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## Statement

delivered by

Her Excellency Tumusiime Rhoda Peace  
Commissioner for  
Rural Economy and Agriculture  
African Union Commission

on the occasion of the

Eighth Meeting of the Partnership  
Platform of the Comprehensive African  
Agriculture Development Programme  
(8<sup>th</sup> CAAP PP)

Hilton Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya

## **Excellences**

### **Our Guest of Honour**

**Colleagues from the African Union Commission and the NEPAD  
Planning and Coordinating Agency**

**Representatives of Regional Economic Communities and other Pan  
African Institutions**

**Honourable Ministers and other Representatives of Member States  
of the African Union**

### **Development Partners**

**CAADP Focal Persons and Representatives of AU Member States**

**Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen**

## **C o u r t e s i e s**

It is with honour and pleasure that I stand before you. I wish to convey to you warm greetings and best wishes from H.E Dr. Jean PING, Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

I would also like to register appreciation for the welcome and hospitality accorded to us by the Government and People of the Republic of Kenya and for the excellent arrangements for the success of the Eighth Meeting of the Partnership Platform of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (8<sup>th</sup> CAADP PP). We applaud the continued support of the Government of the Republic of Kenya in hosting other AUC-led continental agriculture, animal resources, environment and natural resources events. If we have to take any message from

this gesture, it is a further demonstration that that the people of Kenya are taking their commitment to achieving Africa's development agenda through agricultural, and CAADP in particular, very seriously.

I would also like to thank this year's PP regional host: the East African Community for taking the responsibility of hosting this annual event.

I am equally grateful for all of you our key stakeholders and partners for sparing time out of your busy schedule at this particular period of the year, to participate in this important Meeting.

I must also thank you for your continued commitment and support to the acceleration of the implementation of CAADP as the over-arching framework for increasing agricultural production, productivity, food and nutrition security.

## P r o g r e s s

Our meeting takes at a time when 30 AU Member States have signed CAADP Compacts, over a dozen have formulated credible investment plans most of which have been subjected to independent technical reviews and presented at business meetings. We salute the leadership of these countries and the commitment of all stakeholders and partners involved.

Ladies and Gentlemen, with CAADP implementation continuing to gather momentum in our member states in the last two years, the investment plans that have emerged as the outcome of the CAADP process, have continued to serve as key instruments for further evidence-based development and strategic planning in our member states.

We are also encouraged that several of our countries have increased budgetary allocations to the agricultural sector thereby meeting the CAADP target of at least 10% with quite a number surpassing this target. We know that many more are taking measures this direction. This was the sense we got from the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economy that convened in Addis Ababa in March this year.

## D r o u g h t   a n d   F a m i n e

This meeting takes place at a time when the continent is grappling with the drought and famine situation particularly in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel Region. Even in the context of all the development efforts, the Horn of Africa region as a whole, more than 40 percent of people are undernourished, whilst in Eritrea and Somalia this proportion raised to 70 percent. The seven countries of the region - Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda - have a combined population of 160 million people, whilst 70 million of them remain in areas prone to extreme food shortages.

As if that is not enough, the combined threat of drought, high food prices, displacement and chronic poverty is still affecting millions of people on our continent as a new food crisis emerges also across the Sahel Region. Food insecurity and malnutrition are recurrent in the region with more than 16 million people directly at risk this year alone. Drought continued to reduce the Sahelian cereal production. The situation is compounded by high food prices whilst the deteriorating security situation in these region is further aggravating the situation. We recognised that our efforts in improving agriculture productivity and incomes alone may not be enough to achieve our development targets but a more holistic approach with emphasis on multi sector integration that is evidently linked to a broad based rural development efforts will be necessary.

Again, I must salute the efforts of our leaders, institutions and partners for the collective and coordinated efforts towards addressing these challenges in the context of CAADP. The African Union is determined to step up cooperation in twinning emergency assistance with medium and long term resilience programmes for these regions. Indeed, the recent IGAD Ministerial Conference held recently here in Nairobi also stressed this perspective.

## P r o s p e c t s

Given that this meeting also serves as the bridge towards the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next year since CAADP was adopted, we will be considering the extent to which this progress is drawing us closer to the goal of a food-and-nutrition-secure and poverty-free Africa.

Distinguished guests, participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Reflecting on the Theme for this 8<sup>th</sup> CAADP PP “Propelling implementation for results and impact”, it pleases me to impress upon you that after close to ten years of its existence, time has come for CAADP to be taken to another level: that of how we can sustain the momentum at country-level implementation to attain the desired results and impact. This means we need to learn from experiences and lessons and work towards checking our steps, adjusting and undertaking honest corrective action remain crucial. It means the time for engaging higher gears has come. It means more energy to paddle policy implementation forward. The energy in this sense does not only translate to the commitment of more resources but also efforts to improve our mutual accountabilities and our political will to be part of and to lead this transformation agenda will be necessary

The task ahead is enormous, but one that is worthy of pursuing to the end. I hope that with our coming here today, we are on our

marks, set and ready to go with a new spirit marked with enhanced team work and with eyes set toward the goal.

The fact that the agenda for this year commits to increasing the CAADP momentum implies that we are concerned with both the means as with the end: results and impact. We will need to conduct process evaluation as well as outcome and impact evaluation. That is to say, as countries implement their NAFSIPs the process needs to be continuously monitored and evaluated to ensure adequate correctional measures are put in place to achieve the desired results and impact. As key stakeholders we must reaffirm confidence in ourselves and in our beneficiaries and continue to demonstrate practically the value addition of CAADP to the existing national strategic planning processes.

There is no doubt that the multi-stakeholder consultations and approaches of the CAADP roundtable process provide a unique opportunity to building consensus on the parameters for achieving agriculture and rural transformation in our communities. In this regard we must continue to take the opportunity of this process to bring our youths who are the future stakeholders also on board. We must not lose this momentum and I urge you all to continue to ensure that the roundtables continue to be conducted according to the spirit expected of them and must be accompanied by a clear post compact implementation plans. It is in this regard that I urge the 8<sup>th</sup> CAADP PP to deliberate and explore options that allow us to do better on conduct, participation, achievement and delivery of what has been agreed upon in the compacts. After realizing that over half of the continent is shaded with countries that have signed their compacts, we need to also see that a great majority of the countries have attained the main CAADP indicators.

I also urge governments of our member countries that have NAFSIPs to meet their funding commitments and provide the enabling environment for attainment of results. We will reinforce this call in the forthcoming Council of African Ministers of Agriculture in Addis Ababa in October this year. We are aware that some member states have exceeded expectation by committing more than 10% of their budgetary allocations to agriculture – quite what CAADP advocates. This shows that the principle can be met and that CAADP is a practicable framework.

With regards to coordination efforts for realising this year's CAADP PP theme and cementing the principle of leap-frogging CAADP toward attainment of results, we note with satisfaction that following the example of ECOWAS, other Regional Economic Communities including IGAD, EAC, COMESA and SADC are developing their regional compacts. It is my expectation that the end of this year sees completion and launching of these regional compacts. We further anticipate that the principles and expectations inculcated in this CAADP PP are factored into these regional compacts.

We hope to utilize scheduled AUC-hosted Conferences of African Ministers of Agriculture (CAMA), the Conference of Afro-Arab Ministers of Agriculture, among others to reiterate the key messages transpiring from this Partnership Platform. In the same vein, we would like to come out with a resounding communiqué that expresses what actions need to be done, how resources are best mobilised and how efforts are coordinated among partners to meet the changing demands as implementation dynamics continue to change with time

We would like to keep up this momentum no matter the challenges faced by our countries, regions, the continent and the

world, from climate change and economic challenges. We are happy that the G8 Summit will have high on its agenda the issue of global food and nutrition security. We look forward to increased support for African agriculture. The momentum across the continent has generated greater demand for technical and financial support at country-level, and from regional institutions, continental organizations and international partners. It is in this respect that we are taking a number of steps including the refining of our Knowledge and Information Support Systems (KISS).

## Private Sector

Much as CAADP has emphasised the role of the private sector and non-state actors to agriculture and food security investment and in economic development in general, this role still leaves a lot to be desired. It is my ardent wish that this CAADP PP gives some serious thought to the role of the private sector as well as the Public-Private Partnership (PPP). I do not find that PPP is being properly and effectively packaged in Africa as it envisaged. Probably we need to outline all the challenges this objective encounters and make some analysis of experiences and success stories. At this juncture, I am happy to inform that the AUC, NEPAD and the World Economic Forum have initiated and are about to launch the Grow Africa partnership platform, which pursues the goal of “accelerating investments for sustainable growth in Africa agriculture”. Grow Africa will be launched at the AUC Headquarters in Addis Ababa next week where a set of champion countries from different regions of Africa will be showcasing their agricultural investment blue-prints to potential international financing and investment companies and corporations. Grow Africa introduces transformative change in African agriculture based on national agricultural priorities and in support of CAADP and I call for your continued support to this process. This is complementary to the ongoing efforts through various initiatives such as AFRACA. The African Union is keen to



heighten this engagement towards concrete contribution to the advancement of the CAADP agenda.

I am convinced that, together, we can harness the existing and emerging opportunities and be able to surmount the challenges at hand in the way of implementing CAADP to heights that will ensure adequate and nutritious food as well as improved household incomes and national revenues on account of sale of surplus agricultural produce. Global indications are that food prices will continue to rise hence the need for us to step up our efforts to mitigate their impacts.

#### Partnership and resource mobilisation

It is further gratifying that a number of our partners have pledged and offered technical and financial support.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Increasing the CAADP momentum requires doubling efforts for resource mobilization and enhancing technical capacity at implementation level. With all partners to the CAADP platform, we need to strategise well and in time to ensure that adequate technical and financial resource are available for implementation of the Investment Plans. The CAADP Multi Donor trust fund continues to be instrumental in enhancing the capacities of our African institutions and ensuring quality in the CAADP implementation process. The benefits of this financial resource and capacity cannot be over-emphasized. It is about time to explore options of putting up a fund that will provide catalytic financing for implementation of the investment plans. I would like to reinforce that building partnerships has been one of the strong cornerstones that the CAADP institutions have attained, I believe we can do even better. One area of improvement is

increased collaboration between RECs more specifically those that overlap in terms of member states. Joint planning and enhancing complementarities in implementation can build confidence and accelerate progress. I advocate that this CAADP PP recommends practicable and feasible ways of improving on implementation partnerships. Let us also recall that the concept of Joint Action Groups was one of the outcomes of the 7<sup>th</sup> CAADP PP convened in Yaoundé Cameroon. We need to put some more thought into this strategic decision, especially its technical and practical aspects such as roles, coordination and outputs. In this regard, would like to encourage our bilateral and multilateral development partners to support the development of the initiative, its modelling and rollout. The AUC undertakes to lead the process.

## Other key Issues

Let me also briefly highlight some of the areas that we continue to take note of, and monitor, in our pursuit to a food and nutrition-secure Africa.

### **Large scale land and water acquisition in Africa**

Food security in Africa will continue to be based on how Africa manages its land and water resources. As you all know, projections of global supply and demand for food have unleashed a scramble for agricultural land in developing countries and mainly in Africa. Investment and hedge funds, acting on behalf of savers, anticipate rising monetary yields and capital growth. Major global food importers have lost confidence in export markets and are now seeking to secure food supplies by acquiring land and grow food themselves. This is because about 60% of available world arable land now seems to be found in Africa. As a result and recently, there is surge in global demand for Africa's arable land and water in the form of large

scale land and water acquisitions through land-water related Foreign Direct Investment. What is of most important to us in Africa will be to implement policies that aim to ensure that these large scale land acquisitions will provide additional food for Africans to feed on and create jobs for ever increasing populations.

### **Increased demand for non-food uses of agricultural products**

The fuel crises had brought a new dimension to the food security equation not only through its effects of rising costs of food production and transportation, but also reducing availability of food on world market as important food crops are increasingly used for bio-fuel production. Moreover, the increase in fuel and gas prices which are predicted to stabilise at high levels, have increased the cost of food and seriously putting the net food- but also poor - consumers in Africa into vulnerable situations. As a matter of choice, Africa will continue to pursue increasing the production of food to balance these increasing and competing demands.

### **Climate Change and Africa's food security**

Africa is the continent that is one of the most vulnerable regions with the least capacity to cope with the impacts of climate change, even though it contributes nearly nothing to the problem - less than 4% to the emission of GHGs. Africa's high vulnerability arises from the natural fragility of its ecosystems – mainly degradation and desertification of its surface area - exposure to frequent natural disasters (droughts and floods), and dependence of livelihoods and economic activities on highly climate sensitive natural resources and rain-fed agriculture.

Food security, in the African context therefore, should be linked with resilience of livelihoods and adaptation of production systems to climate variability and climate change. The extent to which African agriculture sufficiently adapts to climate change and climate variability determines the options for successful

agricultural growth, economic transformation and food security. In African agricultural systems, which are primarily rain-fed, adaptive capacity is inherently related to the ability to maintain or to buffer ecosystem productivity under climatic stress.

As a result, and as Africa starts the discussions in Durban, this week, the emphasis will continue to be placed on implementing adaptation measures that reduce vulnerability and building resilience to climate change.

### **Speculation on financial markets**

Lastly and more importantly, Africa has been following and continues to look forward to the discussions around how speculations of financial markets, as a new and potential cause, of future food spikes could exacerbate food security in Africa.

Africa, and having been part of the G20 discussions on price volatility, will continue to push for actions such as imposing position limits to financial actors not to influence the prices of food commodities by buying large amounts using their technical weight. Actions such as hoarding huge amounts of food in the name of food security which is later used by speculators will have to be monitored and stopped. For Africa again, our comparative advantage lies in making more food available through increased production and productivity and raising the levels of incomes of those who are poor, but stuck in agriculture. In fact, I want to reiterate the comments made by European Commissioner Barnier who said that "Financial markets are there to serve the real economy – and not the real economy to serve financial markets".

Africa's efforts have also been put and emphasized at increasing investments in the quality of agricultural information and statistics to be able to create certainty of food markets. This will supplement the call by many, and G20, for the need to make available information on levels of production and availability of

stocks of food. It will also contribute in complicating the work of speculators in food derivative markets who are influencing price movements. In this challenge, the role of civil society is crucial. That's the reason why I welcome the campaign "Stop Gambling on Hunger", a joint advocacy campaign between Action Aid International, Acli (Association of Italian Christian workers), Pime Institute, Unimondo-Oneworld, Vita Magazine, and others Italian NGOs, which is calling for regulations in order to safeguard food markets from speculation.

Through the CAADP framework, Africa is prioritizing putting in place targeted safety net programs to mitigate the impact of excessive food price volatility with special focus on nutrition. We are supporting countries to develop risk management approaches for a number of reasons including vulnerability to economic and climatic shocks. Working with financial institutions, we are elaborating more on issues of agricultural insurance to better predict price changes of agricultural inputs and products in different commodity value chains.

## C o n c l u s i o n

Before I conclude, I would like to commend our technical teams that have worked tirelessly to make the necessary preparations for this meeting. I am glad to note that this spirit has been manifest in the preparations for this PP. It is heartening to know that a good number of CAADP stakeholders have participated in the planning processes. We hope to continue with the spirit and plan focusing on attaining results.

I look forward to our interactive and productive meeting.

I thank you for your attention.