

**AFRICAN UNION**  
**الإتحاد الأفريقي**



**UNION AFRICAINE**  
**UNIÃO AFRICANA**

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

P. O. Box 3243

Telephone: 011-551 7700

Fax: 011-551 7844

Website: [www.africa-union.org](http://www.africa-union.org) E-mail: [Chairperson@africa-union.org](mailto:Chairperson@africa-union.org)

---

**STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION,**

**HE DR. NKOSAZANA DLAMINI ZUMA**

**TO THE**

**IGAD FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING, ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH OF  
THE HORN OF AFRICA DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE**

**27 October 2014**

**UNECA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

**Excellency, UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon**

**Excellency, President of the World Bank Dr. Jim Yong Kim**

**Excellencies, IGAD Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Leaders of Delegations**

**Our Host, Executive Secretary of the UNECA**

**AUC Deputy Chairperson Erastus Mwencha and Commissioner for Economic Affairs, Dr. Maruping**

**Excellency, IGAD Executive Secretary, Ambassador Mahboub Maalim**

**Representatives of the African Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank and the EU Commission**

**Excellencies, Delegations from the UN Family**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

I am honoured to be present at this meeting with the IGAD Foreign Ministers, the World Bank, the UN and other partners at the launch of the Horn of Africa initiative.

The Horn of Africa faced challenges over the last few decades, and yet it has many opportunities: its people, mineral resources, energy, land and oceanic resources.

We congratulate the UN, World Bank and IGAD Foreign Ministers as this initiative comes at the right time, as Africa discusses how to consolidate peace and development, and build shared prosperity in all regions.

The African Union, IGAD and other regional players, are therefore strengthening initiatives to bring about peace in all countries of the Horn of Africa and the rest of the continent; and working with the UN family and others to help address the humanitarian situation in the region.

More broadly, as we consistently say, peace and development must go hand in hand. This includes the priorities we set out in Agenda 2063, investing in people their health. We have seen the lesson from the Ebola Virus epidemic, that health

is critical, and that we see health and education not just as social expenditure, but critical to economic development. In addition, we must expand investments in education, sanitation and water; developing infrastructure especially transport, energy and ICT; regional integration; agriculture and food security; and investing in young people and women. We dedicated 2014 as the year of Agriculture and Food security, which is critical to economic development. For the Horn of Africa this is also critical, where we often face hunger, and to reverse the trend where we use our meager resources to import food, when we have the land and other resources to be a net exporter of food.

For all of these things to be taken to a different level, we must ensure that there is peace in the Horn of Africa that refugees are able to return home, rebuild their lives and communities in an environment that is secure, stable and peaceful. Central to this is security sector transformation and most importantly, establishing inclusive, legitimate and accountable governance that can deliver much needed basic services, infrastructure and economic development in all parts of the region. I hope this initiative will indeed address these initiatives, I agree that it should include capacity building and strengthening the capacity of governments in the region.

We therefore welcome the Horn of Africa initiative launched today, and look forward to working with our partners, the UN system and the World Bank on making sure that the Horn of Africa has lasting peace and security, but inclusive government that can deliver basic services and accelerate investments in the region's people, especially youth and women.

As the AU and IGAD, we will work with our partners on expanding the national and regional infrastructure projects, contributing to agriculture, food security, climate change adaptation and mitigation and economic development and industrialization, as well as accelerated integration in the region, towards the Africa we want which is peaceful, integrated, people-centred and prosperous.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen**

The Ebola Virus Disease crisis exposed the challenges we face in fragile countries. At the epicenter of the disease, the countries that just emerged from conflicts could therefore not lodge the response required.

As the AU, we focus on solidarity amongst our self, in particular the mobilization of health workers in support of the three countries, and to mobilise all our countries to be combat ready, to respond appropriately if there is a case.

We wrote to all our Heads of States and we already seen a response from a range of our Members states, EAC, ECOWAS, Nigeria, Botswana, DRC, Ethiopia and others. Through the AU Emergency Mission for Ebola in West Africa (AWEOSA), we have already deployed volunteers to the three countries, and we learnt important lessons from this early deployment. Our strength is solidarity and we must therefore continue to work together.

We all need to do more. I thank you