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Statement

of

H.E. Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture

At

The Lunch to Popularize the African Women's Decade Themes and Fund Raising to Support Fund for African Women's Focus on Agriculture and Food Security for 2012.

14 July, 2012.

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VP Knuprbo Kadiali - Malauri

CP Dr J. Poorey

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Salutations

Let me begin by expressing my appreciation to the Women, Gender and
Development Directorate for this innovation aimed at popularizing the African
Women's Decade Themes and also using this opportunity to mobilize resources for

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

the African Women's Fund.

The idea of a Women's Decade was hatched in 1975 by the United Nations at the First World conference on Women, that was held in Mexico city. Since then, African women have been involved, and continue to participate in local and international consultations on women's rights and gender equality. African women's contributions have enriched discussions at the subsequent Women Conferences in Copenhagen (1980), Nairobi (1985) and Beijing (1995).

At their Extra-Ordinary Meeting of Ministers of Gender and Women Affairs in Maseru, Lesotho in December 2008, the Africa Union (AU) Ministers for Gender and Women's Affairs called on the AU to declare 2010 – 2020 as African Women's Decade, and undertake wide consultations to ensure that the Decade is a success. The Ministers' proposal was adopted by Assembly Dec. 487 (XIX) which declared 2010 – 2020 as African Women's Decade.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

The African Women's Decade (2010- 2020) was launched in October 2010, and coincided with the time that the women's movement worldwide was marking significant landmarks on gender equality and the empowerment of women. In that year, the world reviewed thirty years of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Again Women (CEDAW), fifteen years of the Beijing Declaration and

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this opportunity to call upon our partners and other stakeholders to support this fund by contributing to the Fund in order to ensure that our common vision of ensuring that our rural women who form the majority of our food producers receive more equitable treatment which would enhance their wellbeing and that of their families while benefitting the society as a whole by improving the productivity and growth of agriculture.

I thank you all for your kind attention.