair of the African Group of Negotiators
Distinguished African Negotiators,
The Members of Staff of the AU Commission
Ladies and Gentlemen**

I wish to express happiness with the African Group of Negotiators at the way you have been operating through long hours, various working groups, briefings and updates, coordination and cooperation, engaging with other negotiating groups in furtherance of Africa's common position. It is your resilience that has made us go through all this.

I would like to reassure the African Group of Negotiators of the African Union Commission's availability and continued commitment to provide all possible support to AGN and other echelons of the African unified negotiating structure which also includes AMCEN and the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate change (CAHOSCC).

We remain keen to institutionalize our collaboration and support. You are certainly doing well thus far and we would like to see continuity of your efforts and your capacity enhance.

I have already held initial discussions on this with the Chair of the AGN whom I commend for his leadership and understanding.

While I thank you for your hard work and team spirit, I wish to also salute the Honourable Ministers for their political guidance and cohesion through

AMCEN from Arusha to Doha. We look forward for your continued guidance. We also thank all our partners who have been supportive.

Let me also use this opportunity to let you know that I was honoured to lead the African Ministerial delegation that met our European Union Counterparts led by H.E **Change Connie** Hedegaard, Commissioner for Climate change, with whom we exchanged views on the Longterm Cooperative Action, the Kyoto Protocol and the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action and this built mutual understanding and appreciation as part of our engagement with other global entities and building alliances in favour of our common position.

We will be reporting the outcomes of our collaborative efforts (AGN, AMCEN, CAHOSCC and partners as well as other stakeholders) to the forthcoming AU Policy Organ Meetings in January 2013 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, for further guidance at the highest level.

Thank you and bon voyage.