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**STATEMENT  
BY  
HER EXCELLENCY TUMUSIIME RHODA PEACE,  
COMMISSIONER FOR RURAL ECONOMY AND AGRICULTURE AT THE  
AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION**

**ON THE OCCASION OF**

**DIALOGUE DINNER**

**21<sup>st</sup> November 2013, Intercontinental Hotel Warsaw, POLAND**

**Honorable Terezya Huvisa, State Minister of Environment of the United Republic of Tanzania, President of the African Ministerial Council on Environment (AMCEN)**

**Excellences Ministers**

**Our Partners in the ClimDev-Africa Programme (AUC, UNECA and AfDB)**

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen**

On behalf of the African Union Commission, I would like to take this opportunity to extend the appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Poland for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to us and to all participants during our stay in Warsaw. The excellent arrangements will go a long way towards enabling us achieve the objective of our coming here which is collectively finding solutions to challenges posed by climate change and climate variability.

**Excellences**

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen**

I would also like to thank each one of you for setting time aside off your busy schedules to join us this evening. This is testimony of your interest and support of the ClimDev-Africa programme, which as most of you know, is a joint initiative of the Africa Development Bank, the African Union Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to generate, analyse and disseminate climate information and data for policy makers and practitioners in Africa's development.

According to studies developed in Africa, it has been noted that the vulnerability of the African continent to the impacts of climate change arises from a combination of physical and social processes and

represents the interface between exposure to climatic threats interacting with other non-climatic threats, and the capacity of the threatened systems to cope with those threats.

Africa is grappling with all aspects of under-development that require urgent attention. Achieving sustained economic growth and poverty reduction remains the key challenge facing the African region.

Although climate change seems marginal compared to the pressing issues of poverty alleviation, hunger, health, and economic development in Africa, it is becoming increasingly clear that the realization of sustainable goals can be seriously hampered by climate change.

## **Excellences**

### **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen**

Africa has made considerable progress in mobilising resources to strengthen Africa's knowledge and capability on climate change adaptation and mitigation. Several African countries have developed climate change strategies and National Adaptation Plans.

The African Union Commission is currently finalizing an Africa Climate Change Strategy which will serve as a guiding tool for AU Member States. We also have the Great Green Wall of the Sahara and Sahel initiative which aims to improve the fight against desertification on the continent while at the same time promoting sustainable livelihoods.

We appreciate the support and cooperation of our Member States, Regional Economic Communities and our partners in advancing these programmes. We look forward to our continued collaboration.

## **Excellences**

## **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen**

This dinner dialogue is intended to provide an opportunity for an informal networking for all participants to meet and discuss ideas and expand their network of contacts. We hope that it will be of benefit to each one of us and contribute in the development of future collaboration in achieving Africa's vision 2063 that will integrate climate change issues.

## **Excellencies**

## **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen**

Thank you again for your participation in this dialogue dinner and Bon appétit.