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**Workshop on enhancing policy coherence for the SDGs through integrated climate, land, energy and water (CLEWs) assessments and institutional strengthening in Ethiopia**

17 January 2019  
Conference Room 6, UNCC, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Welcome and opening remarks by H.E. Dr. Eng. Seleshi Bekele**

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to this national workshop on “**Enhancing policy coherence for the SDGs through integrated climate, land, energy and water (CLEWs) assessments and institutional strengthening in Ethiopia**”. Let me take this opportunity to thank UNDESA, UNDP and ECA for responding positively to my request for assistance to strengthen our capacity for integrated approaches for implementing the SDGs.

Ethiopia has always been at the forefront of strategies for inclusive sustainable development. We contributed substantially to the SDG process as well as the development of the goals of the African Union’s Agenda 2063.

Our development agenda is framed by the Growth and Transformation Plan that started in 2011. We are now in the second phase of the GTP – GTP-II that ends in 2020. GTP-II already integrated the SDGs and we plan to do the same with GTP-III that we are already in the process of planning for.

In 2017 Ethiopia conducted its Voluntary National Review (VNR) on SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 14 for the HLPF. In that process it was very clear that integrated approaches and inter-institutional collaboration are a necessary condition if we are to implement the SDGs and attain the overall goal of the GTP, supported by the Climate Resilient Green Economy strategy - to reach middle income status with zero net emissions by 2025.

The Second Growth and Transformation Plan aims at sustaining rapid and inclusive development through enhanced productivity in agriculture and manufacturing; improving quality of production; and stimulating a competitive economy.

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The Growth and Transformation Plan is supported by the Climate Resilient Green Economy Strategy (CRGE) with its four pillars of agriculture, forestry, power and transport.

The overall development goal set out in the GTP and the supporting CRGE is surely ambitious, but we are determined to reach it. This requires that we do not do things in the business as usual way. We must optimise our resources – including human, financial and natural resources. For this to happen we must work as a joint-up government where ministries and departments with overlapping mandates capitalise on that overlap to work together to based on their respective comparative advantages and efficient use of resources to achieve the country's development objective.

Achieving our development objective depends very much on how we invest in, and use our land, energy and water resources as these constitute the fundamental natural resources on which our economy is based. These resources are also very sensitive to climate change. Therefore, although all of the SDGs are interlinked, the coupling between climate, land, energy and water is a crucial one that provides a unique opportunity for substantive efficiency and optimal investment planning in support of the SDGs.

It is thus a good thing that in Ethiopia one ministry – the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity has mandates on all of these areas, as well as other ministries, commissions and national institutions. As such MoWIE provides a unique entry point for coordinating the climate, land, energy and water nexus as an important platform for an integrated approach in achieving the SDGs.

The integrated approach is also important for us in that it provides us with the platform and subsequently tools that we need to review and revise our nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to climate action for the global stocktakes as required under the Paris Agreement.

This is why I am very happy and confident that through this project on “**Capacity development for enhancing policy coherence for the SDGs through integrated climate, land, energy and water (CLEWs) assessments and institutional strengthening**” we have already made the first step, through the facilitation of

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MoWIE, towards delivering as one on the national development goals while tackling climate change. This confidence is demonstrated by your presence here and the various rich discussions that some of you had with the project team in the various bilateral meetings.

I therefore hope that through this workshop we will have a better sense of establishing the Ethiopian integrated approaches modelling team that the UN will assist us to develop the capacities of.

I look forward to hearing your ideas on how you see us taking this important initiative forward. After this workshop we will consult under the leadership of MoWIE to establish the team and work with the UN team to design the capacity building programme.

However, developing capacities is not enough. We must ensure that the interdisciplinary team created is fully committed, and that every effort is made to ensure national ownership and that the data and assumptions used in the modelling are the best from our collective consensus.

I wish you all successful discussions and look forward to our collective effort to optimise how we deliver on Ethiopia's Growth and Transformation Plan.

I thank You.