

**OPENING REMARKS**

**BY**

**H.E. Mr. HAILEMARIAM DESALEGN,  
PRIME MINISTER OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA  
AND CHAIRPERSON OF NEPAD HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT  
ORIENTATION COMMITTEE (HSGOC)**

**AT**

**THE 28<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF NEPAD HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT  
ORIENTATION COMMITTEE**

**26 JANUARY 2013**

**ADDIS ABABA**

*President Boni YAYI of the Republic of Benin and Chairperson of the African Union*

*Excellencies Heads of State and Government,  
Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-ZUMA, Chairperson, African Union Commission,  
Excellency Dr. Carlos Lopes, Executive Secretary of UNECA,  
Excellency Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD Agency,  
Distinguished Delegates and invited guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

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On behalf of the Government and the people of Ethiopia and that of my own, I warmly welcome you all to Addis Ababa and, in particular, to the 28<sup>th</sup> session of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee.

This is the first NEPAD Summit since the passing away of the Late Prime Minister of Ethiopia and Chairperson of NEPAD, H.E. Mr. Meles Zenawi. He was a symbol of Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance that NEPAD expounded. His enduring legacy is premised on two factors derived from the NEPAD vision, namely - African Ownership and of a Strategy for Long-Term Growth. Evidently, his legacy is witnessed on the ground here in Ethiopia. The late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi was in the vanguard spearheading the African Union common positions on Climate Change and South-South Partnerships at various regional and international fora. He viewed NEPAD as the change model for managing Africa's relations with the international community with a view to advancing Africa's interest in peace and security and development.

***Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,***

The integration of NEPAD into the structures and processes of the African Union has been a welcome development. With the establishment of the NEPAD Agency in 2010, NEPAD is today ready to take up its responsibilities as the technical and executing body of the Union.

Equally, the programme harmonization process between the NEPAD Agency and the African Union Commission is on course and should receive our support. The result of this harmonization exercise will help enhance coherence, coordination and programme impact for increased regional integration.

Likewise, we must strengthen our resolve to build on and sustain the modest gains of the past decade, in order to achieve inclusive growth and prosperity on our continent. Africa needs to scale-up the implementation of NEPAD priorities particularly agriculture, food security and infrastructure development under the auspices of the African Union.

In this respect, the NEPAD Orientation Committee should continue to give support and guidance to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA).



In providing new impetus for NEPAD, it is essential that we come up with innovative mechanisms to substantially increase domestic resources so that we can reduce the current high dependence on aid for the implementation of our regional programmes. The first step in addressing this challenge is the policy study on Domestic Resource Mobilization for NEPAD programmes being coordinated by the NEPAD Agency, UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and UNDP. A Summary Report will be presented at this meeting.

***Excellencies,***

We are proud to have in our midst the new Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr. Dlamini Zuma. She is attending the NEPAD Orientation Committee for the first time in her capacity as Chairperson of the Commission. It is with great pleasure and satisfaction that we welcome her and reaffirm to her our full support as she begins discharge her heavy responsibilities. We are convinced that the Chairperson of the Commission will continue to support the NEPAD agenda and utilize the technical services of the NEPAD Agency to the maximum level possible.

Let me also add here that we are delighted that under the leadership of the AU Commission, the NEPAD Agency is supporting the design of the Union-wide Strategic Agenda for the next 50 years. The Strategic Direction of the NEPAD Agency will be derived from the Union-wide Agenda and the Strategic Plan of the Commission for the years 2014-2017. Undoubtedly, the ultimate goal of an integrated and prosperous Continent is not only a noble goal but also perfectly achievable.

***Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,***

We thank the Commission and Regional Deans in Addis Ababa for a work well done in finalizing the selection process of the membership of the NEPAD HSGOC. We are indeed committed to advancing the inclusiveness and principle of rotation enshrined in the recently adopted Rules of Procedure of NEPAD governance structures.

Finally, I would like to reiterate the commitment and continued support of the Government of Ethiopia to the full realization of the NEPAD vision, objectives and programmes. In solidarity with Members States of the African Union, my Government will continue to serve the interests of the African Union and its NEPAD Programme.

I hereby declare open the 28<sup>th</sup> session of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee and wish us all fruitful deliberations.

Thank you for your attention