STATEMENT

BY

MR CHARLES AWUTOR
AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION

AT THE
CONTINETAL CONSULTATION MEETING ON THE
POST 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

HAMMAMET, TUNISIA
11-12 MARCH 2013
Mr. Khelifi Hmida, Representing His Excellency, Mr. Jamel Eddine Gharbi, Minister of Planning and Regional Development of Tunisia

Mr. Ali Abou –Sabaa, Vice-President of the African Development Bank,

Madam Aida Opoku Mensah, Special Advisor to the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Commission for Africa,

Mr. Ayodele Odusola, Advisor, UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa.

Dear Participants,

Let me first of all, on behalf of the Chairperson of African Union Commission, Her Excellency Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, welcome you all to this important continental meeting on the post 2015 development agenda. She has asked me to convey to you her warm greetings and best wishes and also to register her sincere regrets for her inability to come in person owing to other official exigencies. The Chairperson and indeed the African Union as a whole highly values this process which is in line with its Development Agenda for our continent.

At the out-set, I wish to thank the Government and the People of Republic of Tunisia, our host, and, of course, the African Development Bank for the hospitality and courtesy extended to the delegation of the African Union Commission since our arrival in this friendly and beautiful city of Hammamet.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

As you are aware, with only three years remaining until the 2015 target date for reaching the Millennium Development Goals, Africa’s progress towards the various targets of the MDGs continues to be mixed. It is gratifying to note that significant advances have been made in some indicators such as net primary enrollment, gender parity in primary education, representation of women in decision making, immunization coverage, stemming the spread of HIV/AIDS and water supply. We are, however, concerned with the quality of education as well as the pace of progress towards health-related MDG targets such as child and maternal mortality and access to sanitation. Reducing inequity in access to basic social services also remains a critical challenge for Africa. These inequities explain, in large measure, the continent’s slow progress in attaining the health MDGs.

The time span left until 2015 for the African continent to achieve the MDGs is fast approaching and there is still no clarity within the development community about the fate of the MDGs post 2015. Should the MDGs continue in their current form
with simply an extension of the target year? Should the goals and indicators be substantially revised to reflect changing development priorities and performance on the MDGs by a number of developed and developing countries? Or is it time to do away altogether with the Goals and replace them with an entirely new agenda that focuses not only on social development but also on the productive sector and the enablers of MDG outcomes such as issues of security, political inclusion and good governance, capacity building, ownership of our economic infrastructural, mineral, agricultural and industrial development in order to accelerate our integration process.

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen**

As the international development community evaluates the contribution of MDGs and begins to define a post-2015 global development framework, Africa has already embarked on the process to articulate its common position. Accordingly, with the mandate given by the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government, the African Union Commission in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and the United Nations Development Programme-Regional Bureau for Africa (UNDP-RBA), is in advanced stages of consulting with AU Member States on the post-2015 development agenda. The latters are invited to be deeply involved in and own the process.

Some of the issues that were identified as critical enablers of development during our consultation were institutional capacity development, domestic resource mobilization, participation and ownership at the community, national and global level, social inclusiveness and equality, governance and leadership, peace and security, regional integration and trade, infrastructure development and global cooperation and development.

In addition to the enablers, we reached a consensus that the post-2015 development agenda be led by economic growth, and assessed by indicators of performance in the area of economic transformation and inclusive growth, education, technology and human development.

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen**

The Africa process, that provides for regional and continental engagement has ensured broad participation and contribution of all stakeholders in identifying Africa’s priorities for the post-2015 development agenda. In so doing, one should not lose sight off, amongst others, aligning the Post-2015 priorities with the development programmes and agendas as well as allocating roles and responsibilities to all stakeholders in order to promote adequate ownership at all required levels for a successful achievement of the Post-2015 goals.

The Africa process is also taking full advantage of the opportunity of other forums such as the 5th African Private Sector Forum, the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM)
and the Committee of Directors General of Statistics meeting that were held in November 2012 to consult the private sector and statisticians on the post 2015 development agenda.

This continental meeting is the final consultation process to identify and compile African priorities in all sectors. The outcome of the consultations will culminate in an African common position to be presented at the 6th Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development scheduled to take place in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on 25 and 26 of this month and subsequently to be considered and adopted at the 21st Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in May this year. Finally, the African Union will be presenting the common position to inform the discussion during the 68th United Nations General Assembly in September this year.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

As I conclude, let me reaffirm Africa’s commitment to our collective efforts to identify the key priority areas that need focus in this regard. The African Union considers this exercise as one of its key undertakings in the context of marking the 50th Anniversary of the Organization of African Unity/African Union scheduled to be commemorated in this coming May. The celebrations will provide the opportunity to look at Africa’s achievements registered and challenges faced in the last 50 years: where the continent is currently, where it should be in 50 years’ time, and what it will take to get there? Through what should be known as Africa Wide Development Plan 2063, currently under development at the AUC level. This will certainly be a good opportunity for all stakeholders to reflect on Africa’s priorities on the post 2015 Development Agenda,

Let me express here the sincere hope of the African Union Commission for fruitful outcomes of our deliberations in our endeavour for a developed and prosperous Africa.

I thank you for your kind attention!