



STATEMENT OF THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION

**TO THE 12TH SESSION OF THE REGIONAL
CO-ORDINATION MECHANISM FOR AFRICA**

ADDIS ABABA, 21 NOVEMBER, 2011

**YOUR EXCELLENCY, CO-CHAIR, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY
GENERAL, MADAM ASHA-ROSE MIGIRO,**

**YOUR EXCELLENCY UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL AND
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF UNECA, MR ABDOULIE JANNEH**

**YOUR EXCELLENCIES THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE AFRICAN
UNION COMMISSION**

**YOUR EXCELLENCY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE NPCA,
DR IBRAHIM ASSANE MAYAKI**

**YOUR EXCELLENCY UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL AND SPECIAL
ADVISER ON AFRICA, AMBASSADOR CHEICK SIDI DIARA**

**YOUR EXCELLENCY UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL AND HEAD OF
UNOAU, AMBASSADOR ZACHARY MBURI-MUITA**

**YOUR EXCELLENCY, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL, UNESCO,
MADAME LALLA BEN BARKA**

REPRESENTATIVES OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF AU MEMBER STATES TO THE
AU**

**REPRESENTATIVES OF UN AGENCIES AND OTHER
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

**ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN UNION
COMMISSION, H.E. MR JEAN PING, LET ME JOIN THE DEPUTY
SECRETARY GENERAL AND OUR HOST, UNDER SECRETARY**

GENERAL AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY,MR JANNEH, IN WELCOMING YOU ALL TO THE 12TH SESSION OF THE RCM. THE CHAIRPERSON HAS ASKED ME TO CONVEY HIS REGRETS FOR HIS INABILITY TO ATTEND THIS SESSION , THE TWELVE,ON ACCOUNT OF AN UNAVOIDABLE COMMITMENT.HE WOULD INDEED HAVE LIKED TO ATTEND YET ANOTHER ANNUAL GATHERING OF THE RCM WHICH WE IN THE AU INCREASINGLY LOOK FORWARD TO ATTENDING.

MADAM DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL,WE WISH TO PLACE ON RECORD THAT INCREASINGLY,AND ESPECIALLY SINCE THE PAST TWO SESSIONS OF THE RCM, WE IN THE AU HAVE COME TO ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THIS MECHANISM FOR ITS POTENTIAL TO ENHANCE IN CONCRETE AND PRACTICAL WAYS, OUR CO-PERARATION WITH THE UN FAMILY IN SUPPORTING THE CONTINENT'S QUEST FOR PEACE AND SECURITY; SOCIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AS WELL AS ENHANCED DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE. IT IS OUR CONSIDERED VIEW THAT PROGRESS MADE IS PARTLY DUE TO YOUR COMMITMENT AND PERSONAL INTEREST, AS MANIFESTED THROUGH YOUR INDEFATIGABLE EFFORTS, IN MAKING THE RCM A WORTHY INSTRUMENT OF UN COOPERATION WITH AFRICA, EMBRACING NOT ONLY THE AU BUT OUR NEPAD AGENCY AND THE RECS, WHICH ARE THE BUILDING BLOCKS IN BLOCS OF THE INTEGRATION PROCESS.

I ALSO WANT TO PLACE ON RECORD OUR VERY DEEP APPRECIATION TO MY BROTHER AND FRIEND,THE UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY GENERAL OF ECA,MR ABDOULIE JANNEH,WHOSE VISION AND ENDURING INTEREST HAVE HELPED TO MOVE THE RCM PROCESS FORWARD,INCLUDING THE CONTRIBUTIONS,BOTH FINANCIAL AND OTHERWISE, THAT THE ECA,THROUGH THE RCM UN/AU JOINT SECRETARIAT, HAS MADE TO THE PROGRESS WE CONTINUE TO

WITNESS IN EFFORTS TO ENHANCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN/AU TEN YEAR CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON,

THE IMPORTANCE THAT WE ATTACH TO THE TYCBP PROGRAMME AND INDEED TO THE BROADER SUBJECT OF CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE CONTEXT OF AU UN RELATIONS NEEDS TO BE UNDERLINED; AND INDEED WE ARE GRATIFIED THAT AT LAST YEAR'S SESSION OF THE RCM IT WAS THE CONSENSUS THAT THE THEME FOR THIS YEAR SHOULD BE "CAPACITY BUILDING". IT IS FITTING AND TIMELY THAT IT SHOULD BE SO.

AS WE KNOW,THE VALUE OF AU/UN COOPERATION AND SUPPORT,THE PURPOSE OF WHICH IS TO BUTTRESS AND ENHANCE THE CONTINENT'S CAPACITY TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF ITS PEOPLES,HAS BEEN MANIFESTED IN A NUMBER OF AREAS,INCLUDING THE MDGs, PEACE AND SECURITY,DEMOCRACY, HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS,TO NAME ONLY A FEW.IN THE FIELD OF PEACEKEEPING FOR EXAMPLE, STATISTICS SHOW THAT THE UN SPENDS AS MUCH AS 60 PERCENT OF ITS PEACE FUNDS IN AFRICA. EQUALLY MANY UN PROGRAAMES AND AGENCIES SPEND CLOSE TO 2/3 OF THEIR GLOBAL RESOURCES IN AFRICA.

WHILE WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THERE IS NEED TO ENHANCE THE CO-ORDINATION, CO-OPERATION AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN AU AND THE UN SYSTEM, WE ALSO WANT TO UNDERLINE OUR SATIFACTION WITH THE PROGRESS THAT WE HAVE MADE IN THE PAST TWO YEARS STARTING FROM THE TENTH SESSION OF THE RCM AND FOLLOWED BY THE 11TH, IN PROMOTING GREATER SYNERGY WHILE ENHANCING THE AU'S OWNERSHIP OF RCM PROCESSES AT THE SAME TIME.

INDEED ,MADAM CHAIRPERSON,THE ELEVENTH SESSION AND THE IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED IN ITS AFTERMATH,HAVE MARKED A MAJOR TURNING POINT. FOR NOT

ONLY DID WE DELIBERATE ON THE LANDMARK REPORT WHICH WAS COMMISSIONED BY ECA FOR THE FIRST TRIENNAL REVIEW OF THE TEN YEAR CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME,WE ALSO MADE A RECOMMENDATION CALLING FOR THE ELABORATION A RESULTS BASED COMPREHENSIVE CAPACITY BUILDING WORK PLAN AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE TYCBP. TO COMPLEMENT THESE IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS,AND FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, A REPORT WAS SUBMITTED BY THE AU COMMISSION TO THE AU SUMMIT ON ITS IMPLEMENTATION, DURING WHICH MINISTERS OF AU MEMBER STATES, MEETING IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, NOT ONLY AFFIRMED THEIR CONFIDENCE IN THE POTENTIAL OF THE TYCBP TO ASSIST THE AU COMMISSION TO DELIVER ON ITS DEVELOPMENT MANDATE, BUT ALSO CALLED ON THE COMMISSION TO SUBMIT REGULAR REPORTS RELATING THERETO.

YET ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT OF NOTE IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE LAST RCM, WAS THE ORGANISATION OF A LANDMARK RETREAT ON THE TYCB, AS A FIRST CRITICAL FIRST STEP PRIOR TO THE ELABORATION OF THE CAPACITY BUILDING WORK PLAN FOR THE TYCBP. THE RETREAT WAS HELD AT THE BEHEST OF THE AU COMMISSION AND ORGANISED WITH SUCH SUCCESS BY THE AU/UN RCM SECRETARIAT WITH CONSIDERABLE FINANCIAL AND LOGISTICAL ASSISTANCE BY ECA. WE WERE PARTICULARLY SATISFIED WITH ITS ATTENDANCE BY OVER MORE THAN 100 REPRESENTATIVES OF NOT ONLY THE UN AGENCIES WHO CO-CHAIR THE IMPORTANT CLUSTERS, BUT OF THE AU COMMISSION,MANY OF WHOM, IN AFFIRMATION OF OWNERSHIP OF THE TYCBP BY THE COMMISSION, WERE ATTENDING A MEETING ON THE TYCBP FOR THE FIRST TIME. THE INTEREST THAT THE WHOLE PROCESS GENERATED LED TO THE ADOPTION OF A GROUND BREAKING RECOMMENDATION TO THE EFFECT THAT THOSE AU SERVICE DEPARTMENTS SUCH AS THOSE IN THE FIELDS OF ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE AND CONFERENCE SERVICING, AND WHICH CANNOT ORDINARILY PARTICIPATE IN

THE CLUSTER SYSTEM, SHOULD BE BROUGHT UNDER A NEW ``GROUPING`, IS YET ANOTHER ILLUSTRATION OF THE RENEWED DETERMINATION OF THE AU TO CLAIM OWNERSHIP OF THE RCM AND ITS PROCESSES AND HAVE A SAY IN DRIVING THEM.

WE WANT TO REGISTER OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE CRITICAL ROLE THAT THE CLUSTERS CONTINUE TO PLAY IN THE INTERVALS BETWEEN THE RCM SESSIONS.WE ARE NOT AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS THAT CONTINUE TO AFFECT THE FUNCTIONING OF SOME OF THEM BUT WE ALSO KNOW OF THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE IN MANY INSTANCES.

WE ALSO WANT TO THANK OUR JOINT SECRETARIAT COMPOSED OF AU AND UN STAFF WHO HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED AS DEDICATED STAFF AND HAVE ENDEAVOURED TO WORK WELL TOGETHER SINCE ITS INCEPTION,JUST PRIOR TO THE HOLDING OF THE LAST RCM.APART FROM PREPARING FOR THIS CURRENT SESSION,THEY HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN THE PREPARATION OF THE CAPACITY BUILDING WORK PLAN WHICH HAS BEEN ELABORATED BY A TEAM OF CONSULTANTS UNDER THEIR AEGIS,WHICH WORK PLAN WILL BE ONE OF THE IMPORTANT ISSUES THAT WE WILL BE DISCUSSING AT THIS SESSION.WE HOPE THAT ONE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WILL ISSUE FROM THIS SESSION IS ONE THAT LOOKS AT WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THAT WE HAVE A JOINT SECRETARIAT THAT IS BETTER RESOURCED SO THAT IT CAN BE EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE.

AGAIN, THE WORKPLAN EFFECTIVELY DIRECTLY REFLECTS THE AU`S OWN PERCEPTION AS TO WHAT ITS NEEDS ARE.THIS IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT HAS OBTAINED IN THE PAST AND WE CALL ON THE CLUSTERS TO DRAW HEAVILY FROM THE REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE MADE BY THE AU COMMISSION CONTAINED THEREIN. TO DO SO WOULD BE AN ACT OF SUPPORT ON THE PART OF THE UN SYSTEM TO ENCOURAGE THE AU COMMISSION TO OWN ITS OWN PROGRAMMES BASED, ON ITS OWN ASSESMENT OF ITS NEEDS.

I WISH TO RECOMMEND THAT NOW THAT AN ACTION PLAN HAS BEEN ELABORATED, WE SHOULD STRENGTHEN THE RCM WITH REQUISITE RESOURCES FOR IMPLEMENTATION, FOR MONITORING AND FOR EVALUATION.

I NOTE WITH GREAT INTEREST THAT A NUMBER OF OTHER CRITICAL ISSUES, INCLUDING AFRICA'S PREPARATIONS FOR RIO+20 AND THE STATUS OF OUR WORK ON THE MDGs ARE ON THE AGENDA AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO ARTICULATION OF STRATEGIES TO ADVANCE AFRICA'S CAUSE IN THESE TWO IMPOTANT AREAS. WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FORWARD TO THE PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT ON THE S-RCMS, GIVEN THE FAMILY RELATIONSHIP WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN THE AU AND THE RECS. THE AU WOULD WELCOME A BIGGER ROLE IN THE ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONING OF THESE REGIONAL MECHANISMS.

ALL SAID AND DONE AFRICA STILL REMAINS THE LEAST DEVELOPED REGION IN THE WORLD DESPITE IMPRESSIVE GROWTH RATES ACHIEVED IN THE WAKE OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISES. IT IS AGAINST THIS BACKDROP THAT WE APPEAL TO THE UN SYSTEM TO ENHANCE ITS CONTINUED FOCUS ON AFRICA.

FINALLY A WORD TO OUR NON-UN PAERTNERS,SOME OF WHOM ARE ATTENDING THIS MEETING.WE COUNT ON YOU AS IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, TO CONTINUE TO GIVE AFRICA THE SUPPORT WHICH YOU ARE ALREADY GIVING IT THROUGH A NUMBER OF ARRANGEMENTS AND CHANNEL, INCLUDING THROUGH THE RCM.

CO-CHAIR, YOUR EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I WISH THE TWELFTH SESSION ALL THE BEST IN ITS DELIBERATIONS AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION