



STATEMENT

BY

H.E MRS. RHODA PEACE TUMUSIIME

THE COMMISSIONER FOR RURAL ECONOMY AND AGRICULTURE

AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION

read for her by
Dr. Abebe Haile Gabriel,
Director for Rural Economy and Agriculture

AT

THE SIDE EVENT ON DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA REGIONAL
FLAGSHIP PROGRAMMES FOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE RIO+20 OUTCOMES IN AFRICA

The FIRST UNIVERSAL SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL
OF UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME AND GLOBAL
MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM

NAIROBI, KENYA

22 FEBRUARY 2013

**Your Excellency Terezya L. Huvisa, Minister of State- Environment,
Vice-President's Office of Tanzania and President of AMCEN**

**H.E Mrs Christina Figueres, Executive Secretary of the United
Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

**Dr. Desta Mebratu, UNEP Regional Representative and Deputy
Director for Africa**

Representatives from AfDB, UNECA, and UNDP

Distinguished Delegates, Partners, Ladies and Gentlemen

My name is Abebe Haile Gabriel. I am the Director for Rural Economy and Agriculture at the African Union Commission. I bring you greetings from Her Excellency Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture who, unfortunately could not be here with us this afternoon but has asked me to represent her.

I have the honour to address you all at the side event on "*Development of Africa Regional Flagship Programmes for the Effective Implementation of the Rio+20 outcomes in Africa*" in the margins of the UNEP's First universal session of the Governing Council and Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

Allow me to recall Africa's legacy at Rio+20 illustrated by a strong commitment, dedication and a clear sense of priorities in order to achieve sustainable development on the Continent. Africa was fully mobilized under the strong leadership by African Heads of State and Government, which resulted, as you know, in the successful presentation and negotiations of Africa's common position at Rio+20.

I would like to take this opportunity to deliver our appreciation to all partners here in accompanying Africa's successful participation at Rio+20 and who, once again, are gathered here to support the implementation of its outcomes in Africa.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon said at Rio+20 Conference, *"The speeches are over. Now the work begins."* Indeed, it is time for us to translate our commitments into effective action on the ground in order to build the sustainable future of this Continent.

It gives me tremendous pride to share with you today that Africa has already embarked on its implementation process of the Rio+20 outcomes.

In accordance with the Decision of the 19th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of AU in July 2012, as H.E The President of AMCEN alluded to earlier on, African Ministers of Environment have developed a roadmap for the effective implementation of the Rio+20 outcomes, which includes development of Key Africa Regional Flagship Programmes at the 14th Session of AMCEN in September 2012, in Arusha, Tanzania.

I am pleased to share with you that the recommendations, decisions and messages contained in the AMCEN report were presented at the 20th

African Union Summit in January 2013 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and were well received and commended. In particular, the 22nd Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the AU endorsed the development and implementation of Africa Regional Flagship programmes within the framework of the Rio + 20 Outcomes which relate to Africa.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

We have observed the strong political commitments from our leaders in Africa and we have all mandates needed given by our member states for the implementation of the outcomes of Rio+20. Now it is time to develop these Regional Flagship Programmes including clear modalities for implementation as well as monitoring and evaluation of progress on regular basis. This is an important forum for providing guidance on the process leading towards developing and implementing Africa flagship programmes.

I would like to assure you of the full commitment of the African Union Commission in this endeavour and its determination to see this process through. I also would like to call on our partners in Africa and beyond to join and support our efforts to generate positive changes in Africa and make these flagship programmes one of the key milestones in achieving African renaissance in line with the Theme of the 50th Anniversary of OAU, predecessor to AU, which we will mark this year in May.

I thank you for your attention.