



**Official Opening Speech By H.E. Mr. Wondirad Mandefro, State  
Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Ethiopia  
at the Pre-HLM workshop to end Hunger in Africa**

Dear Dr. Abebe Hailegebriel, Director AUC- DREA,

Senior experts and officials of the AU and FAO,

Development experts from Brazil, China, Vietnam and African countries,

CSO representatives, invited guests and participants of the workshop,

First I would like to welcome you all to Addis Ababa, and I am grateful for having this opportunity to open this timely workshop. As you understand from its aim the workshop plans to prepare a road map to end hunger in Africa which will then be presented to the High Level Meeting of heads of states of Africa and other partner countries and of leaders of heads of agencies to help them renew their commitments to achieve the objective of Zero Hunger with strong sense of partnership.

Africa has long been regarded as hopeless continent for lack of coherent leadership, widespread poverty and hunger and civil strife till the beginning of the millennia. However, the last decade has shown dramatic progress and more recently is regarded as the fastest growing continent with an average of 5% annual economic growth. However, while good improvement is being made in terms of overall development, the status of food and nutrition security still remains critical with an estimated 25% of the entire African population classified as undernourished.

The decision of African heads of state to promote agriculture program through CAADP in 2003 shows the commitment and determination to put Agriculture as a basis of addressing food insecurity, poverty and stagnation in socio-economic growth. Accordingly, it has helped countries design comprehensive policies and strategies, ensure better allocation of local resources and better coordination and resource mobilization. Despite this positive trend, however,

the challenge to end hunger and ensure better livelihood to our people is a daunting task. Timing in this agenda is very critical and we need to act collectively and mobilize all resources and wisdom due to the real sense of urgency. Because we are dealing with the most hunger the most dehumanizing phenomenon. Let me take this opportunity to appreciate the initiative of the AU, FAO and the Former Brazilian President Lula de Silva to renew partnership to end hunger in Africa. This is a timely move as it coincides with Tenth year of CAADP process and calls for renewal and reinvigoration towards ensuring socioeconomic growth and food security of all our people in the continent.

Ethiopia has launched the CAADP in August 2009 and developed the Agriculture Sector Policy and Investment Framework (PIF) as a ten year roadmap (2010-2020) and is well aligned with a five year Growth and Transformation Plan. At present we are at the mid of implementing the Five Year Growth and Transformation Plan (2010-2015) which envisions to transform agriculture towards significant increase in productivity and exports and lay the ground for transition to making Industry lead the Economy.

The plan exceeds CAADP growth rates and considers implementation of the CAADP pillars through flagship programs for each of the pillars. There are more than 300 districts (woredas) covered by the Productive Safety Net (PSNP) and Household Asset Building (HABP) programs, 55 districts covered by Sustainable Land Management (SLMP) and 94 districts covered by Agricultural Growth Program all focusing on food security and agricultural commercialization activities. Priority is towards supporting smallholder farmers and pastoralists to provide comprehensive support in order to enhance their productivity and production of agricultural produces. Supply of modern inputs and expand the use of improved technologies is given emphasis to transform agriculture and increase productivity. While growth and use of technology is promoted special focus is given towards conservation and efficient utilization of natural resources so that a drought resilient economy is created the growth is sustained. A special intervention has been started in the last five years towards developing water and infrastructure for pastoralists in the low land areas to provide sustainable livelihood based on livestock and irrigated agriculture thereby integrating with voluntary resettlement. The program has been scaled up since 2010 and has been a lifeline for millions of pastoralists during the

2011 horn of Africa drought incidence. Livestock has always been recognized as a pillar of the economy in the GTP and it is now organized as sector under the ministry of agriculture. Expansion of large scale farms producing agricultural products which could be used as inputs to manufacturing industries is also given attention to achieve export revenue.

Good policies need to have efficient and effective implementation in order to deliver results. In this regard the country is in the process of reform so that the service delivery is responsive to and supports the dynamism of the fast socio-economic development. With the aim of enhancing the all round implementation capacities there is a move towards changing the attitude of all nationals and create a consensus towards hard work and self-reliance to eradicate poverty and thus reach the middle income countries within the coming 10-15 years.

The initiative of Ending Hunger in Africa is in line with our national objective and will add big value if it is well accepted by all African nations. This will create a possibility of learning from each other and through promoting trade and investment among Africans. Infrastructure development will promote regional integration which will then contributes towards knowledge and capital movement to create synergy to end hunger and ensure sustained development in the continent.

Finally, on behalf of FDRE, MoA and myself I want to assure you that we are committed to work closely with all partners to achieve the objective of the initiative of ending Hunger in Africa and provide all round support towards implementation.

Hoping that knowledge and experiences from different corners of the world be analyzed through presentations and discussions and come up with clear road map and implementation framework to renew commitment of African Nations to see a hunger free Africa I renounce that the workshop is officially open.

I wish you success in your discussions and enjoyable stay in Addis Ababa.

Thank you.