

**Remarks**

**By**

**H.E. Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**

**Minister for Foreign Affairs of the**

**Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and**

**Chairperson of the Executive Council of the African**

**Union**

**At**

**The 5<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting of the**

**Africa-South America Partnership Forum**

**21 February 2013**  
**Malabo**

***Excellency Mr. Agapito Mba Mokuay, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea;***

***Excellency Ambassador Olugbenga Ayodeji Ashiru, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the African Coordinator of ASA,***

***Excellency Mr. Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the South American Coordinator of ASA,***

***Excellency Mr. Ali Rodríguez, Secretary General of UNASUR,***

***Excellency Mr. Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission,***

***Distinguished Heads of Delegations,***

***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the people and Government of Equatorial Guinea for the warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded to us since our arrival in Malabo. Let me also take this opportunity to commend our host for its dedication and commitment to ensure the successful organization of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASA Summit.

My appreciation also goes to our Senior Officials, the two Regional Coordinators – Nigeria and Brazil – as well as the African Union Commission and the UNASUR Secretariat for their effort in

undertaking all the necessary preparation for the holding of the Summit.

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

During the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting in Malabo in November 2011, a number of projects were agreed upon for implementation prior to the convening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASA Summit, which was scheduled to be held in May 2012. Unfortunately, almost two years after not much progress has been made in implementing that decision.

In the light of this, what we need is a serious reflection of the challenges faced in advancing this important and promising partnership. From the agenda of our meeting, we are expected to discuss, among others, the implementation of the ASA priority projects selected from the Joint 2010-2015 Implementation Plan and the setting up of ASA Institutions. We will also consider issues related to the financing of ASA Projects and the Permanent Secretariat. In this regard, I am sure our Senior Officials have thoroughly examined those issues and proposed appropriate recommendations for our consideration.

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

There is no doubt that strengthening our partnership is imperative in addressing poverty and inequality, bring about economic transformation and ensure prosperity for our peoples. Our partnership indeed offers enormous potential to expand our cooperation in sharing experiences and know-how in a number of areas including trade, investment, agriculture, energy, health, education, information communication and technology, culture and tourism, etc. In this regard, I believe the draft declaration reflects our firm commitment to strengthen our cooperation in the different partnership areas.

This being noted, however, we all agree that our partnership should deliver tangible results to the peoples of our two continents. While the 2010-2015 Africa-South America Implementation Plan covers the broad spectrum of our agreed areas of cooperation such as development, peace and security, trade and investment, it is regrettable to note that the Implementation Plan has not been implemented since its adoption three years ago. Hence, I would like to underscore the

need to back our commitments with concrete projects and earmarked funding so that our partnership delivers tangible substance to our peoples.

In this connection, the follow-up mechanism that we put in place should be instrumental in ensuring the timely and effective implementation of the Declaration and the Implementation Plan. This will go a long way in enabling us to achieve the overarching objectives of the Africa-South America partnership through concrete action-oriented projects.

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As you would recall, the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development that took place in June 2012, underscored the need to build upon the Millennium Development Goals in charting the Post 2015 development agenda. The 3<sup>rd</sup> ASA Summit, which is scheduled to be held under the Theme: “Strategies and Mechanisms to Strengthen South-South Cooperation” should, therefore, discuss on how best Africa and South America could work together to ensure that their priorities and critical

development challenges are taken into account in the Post-2015 global development framework.

In this connection, I wish to recall the proposal made by my Prime Minister to establish a Committee of African Heads of State and Government under the leadership of the President of Liberia, H.E. Ms. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, to coordinate and mobilize international support for the African Common Position. I believe this should be one of the areas where our two continents should coordinate their position in multilateral fora to ensure our common interests.

Finally, I would like to conclude my brief remarks by expressing my earnest hope that we will thoroughly evaluate how our partnership has progressed thus far and arrive at concrete decision to move it forward.

I thank you!