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**Statement by H.E Tumusiime Rhoda Peace  
Commissioner for Rural Economy and  
Agriculture**

**African Union Commission**

**On the occasion of the side event on  
“African Green Growth Strategy –  
Towards Low-Carbon Growth and  
Climate Resilient development”**

**Organised by the Delegation of Japan**

**6 December 2011 Durban, South Africa**

Your Excellency Mr. Nakano, Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs

Honourable Minister of Energy, Republic of Mozambique

Your Excellency Amb. Noke, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Your Excellency Ambassador Masashiko Horiye, Deputy Director General for Environmental Affairs, , Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Imanaha, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Finance

Director for Sustainability Africa Region of the World Bank

Executive Director of JETRO(Japan External Trade Organization)

Chief Economist Regional Bureau for Africa UNDP

Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen

The African Union is pleased to be associated with this noble cause and to be participating in this important event. We are also proud to be partners of Japan.

Avoiding dangerous climate change consequences demands that nations around the world depart from the traditional, high-carbon approach to growth and instead blaze the trail of low-carbon, sustainable path.

A growing body of research shows that low-carbon strategies will not only prevent catastrophic warming; they also offer nations the best prospect for achieving sustainable development, creating jobs, strengthening energy security, bolstering economic competitiveness, and improving public health. Instead of locking in high-carbon infrastructure, countries have the opportunity to leapfrog to new technologies, such as renewable power, sustainable biofuels, and energy-efficient vehicles, factories, buildings, and appliances.

Africa is ready to transit to low-carbon and green growth patterns of production and consumption. As you have seen and moved around especially also as depicted in the African Pavilion, you will note that Africa is doing quite substantial amount of work in this regard.

Africa wants to go along that pathway because it is a climate safe pathway. We expect that this pathway will produce opportunities including creating jobs and reducing poverty. It will provide for sustainable energy and open up conservation-based empowerment for Africa.

Looking at the population of Africa, that is increasing rapidly, we need to prepare ourselves to ensure we decarbonize our production and consumption patterns so that we do not exceed our current levels of less than 4% of global green-house gas emissions.

Africa, therefore, welcomes the support of Japan under the framework of the Kyoto International Conference on African Development (TICAD). We look forward to the right technology that is affordable and sustainable, promoted through public private partnership. We welcome your support to raise awareness and enhance capacities through Regional Economic Communities and Member States in collaboration with the African Union.

A few of the examples which Africa has been reflecting on, implementing and similar to those highlighted in the proposed Green Growth Strategy include:

For agriculture, the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP),

Under REDD+, we have the Congo Forest Basin Initiative and the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel,

On Disaster Risk Reduction, we have the African Strategy and Programme in line with the Global Yugo Plan of Action ,

Regarding the water programme, we have the Sharm el Sheikh Declaration on Water and Sanitation within the framework of the Africa Water Vision 2025,

And in infrastructure, we have the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) that covers transport, energy and ICT, among others.

Before I conclude I would like to bring up one of the points pertaining to the reason we are here in Durban. We would like to use the occasion of our coming together on this important event in a strategic partnership to appeal to Japan to reconsider their position on the Kyoto Protocol, born in the beautiful city of Kyoto in 1997 and to encourage other Partners to salvage the Kyoto Protocol and save humanity from major disasters whose intensity and frequency is unprecedented.

The African Union and its Member States remain committed to doing our part in contributing to a safer world.

I thank you.