



Opening Remarks

by

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ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

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Biennial Review Indicators

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“Change is hard at first, messy in the middle and gorgeous at the end”.

Robin Sharma.

SALUTATION

- Honorable Ruthy Masake, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reforms of the Republic of Namibia
- Permanent Secretaries and Representatives of AU Member States
- Distinguished Representatives of the Regional Economic Communities
- AU Agencies Present
- Our Development Partners
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning and thank you for gathering here in Windhoek. It is a privilege to stand before you at a moment that demands clarity, courage, and collective resolve.

Honorable Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin with a truth that is both simple and profound: Africa’s future depends on what we choose to deliver today. Not what we plan. Not what we discuss. Not what we write. But what we deliver.

Every policy we craft, every investment we make, every structure we establish must answer one question: **Are we doing enough to ensure that every African has access to safe, sufficient, and nutritious food?**

If we are honest, the answer is **no**.

Not because we lack frameworks. Not because we lack strategies. Not because we lack policies.

It is because we have spent too much time perfecting documents and too little time **changing realities**.

Honorable Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen,

For more than two decades since CAADP was adopted in Maputo, we have made commitments and built processes. Yet today, more than **300 million Africans** remain food insecure, and the continent spends nearly **100 billion dollars** every year importing food.

These numbers are not just statistics. They are a call to conscience.

A call reminding us that something is not working as it should. A call reminding us that our people are waiting for results, not rhetoric. A call reminding us that Africa with **60% of the world's arable land** must rise to its potential.

So we must ask ourselves: **why do these challenges persist?**

Why, after so many years of CAADP implementation, do we still struggle to transform our agrifood systems?

The answer is clear:

We have not focused enough on delivery. We have not consistently turned policies into action. And we have not used data and evidence as the compass for accountability.

Honorable Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Kampala CAADP is the **flagship Programme** of the African Union for the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063 endorsed by our Heads of State and Government. Once it became a flagship, it ceased to be a framework on division of labor. It is now **the continental engine for tangible delivery** and that's why i would like to see how practical and results oriented we could implement the CAADP Kampala. That's why I commissioned the 100 days rolling plan that talks about how to improve production and food security, through soil health and mapping, job creation through youth empowerment and the blue economy, withstanding shocks through the climate change strategy and resources' mobilization, all resulting in the reduction in the food import bill. This is what the commissioner's 100 days is all about. It is not a parallel program as some people have been suggesting. Let me be unequivocal: **this is not true**. The 100Days action plan augments the Kampala CAADP action plan.

And let me say this with conviction: **as Commissioner, I am committed to doing things differently.** Not the usual. Not the predictable. Not the "business as usual" that has slowed us down for years.

I believe Africa deserves more than routine. Africa deserves results.

That is why I took a deliberate step: **I commissioned consultants to develop the draft results framework, indicators, and reporting architecture for Kampala CAADP.** But let me be clear, these drafts are not final. They are not for endorsement. They are not for adoption.

My expectation and the only acceptable process is that these drafts must undergo **broad, inclusive consultation** with Member States, RECs, AU agencies, and our partners. Only

after this wide consultation should they be brought forward for **validation by Member States**.

This is how we ensure ownership. This is how we ensure legitimacy. This is how we ensure that Kampala CAADP reflects the priorities of member states.

I must be candid: when I look at some of the proposed indicators, I worry that we risk repeating the same patterns that held us back under Malabo. Long lists. Heavy reporting. Minimal delivery.

We cannot afford that. Not now. Not with the urgency before us.

Kampala CAADP must be different. It must be practical. It must be focused. It must be implementable.

This brings me to the purpose of our gathering.

Yes, we are here to refine the results framework, indicators, and reporting mechanisms. But let us be clear: **a review only matters when implementation has happened**.

A framework on a shelf will not transform agriculture. An indicator will not feed a child. A report will not create jobs.

Only implementation will.

I therefore urge that we use this meeting as a **consultative platform for effective implementation** of the CAADP Kampala Action Plan (2026–2035). Let us focus on simple, practical tools that support Member States to deliver their NASIPs. Indicators must be aligned with the six Strategic Objectives of CAADP Kampala and must not overwhelm Member States. A maximum of **three indicators per objective** 18 instead of 89 will allow us to track progress meaningfully.

Honorable Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Earlier this year, our Heads of State and Government reaffirmed CAADP as a flagship Programme of Agenda 2063. This is a recognition that agriculture and agrifood systems are the foundation of our survival, resilience, peace, and prosperity.

We must therefore deliver. We cannot repeat the path taken under Malabo. **Kampala CAADP must be about implementation — implementation — implementation.**

The Assembly also adopted the AU Theme of the Year 2026: **“Assuring Sustainable Water Availability and Safe Sanitation Systems to Achieve the Goals of Agenda 2063.”**

This theme comes at a critical moment. Africa must invest in water and irrigation infrastructure. We can no longer rely on rain-fed systems. Strategic Objective 6 of the Kampala CAADP places the water–agriculture nexus at the center of building resilient agrifood systems.

Honorable Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me highlight some of the strategies we are prioritizing as a Commission:

- Supporting Member States and RECs in domestication and implementation of NASIPs, guided by the 100-day rolling action plan focusing on soil mapping, soil testing, seed banks, fertilizer access, the blue economy, and job creation, climate change as well as resourcing the CAADP with clear road map.
- Building strategic partnerships to mobilize resources for programmes that transform agrifood systems.
- Strengthening data systems so they support decision-making not as a compliance exercise, but as a tool for accountability and delivery.

Honorable Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The responsibility before us is great but so is our potential.

Africa has the land. Africa has the youth. Africa has the knowledge. Africa has the will.

What remains is the courage to do things differently and the discipline to deliver.

Let us use this moment to correct what is not working, reinforce what is delivering impact, and commit to a new culture of implementation. With the leadership and expertise gathered here, I am confident that we can achieve this.

Let me emphasize once more: **this workshop is a consultative one.**

To conclude, I reaffirm the African Union’s commitment to providing leadership and support in the implementation of the CAADP Kampala process.

I thank you all, and with these remarks, I declare the workshop open.