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**STATEMENT BY HER EXCELLENCY, TUMUSIIME RHODA PEACE,  
COMMISSIONER FOR RURAL ECONOMY AND AGRICULTURE,  
AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION (AUC) AT THE CLOSING OF  
MINISTERIAL SEGMENT OF THE FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION OF  
THE AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT  
(AMCEN), BAMAKO, MALI, 16 SEPTEMBER 2011**

- **Mr. Chairperson**
- **H. E. Professor Thiemoko Sangare, Honourable Minister of Environment and Sanitation, Republic of Mali and President of AMCEN**
- **Honourable Ministers and Heads of Delegation**
- **Dr. Mounkaila Goumandakoye, UNEP Director, Regional Office for Africa (ROA)**
- **Representative of the UN Economic Commission for Africa Dr. Josue Dione**
- **Representative of the Pan-African Parliament**
- **Representative of the African Development Bank**
- **Representative of UN Agencies and Development Partners**
- **Representatives of the Regional Economic Communities**
- **Eminent Experts**
- **Member of the Diplomatic Corps, the Press Corps and the Civil Society**
- **Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen**

I have the honour to address you all at the closing of the Fourth Special Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN).

**Honourable Ministers**, you will all agree with me that it has been worthwhile time spent here in Bamako as mandated by the decisions of the July 2011 AU Summit held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea on convening this session to consider and endorse the Updated African Common position on Climate Change for COP 17 \CMP7 for submission to the Committee of the African Heads and State on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) and on Africa's preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

**Honourable Ministers,** we have exchanged views on our preparations for COP 17 \CMP 7. Part of our strategies include: maintaining our unity of purpose in the negotiations, having a stronger voice; and effective communication of the Africa's common position and interests. On this we would like to still reiterate the following for COP 17\CMP 7:

- I. Maintaining two tracks in the negotiations on the Long Term Cooperative Action of the Convention including the Bali Road Map and the Kyoto Protocol.
- II. Urging the Transitional Committee to expedite action towards Durban in the design of the Green Climate Fund and the Technical Executive Committee on the work of the technology transfer and capacity building to advance adaptation to climate change in Africa.
- III. Urging our Developed Countries Partners to consider the plight of the teeming African populace most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and to take on more ambitious emission cuts for a Second Commitment Period and to further ensure the survival of Planet Earth from the different climate-related disasters.
- IV. Africa's expectation is for a 'Legally Binding outcomes' at Durban.

V. Once again urging all Africans to participate at the African Pavilion at COP 17 \ CMP 7

VI. Rallying round the incoming COP 17 Presidency of South Africa to ensure Durban is successful.

On Africa's preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), **Honourable Ministers**, allow me to also emphasize that we intensify of our preparation and more inclusive across all sectors; and I would like to seize this opportunity to call upon our experts to enhance the elucidation of the concept of the Green Economy for a greater buy-in as a means of achieving sustainable development in our continent. On the International Environmental Governance, I would like to appeal to Member States to implement the decision of the July 2011 AU Summit to ensure that all African countries benefit from the pillars of International Framework on Sustainable Development; economic, social and environment.

Honourable Ministers, I would like to once again invite you to the First Conference of Parties of the Bamako Convention and Forum of Sustainable Development taking place here in Bamako from 3 – 6 October 2011, which we are co-organizing with the Government of Mali, UNEP and other Partners. I would also like to convey our sincere appreciations to the Government and the people of Mali for hosting the Fourth Special Session of AMCEN, to Her Excellency, Madam Cisse Mariam Sidibe Kaidama, Prime Minister of Mali for sparing time from the busy schedule at the Presidency to open this Special Session. I also thank the AMCEN President, Honourable Thiemoko Sangare for the matured and excellent way he has conducted the Session and all our

Honourable Ministers and the Heads of Delegation for the active participation and the constructive work done and especially for your leadership on issues of climate change and sustainable development. Permit to also recognize the AMCEN Experts and our African Group of Negotiators for the tireless work and in fact working late in the night. We thank the AMCEN Secretariat, AfDB, UNEP, UNECA, ACPC; and other UN Agencies and Development Partners for their collaboration throughout this preparatory process. I further would like to thank the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), the RECs and everyone for participating at this Special session. We also thank all our interpreters, technicians and the media for facilitating this successful meeting.

I would like to assure you of the commitment of the African Union Commission to AMCEN for the necessary follow up and that we will take this report through the appropriate AU organs for submission to the January 2012 AU Summit.

Once again, I salute our Chairman and all Honourable Ministers for your able leadership and stewardship.

I wish you all bon voyage to your respective destination and thank you all for your kind attention.