

**Statement by Dr. Donald Kaberuka, President of the African
Development Bank Group, on the occasion of the Horn of
Africa Pledging Conference**

Addis Ababa, 25 August 2011

**Mr. Chairman, President Obiang Nguema, Your Excellencies,
Ladies & Gentlemen,**

**Much has been said this morning - very pertinent and which I fully
endorse.**

**But allow me to very briefly spell out what we at the African
Development Bank intend to do.**

**Let me begin by applauding you, Mr. Chairman, for this initiative
and so my good friend Jean Ping for the invitation to join you for
this African –led platform towards a long term solution for the
recurring cycle of the problem, under discussion today, and whose
scope, extent, complexities and ramifications are well articulated in
the papers before us, and in the statements made so far.**

**What needs to be done, now, immediately, to mitigate the suffering
while addressing the root causes have been effectively spelt out by
many speakers today, which we can fully associate with.**

“A Consensus has been built”

Time has come to put an end to these repeated cycles of famine in the Horn.

The technical solutions, whether they relate to robust water resource management, arid zone farming techniques, modernization of the pastoral economies – most of the solutions are known.

They are not beyond our grasp.

Many countries in Africa and elsewhere in the World have accumulated valuable experiences on how to sustain livelihoods and economic activity in even more hostile environment or those subject to idiosyncratic climate behavior.

So how do we get it right this time?

FIRST:

While we can blame mother nature for a lot of what is happening, we need to take a careful look at acts in the past, all of us including donor agencies- that exacerbates the impact of the droughts and other natural disasters. It is certain that some forms of traditional livelihood need to change – and we should facilitate that transition.

- We know quite well, that, as we seek to cope with the immediate impact of the crisis, that sooner or later, we will be

facing another cycle of droughts perhaps getting more severe each time.

- Doing the same things and each time expecting a different outcome is what we should bring to an end.
- These are not sudden like Tsunami emergencies. We know months ahead the extent of these so called “slow emerging emergencies”. Indeed, as we heard from Prime Minister Meles, some Governments active on early warning systems were able to take pre-emptive actions.

SECOND:

The challenge we face is one of recurrent drought, Internally Displaced Persons and refugees that indeed require financial resources, the reason we are here today.

Money is indeed needed but we need more than money. Somalia, for many years was able to feed herself and was a net exporter of agricultural produce before 1990.

Peace, lasting peace, must return to the Horn, especially in Somalia.

The long term solutions, to which we are now all committed, are both national and regional.

These solutions are necessarily premised on a stable, peaceful region, without flow of refugees and Internally Displaced Persons.

Peace building, strong cross-border cooperation must underpin all efforts for a durable solution. The solution will be both national and regional.

We applaud and encourage all efforts to bring back peace and viability to Somalia, and we are prepared to play any supportive role, in line with our mandate – and I join those who have urged for greater support to AMISOM.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies,

It has been said several times this morning; the drought in the Horn is the worst in a long time.

But what we face is more than drought.

What many of our countries are facing or likely to face are a combination of issues, impact of climate change, excessive volatility in food prices across the World and dysfunctionality in the markets.

They require multiple responses with each one of us acting in their domain of specialisation.

“The Commitment of the African Development Bank”

Mr. Chairman,

While “humanitarian mission” is not our mandate, the African Development Bank has joined in the efforts of providing humanitarian support to the affected countries to the tune of US\$ 4 million, which we have already disbursed via competent organizations.

But our role is that of building resilience in the long term in this region, resilience to resist shocks and consolidating foundations for steady, strong and broad based economic growth, which is the ultimate form of resilience.

I know that this is where you all expect us to bring our expertise and resources to bear.

That is what we will do, and have embarked upon.

Our response will be both national and regional, working closely with AU and IGAD.

You will be pleased to hear that we have recently completed a comprehensive study on sustainable livestock development in the Greater Horn.

We look forward to its validation by member states of IGAD shortly.

It is a carefully costed investment program of over 15 years, which we believe, building on what others are doing, has potential to change the dynamics of livestock management in the region.

This is a critical element of building resilience and eliminating extreme impacts of drought in this region.

We are supporting this program financially.

We are putting in place a special regional program for the Horn, over and above what we have already committed, as well as our activities such as quick disbursing programs for individual countries. I am pleased to announce that we will be committing three hundred million dollars (US\$ 300 million) for the period 2011-2013 for the first part of this special Regional program.

We will renew that commitment beyond 2013 with additional resources for water and agriculture infrastructures and promoting economic opportunities in vulnerable regions.

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen,

To conclude, drought is not unique to the Horn of Africa.

Many other regions in Africa will increasingly become vulnerable, to varying degrees, as a result of climate change.

Developing appropriate national adaptation plans to climate change will become critical to cope with distressed ecosystems.

To this extent, you will be pleased to know that the Joint AU/AfDB/ECA program “CLIMDEV AFRICA” to enhance climate information will shortly be operational.

At the COP 17 in Durban, we must redouble our efforts to secure broad support for the African Green Fund.

I would like to assure you of the support of the African Development Bank in this common endeavor of returning the Horn into a resilient Region.

Thank you.