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STATEMENT

for

**H.E Tumusiime Roda Peace,
African Union Commissioner for
Rural Economy and Agriculture/
Deputy Delegated Regional Authorising Officer (DRAO)**

at

**CLOSING SESSION OF THE 2ND FORUM FOR THE AFRICAN
MONITORING OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

(AMESD FORUM),

22 JULY 2011 MAURITIUS

Chairman of the Closing Session,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It has been a long week, so, I will not be long. I would like to thank you once again for your coming and more importantly for your active participation in the AMESD Forum , for ably exchanging valuable information and experiences thereby mutually reinforcing and re-energizing one another. Our Regional Economic Communities and the Regional Implementing Centres, I salute you and wish you continued vigour and focus.

I wish to reiterate our appreciation to our Co-Hosts, the Indian Ocean Commission, the Government of Mauritius and the Mauritius Oceanography Institute. I am also glad that I was able to get opportunity to visit the OIC Secretary General and the Officer-in-Charge of MOI with whom my delegation held fruitful discussions on further collaboration.

I must, at this juncture, also thank our Technical Assistance Team, through the Coordination of AUC, for their commitment and dedication in the support of AMESD activities and specifically in arrangements for this Forum. Also our thanks go to all the service providers IBL and Blast Communications and indeed, the interpreters, the management and staff of all the hotels where participants have been residing as well as the transporters during our

stay. I am sure you will agree with me that all these services and facilities have greatly contributed to the smooth running and success of our Forum.

It would be remiss of me not to reiterate our gratitude to and confidence in our partners, the European Union, the EUMETSAT and the consortium of firms we are collaborating with in taking AMESD forward.

It was gratifying and illuminating to hear the feedback and concerns from the users. We have taken good note, for example, of their requirement of high resolution, among other demands that will be looked into, to enhance the development and delivery of products and services.

We have noted that much has been achieved since the inception of AMESD and particularly since the last Forum held in Kinshasa in 2009. We have specifically noted the training, the service development, the data access and also the networking. Regardless of the challenges that existed at the beginning, it is heartening to note that all RECs and RICs are now well set. This is highly commendable and we should recommit ourselves to take them to a higher level.

It is also reassuring to see that this process is leading us to sustainability especially with the forthcoming MESA, whose preparation is at an advanced stage. As I stated in my opening statement, we will also work towards greater synergies with related programmes and projects of the African Union.

Before I conclude, I would like to repeat what I said in my opening statement, that as part of maintaining Africa's

unity of purpose and ensuring effective participation and optimum benefit from global climate change negotiations, we are guided by a unified negotiating structure and a common position. The African Union Commission services this process and we have been mandated to work with all key stakeholders and partners to set up Africa Pavilion at CoP17 on 28 November – 10 December 2011. Having listened to your presentations on the products and services out of our collaboration within the framework of AMESD, I would like to invite RECs and RICs to select and submit some of the key products and services that can be showcased in the Africa Pavilion at CoP17. We would like to show how we are trying to become resilient to the challenges of climate change.

Perhaps at this point, as I finish my remarks, I would like to take the opportunity to inform you that part of our Team dedicated to AMESD may be leaving us quite soon after finishing their assignments. They include:

1. Mr. Mark LEROY, Technical Development Manager, AUC, Addis Ababa;
2. Mr. Francois CARMIS, Technical Expert in Mauritius;
3. Mr. Fred NAOME, Administration-Finance Expert;
4. Mr. Martini Missimo, Technical Expert in West Africa.

From me and the Technical Assistance Team, we thank you for your contribution to the success of the programme. Please join me in clapping them and thanking them for their work.

With these few remarks, I would like to wish you all bon voyage and continued constructive partnership which is growing from strength to strength. May I now declare the 2nd AMESD Forum officially closed.

Thank you.