

**OPENING REMARKS OF THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE AU  
COMMISSION  
AT THE 14 TH SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISM  
AU CONFERENCE CENTRE, AU HEADQUARTERS, ADDIS ABABA  
21- 22 NOVEMBER, 2013**

**YOUR EXCELLENCY UN UNDER SECRETARY-GENERAL AND EXECUTIVE  
SECRETARY OF ECA AND CO—CHAIRPERSON, MR CARLOS LOPES**

**YOUR EXCELLENCY THE AU COMMISSIONER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS, DR  
MUSTAPHA KALOKO**

**Mr ABDALLA HAMDOK, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ECA,**

**SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UN, AU COMMISSION, NEPAD,  
REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES,**

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

**RCM CLUSTER COORDINATORS**

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

**I BRING YOU GREETINGS ON BEHALF OF H.E. DR NKOSAZANA DLAMINI-  
ZUMA, WHO IS UNABLE TO BE WITH US DUE TO SOME OTHER**

APPOINTMENT. ALLOW ME, FROM THE OUTSET, TO EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO ALL OF YOU ATTENDING THE FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISM. WE IN THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION ARE DELIGHTED TO HAVE YOU WITH US AND WE ARE ALSO GRATIFIED THAT THE RCM MEETS AT THE AU COMMISSION FOR THE FIRST TIME, AND IN THE YEAR OF THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF THE OAU/AU, THE THEME THAT HAS BEEN CHOSEN FOR OUR MEETING IS ``UN SUPPORT TO THE AFRICAN UNION AGENDA 2063``, A PROPOSAL WHICH WAS ADOPTED BY THE AU ASSEMBLY DURING THIS JUBILEE YEAR, AS A LONG- TERM FRAMEWORK TO BE IMPLEMENTED OVER A PERIOD OF FIFTY YEARS; AND, INDEED, WE HAVE IN IT, AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR PARTNERS, LIKE THE UN MEMBERS OF THE RCM, TO CONCRETELY BACK THE EFFORTS OF THE AU, WORKING TOGETHER WITH THE RECS AND ITS MEMBER STATES, TO ACHIEVE AN ``INTEGRATED PEOPLE- CENTRED AND PROSPEROUS AFRICA AT PEACE WITH ITSELF``

AS PERCEIVED WILL PROMOTE OUR OBJECTIVE OF LONG- STANDING OF EMPOWERING THE AU TO ASSUME ITS RESPONSIBILTIES ALSO BY CLAIM OWNERSHIP OF RCM PROCESSES AND PROGRAMMES.

**YOUR EXCELLENCIES, DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

AS ALWAYS,I WANT TO SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY OUR PROFOUND THANKS TO ALL THE UN AGENCIES AND ORGANISATIONS WORKING IN SUPPORT OF THE AU AND ITS NEPAD PROGRAMME FOR THE TANGIBLE HELP THEY CONTINUE TO GIVE US,BOTH AS THE AU COMMISSION THROUGH THE CLUSTER SYSTEM, AND THE WIDER AU FAMILY OF ORGANS AND RECS.

IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THIS SUPPORT WILL BE EXTENDED SOONER THAN LATER TO THE OTHER ORGANS WHICH ARE MEMBERS OF THE WIDER AU SYSTEM, AS ENVISAGED IN THE CONTEXT OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

OF THE RCM; AND THAT FOR THEIR PART ALSO, THE RECS WILL BEGIN TO DRAW GREATER BENEFIT FROM RCM PROCESSES THROUGH STRENGTHENED ALIGNMENT WITH THE RCM ITSELF AND WITH THE SUB-REGIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXPRESS YET AGAIN, OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE SPIRIT OF PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION THAT THE UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION OF AFRICA CONTINUES TO DEMONSTRATE IN THE FRAME WORK OF THE JOINT SECRETARIAT OF THE RCM.

MUCH OF THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE LAST 10 YEARS IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE COOPERATIONS BETWEEN THE UN AND THE AU. WE ARE EQUALLY GRATEFULL FOR THE SUPPORT UNDER THE MANY CLUSTERS FOR EXAMPLE THE HEALTH SECTOR, WHERE WE SEE PROGRESS BEING MADE IN A REMARKABLE MANNER.

SOME CLUSTERS ARE NOT PERFORMING AS THEY SHOULD, AND SOME CLUSTERS AGREED TO AT THE PAST RETREAT, HAVE NOT TAKEN OFF AT

ALL. FURTHER, ALIGNING THE WORK PROGRAMMES OF THE CLUSTERS TO THE AU PLANNING PROCESS AND TIMELINES TO INCREASE AU OWNERSHIP. WE STRESS THIS POINT BECAUSE CLUSTERS ARE THE BACKBONE OF OUR COLLABORATION. FOR THE UN TO DELIVER AS ONE IS ONLY POSSIBLE IF CLUSTERS DELIVER AS ONE.

**YOUR EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

WE BELIEVE THAT ALL CONCERNED, AND NOT EXCLUDING THE AU, SHOULD MAKE THAT EXTRA EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE CLUSTER SYSTEM IS ENHANCED.

AS A PRINCIPAL BENEFICIARY OF THE TEN YEAR CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME, THE AU COMMISSION IS ALSO PLEASED TO SEE INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA OF THIS MEETING, WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE SECOND TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME, WITH THE HOPE THAT IT ADDRESSES THE KEY CHALLENGES WE SEE TODAY, ONE OF WHICH IS THE CAPACITY FOR THE AU TO ASSUME NOT KIST

LEADERSHIP ROLE BUT OWNERSHIP. ONE CHALLENGE IS INSUFFICIENT RESOURCES. THE ASSESSMENT DONE THREE YEARS BROUGHT OUT KEY AREAS ON UNDERSTANDING OF THE TYCBP. WE HOPE THAT THIS ASPECT WILL CONTINUE TO OCCUPY OUR MIND. THIS MEETING TO BE HELD BACK TO BACK WITH THE MINISTERS OF FINANCE MEETING IS KEY IN ADDRESSING THIS. THERE IS A GREAT NEED TO MOBILIZE RESOURCES NATIONALLY.

THIS MEETING WOULD RECALL THAT IN THE DECLARATION ESTABLISHING THE TYCBP, IT WAS CONCEIVED AS A PROGRAMME THAT WOULD PLAY A CENTRAL AND FUNDAMENTAL ROLE IN UN/AU RELATIONS; AND SO OF EXTREME INTEREST TO US IS THE NEED TO JOIN THE DISCUSSION ON THE VARIOUS OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE UN ITSELF, AND PERHAPS IN CONCERT WITH SOME OF OUR BILATERAL PARTNERS, FOR ENHANCED MOBILISATION OF RESOURCES TO EFFECTIVELY BUTTRESS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME. AS WE ALL KNOW, ONE OF THE MAJOR CHALLENGES CONSTRAINING

THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME IS FUNDING, AND IN SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES AT THAT, FROM THE UN REGULAR BUDGET. THE ISSUE OF INCREASING EXTRA BUDGETARY FUNDING, INCLUDING SOURCING FROM BILATERAL SOURCES NEEDS FURTHER REFLECTION.

TO SOME DEGREE, THE LACK OF RESOURCES MAY ALSO HAVE AFFECTED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "UN SYSTEM PROGRAMME OF SUPPORT FOR THE AU'S CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME", A REPORT WHICH I HAD THE HONOUR TO RECEIVE LAST YEAR ON BEHALF OF THE AU COMMISSION, SUBMITTED AS IT WAS BY THE ECA ON BEHALF OF THE UN SYSTEM. IT WOULD BE RECALLED THAT THIS CAME AFTER A PROCESS THAT INVOLVED ON THE ONE HAND, THE AU COMMISSION IN A NEEDS- ASSESSMENT EXERCISE, BASED ON ITS OWN PRIORITIES AND WORK PLANS RELATED TO ITS STRATEGIC PLAN, AND INVOLVING ON THE OTHER HAND, THE CLUSTERS IN AN EXERCISE

THAT ENABLED THEM TO IDENTIFY THE AREAS WHICH THEY WOULD SUPPORT IN THAT REGARD. THIS IS A PROGRAMME WHICH STILL HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BE ONE OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE TYCBP, DERIVED AS IT IS FROM THE TYCBP AND INTENDED AS IT IS TO FILL THE VACUUM ARISING FROM THE NON- EXISTENCE OF A CONCRETE PROGRAMME, WHICH HAD IN ITSELF BEEN RECOGNISED AS ONE OF THE CHALLENGES FACING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TYCBP. HOWEVER, AS IS KNOWN, GAPS STILL REMAIN IN TERMS OF THE COVERAGE OF THE UN SYSTEM IN MAKING COMMITMENTS TO MEET ALL THE PRIORITIES SET OUT BY THE AU COMMISSION.

**YOUR EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMAN**

AS I HAVE ALREADY INDICATED, WE ARE VERY APPRECIATIVE OF THE SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT THAT WE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE FROM THE UN AS AN ORGANISATION, AND THE CONTINENT. THE VARIOUS KINDS OF SUPPORT THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED AND WHICH HAVE MADE A



DIFFERENCE, WHETHER IN THE FIELD OF PEACE AND SECURITY OR IN OUR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CANNOT BUT BE ACKNOWLEDGED.

WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT A HIGH PROPORTION OF THE SUPPORT THAT THE AU, THE RECS AND ITS MEMBER STATES RECEIVE FROM THE UN APPEARS TO OCCUR OUTSIDE THE FRAMEWORK OF THE TEN YEAR CAPACITY BUILDING PORGRAMME. AS WE CONTINUE TO BEAR IN MIND,THE FACT THAT THE PRIMARY TOOL FOR UN RELATIONS WITH THE AU IS INTENDED TO BE THE TEN YEAR CAPACITY BUILDING PORGRAMME , WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TEN YEAR CAPACITY BUILDING PORGRAMME AND THE RELATED UN SYSTEM PROGRAMME OF SUPPORT IS LINKED TO THE EVOVING PRIORITIES AND WORK PLANS OF THE AU,BASED AS THEY ARE ON THE PROVISIONS OF AGENDA 2063, AND THE NEW AU STRATEGIC PLAN.

CONSEQUENTLY, EVEN AS WE TALK OF THE STRENGTHENING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TEN YEAR CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME, WE SHOULD ALREADY BE LOOKING AT HOW THE AU/UN PARTNERSHIP, PURPORTEDLY BASED ON THE TEN YEAR CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME, SHOULD EVOLVE IN TERMS OF OTHER MANDATES SUCH AS AGENDA 2063, AND THE AU STRATEGIC PLAN, GIVEN ESPECIALLY THE FACT THAT THE LIFE OF THE TEN YEAR CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME ITSELF IS DRAWING TO AN END. WE SHOULD THEREFORE USE TODAY'S MEETING AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR BEGINNING TO LOOK AT WHAT FORM THE OR ITS SUCCESSOR SHOULD TAKE AS WE INCH CLOSER TO 2016.

ONE OF THE CONSEQUENCES ARISING FROM THE LACK OF SUFFICIENT RESOURCES FOR THE ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE RCM, IS THE CONCOMMITANT INABILITY TO FULL OPERATIONALISE THE JOINT SECRETARIAT OF THE RCM, CURRENTLY COMPOSED OF DEDICATED

STAFF FROM THE ECA SECRETARIAT AND THE AU COMMISSION.IT IS GRATIFYING TO NOTE THE JOINT SECRETARIAT CONTINUES TO APPLY ITSELF, IN SPITE OF THE MANY CHALLENGES IT FACES. INDEED FROM THE AU PERSPECTIVE, OUR CAPACITY AS THE AU COMPONENT OF THE JOINT SECRETARIAT TO EFFECTIVELY FACILITATE INTERNAL COORDINATION BETWEEN THE CLUSTERS AND THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF THE AU COMMISSION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TEN YEAR CAPACITY BUILDING PORGRAMME AND THE RELATED UN SYSTEM PROGRAMME OF SUPPORT,IS SEVERELY CONSTRAINED ON A DAY- TO -DAY BASIS.

**CO-CHAIRPERSON, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

FINALLY, IF TODAY`S MEETING AT THE AU ,TAKING PLACE ON THE BASIS OF THE AU-INSPIRED THEME OF THE 2063 AGENDA, HAS THE POTENTIAL TO MARK A SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN THE WAY THE RCM DOES THINGS, IT MAY ALSO MARK THE END OF THE TRADITION OF

HOLDING THE ANNUAL RCM IN NOVEMBER;FOR SUBMITTED BEFORE TODAY`S MEETING IS THE PROPOSAL THAT HENCEFORTH,THE HOLDING OF THE RCM SHOULD BE ALIGNED WITH THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF FINANCE,PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. WE COMMEND THIS PROPOSAL FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE MEETING BECAUSE FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE IT WILL AFFORD US, AS AFRICA, THROUGH THE AFRICAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES AT A HIGH LEVEL, THE OPPORTUNITY TO COLLECTIVELY DEEPEN OUR INTERACTION WITH THE SENIOR MANAGEMENTOF THE UN, AND THUS FURTHER EMPOWER US IN OUR EFFORTS TO BOTH INPUT INTO, AND OWN PROGRAMMES JOINTLY FORMULATED WITH US.

### **CO-CHAIRPERSON**

I SEE THAT WE HAVE A FULL PROGRAMME ON OUR HANDS AND THAT POTENTIALLY THERE ARE SOME VERY INTERESTING DISCUSSIONS IN

THE OFFING; AND ALL THAT IS LEFT REALLY OF ME, THEREFORE, IS TO  
WISH THIS MEETING VERY SUCCESSFUL DELIBERATIONS,

I THANK YOU.