



STATEMENT OF H.E. TUMUSIIME RHODA PEACE

**COMMISSIONER FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL ECONOMY, AFRICAN UNION
COMMISSION**

**AT THE OPENING OF THE SESSION ON PROMOTION OF AFRICAN AGRICULTURE
NEW ALLIANCE FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION**

**Saturday 8th June 2013.
London**

Excellences, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

1. On behalf of the African Union Commission Chairperson, H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and on my own behalf, I wish to congratulate the UK Government as the current Chair of the G8 and to register our appreciation for your invitation of the African Union Commission to this Pre-G8 Meeting Event. The AUC wishes to pay tribute to the UK Government and co-organisers for a successful event this morning on Nutrition for Growth.
2. The African Union Commission is honored to have, present among us, leaders from African Governments (including Heads of State and Government as well as Ministers), leaders of global, regional and national business Companies, representatives of Civil Society and also representatives of farmers.


3. Let me start by stating that Africa has an agricultural transformation agenda, initiated, discussed, agreed and endorsed by African stakeholders and Leaders themselves and with sets of commitments. This agenda is the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP). CAADP is the continental instrument that African Heads of State and Government have put in place for all of us to pursue and support in furtherance of agricultural transformation. In this context, we welcome such instruments such as Grow Africa, the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, and we consider them as catalysts (and not as being parallel) to CAADP. We call on all the G8 to support our efforts in ensuring that the messages are clear on how these instruments are working in support to CAADP implementation at country level.

4. This year is a landmark year for both the AU, which is celebrating 50 years of its existence, and CAADP commemorating 10 years since it was endorsed in 2003. Agriculture is important now as it was then. Agriculture has a key role to play in bringing peace in our region, not only because it is the primary economic activity in rural areas, but also because it contributes to the maintenance of social equilibrium. Recent crises in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel challenge us on the overlap between weak economic foundations, and political instability: Food insecurity and political crises nourish each other.

5. Africa is urbanizing rapidly and the urban population is expected to reach 50% by 2035. This has consequences in terms of increased demand for marketed food. To control rural-urban migration, Job creation is needed in the countryside, and the re-configuring of Africa's value chains and building more capacity for food manufacturing are essential.

6. Africa requires a transformation of its agriculture that ensures job creation, better balance between urban and rural population and eradication of poverty in the countryside so as to ensure social and political stability. In order to sustain the CAADP Momentum, we the Africa leaders are committed to capitalise on the achievements so far and set the vision for how agriculture will change the continent for the next decade.

7. This is why we have been developing a robust continental Results Framework for CAADP. CAADP is about all stakeholders working in partnership to transform agriculture. The Results Framework will define a common set of goals that the African leaders will work towards in the same spirit of commitments made in Maputo in 2003 and will help us measure progress towards these goals. This Results Framework will be formally endorsed during the 2014 which is declared a Year of Agriculture and Food Security.



8. It is essential that the CAADP framework provides the direction to the multiple initiatives on the continent. We look forward and especially, during the UK G8 Presidency, to find concrete ways to ensure that the New Alliance and Grow Africa further contribute towards CAADP vision and results. As we all know, the New Alliance was developed from the efforts and progress of Grow Africa. At the moment, these two catalytic initiatives continue to work in parallel but with the same principles. We call for a move to have a unified mechanism of these two initiatives and aligned with country owned planning, monitoring and reporting cycles and structures. We look forward to working with you on this in the next six months.

9. Attracting the private sector investment into agriculture is at the centre of the new vision of sustaining the CAADP momentum in the next decade. We will work to ensure that Africa private sector is at the center stage.

10. I wish to reiterate the African Union's commitment to push for transparency and accountability. The African Union was pleased that the Leadership Council meeting in Cape Town upheld the call for a unified process, system and an accountability framework. This is good for countries as they

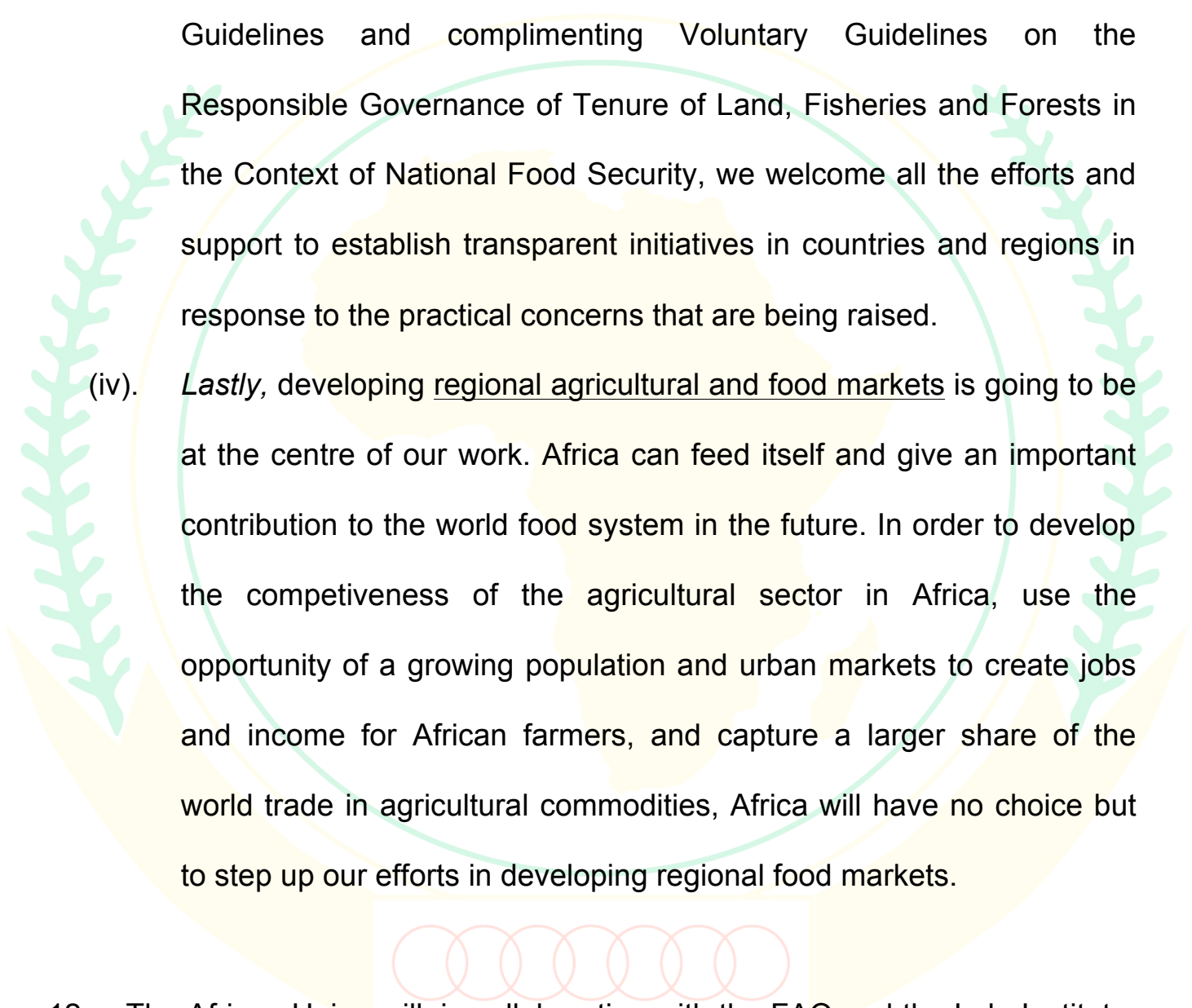
can benefit from a single reporting and accountability system and avoid duplication of efforts. But we need more work to make this a reality.

11. Lastly, let me reflect on some of the key thematic areas that the African Union consider as priorities and would like to work with you on.

(i). *First* is nutrition. We talked about this in detail in the morning. The African Union, and building from current efforts on Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) will work to integrate in the Country Investment Plans Nutrition related interventions including supporting the coordination among different sectors of health, education and agriculture.

(ii). *Second* is on empowerment of women in agriculture. It is an undisputed fact that women constitute a significant portion of employment in agriculture. And yet, access to productive assets such as land, credit, and other extension services is limited. The leadership and the entire team of the African Union Commission is committed to the support interventions that will enable women in Africa achieve their full economic potential and harness gender equality.

(iii). *Thirdly* is on the area of responsible investments. A lot of issues and concerns have been raised on how to coordinate and ensure responsible investments especially as we facilitate and attract private sector in agriculture. In some cases, the voices being raised are genuine while in others they can scare away well intentioned and committed private sector. The African Union welcomes the efforts to



support and complement existing actions in ensuring responsible investments especially in facilitating accessing to key and valuable assets like land, water and other resources. Building from the African Union's instruments such as the Land Policy Framework and Guidelines and complimenting Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, we welcome all the efforts and support to establish transparent initiatives in countries and regions in response to the practical concerns that are being raised.

(iv). *Lastly, developing regional agricultural and food markets is going to be at the centre of our work. Africa can feed itself and give an important contribution to the world food system in the future. In order to develop the competitiveness of the agricultural sector in Africa, use the opportunity of a growing population and urban markets to create jobs and income for African farmers, and capture a larger share of the world trade in agricultural commodities, Africa will have no choice but to step up our efforts in developing regional food markets.*

12. The African Union will, in collaboration with the FAO and the Lula Institute, be hosting the High-level Meeting on Eradicating Hunger in Africa on 30 June-1 July 2013 in Addis Ababa. You are all invited and most welcome to attend.

13. I look forward to continued partnership with you on these issues and reiterate our commitment to do our part.

14. I thank You

