

**PRESS RELEASE N.067/2012****Commissioner Tumusiime receives High Level delegation to Exchange on Sustainable Consumption and Production in Africa**

Addis Ababa, 1st August 2012 - A high level Delegation led by Mr. Desta Mebratu, newly appointed United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) representative at the Regional Office for Africa met the Commissioner for Rural economy and Agriculture Mrs. Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, today 1st August 2012, to exchange views on the post Rio+20 outcomes particularly, the way forward in areas where Africa is directly involved.

Mr. Desta was accompanied during his visit to the African Union headquarters by Dr. Patrick Mwesigye UNEP Regional Coordinator for Resource Efficiency, Dr. Ulf Jaeckel, Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany and Dr. Hermogene Nsengimana, Secretary General, African Organisation for Standardization – ARSO.



Commissioner Tumusiime was briefed by the UNEP Representative of the work being done to ensure the implementation of the Rio +20 recommendations. He said close to twenty outcome working documents are now being finalized including seven regional flagship programmes to be rolled out soon. “It is imperative that the African Union Commission will have a key role in the process”, he noted.

Meanwhile, update on the Marrakech Process was presented to the Commissioner. The process will shortly transform into a Partnership to be led by the Commission. Three main issues were tabled as key issues for forthcoming pre-AMCEN discussion (09-Sept 2012). They are: Green Economy; Sustainable Development; and Eco-labeling.

During the discussion, the Commissioner was informed of Germany's willingness to strengthen its support to Eco-labeling initiatives as well as the recently developed Community Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production initiative.

On Sustainable Consumption and Production, emphases were put on the leadership of the Commission in the on-going discussions on Geographic Indicators, Eco-labeling and enhanced Market access especially for organic products of African origin.

Commissioner Tumusiime expressed appreciation of the efforts being marshaled by the different partner organization in helping Africa to chart the Post-Rio+20 road map. She underscored the need for Africa to press forward with the diverse Africa-related issues that emanated out of the Rio+20 Conference.