

**DRAFT STATEMENT BY H. E. JERRY JOHN RAWLINGS (RTD)  
FORMER PRESIDENT OF GHANA AND AFRICAN UNION HIGH  
REPRESENTATIVE FOR SOMALIA AT THE AFRICAN UNION  
INTERNATIONAL PLEDGING CONFERENCE –  
25<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2011, ADDIS ABABA**

**Your Excellency, President Theodoro Mbasogo Obiang,**

**Distinguished Chairman of the African Union,**

**Your Excellency Dr. Jean Ping, Chairman of the African**

**Union Commission,**

**Your Excellency, Abdoulouye Jannie, Executive Secretary of  
the ECA,**

**Distinguished Delegate, Ambassadors,**

**Corporate, Executives**

I would like, on behalf of the teeming millions in the horn of Africa, particularly my dignified brothers and sisters in Somalia, to thank the African Union for convening this pledging conference today in our historic city of Addis Ababa.

I would like to thank the media, the NGOs and other International Organizations, particularly OXFAM for the very informative and lucid briefing document "Africa must Act for Africans now in the horn of Africa.

Your Excellences,

Even as I speak now, African citizens once again face famine. 12 million men, women and children are in dire need of food, clean water and basic sanitation in the horn of Africa. 12 million African brothers and sisters are suffering the worst food crisis for many years. **If we do not act urgently, they face slow, certain death by starvation.**

What is even more disheartening is that this crisis was entirely avoidable. It is sad that in the year 2011, where there could be enough food for everybody, 12 million of our brothers and sisters in the horn of Africa are facing death from food insecurity in a crisis which could have been avoided if we had tackled the root causes. We acknowledge that drought may have

become inevitable as a result of many causes, including climate change and our failure to address issues of global warming. We can argue about the science or where to allocate blame.

But for now, however, we urgently need to address the immediate problem. We need to save the lives of our people in Somalia and the horn of Africa. The United Nations tell us, we need 2.5 billion dollars now, just to meet immediate needs. Though we may have made some progress, and here, I must thank the numerous Governments and agencies who have mobilized funds, such as the United Kingdom, the United States, Algeria, South Africa etc to name but a few, we are still 1.3 billion dollars short. And here we are only talking of immediate emergency needs.

Our Governments in Africa need to contribute at least 50 million dollars urgently to the African Union Humanitarian Disaster Fund. When we talk endlessly about "Ownership", and "Leadership", this crisis has, in my view, provided us with the

challenge and with this challenge comes the opportunity, to, as it were redeem ourselves as Africans. OXFAM has compared the scale as well as the significance of the challenge facing us today with the call made at the all Africa Peoples Conference in Accra in 1958, where Independent African states and nationalist movements rallied together for independence. The result was the winds of change. But that was then.

Today, African Governments, multilateral institutions, Corporate Africa, as well as the teeming masses must rally together to arrest this situation. But beyond the immediate urgency, we must ensure that we address the root causes and not simply throw money at it and wait for another emergency, in a few years. We need to involve the Somalia people themselves, to draw from them the morality of consent. That, in my view is the only way to establish effective national Government which will have the support of all the people. Here, I once again must salute Uganda and Burundi, the core of AMISOM, for the sacrifices,

without which we would not be where we are today. Their sacrifices have made it possible for us to reach people in need and to distribute food and medicine. And finally, Africa and the International Community urgently need to break the chronic cycle of food insecurity and we must do this once and for all. I would like to thank your Excellencies for your kind attention.