



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

2017 African Economic Conference

Closing Remarks

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Check Against Delivery

Excellencies,

Representatives of Governments, Development Partners, Private Sector and Civil Society Organizations

My Colleagues from AfDB, ECA and UNDP co-hosting the Conference

Distinguished Guests and Conference Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This afternoon marks the end of our 3-days of intensive deliberation that looked at policy imperatives of governance for structural transformation in Africa. I would like on behalf of UNDP, to foremost thank H.E The Prime Minister of Ethiopia for officially opening the Conference and sharing his insights and vision of a proud and prosperous Africa. We had topnotch Experts and high- caliber presenters who shared keynote speeches in 5 plenary sessions on critical issues pertaining to the theme of the Conference. In addition, several high quality papers were presented on diverse topics on structural transformation and a number of special events held, including launching of Reports.

On behalf of UNDP, I would like to acknowledge all the contributions made towards understanding the policy underpinning of governance to Africa's transformation agenda and achievement of the Agenda 2063 and 2030 for

Sustainable development. Allow me at this juncture to share some of key takeaways/messages for this Conference:

- The decisive role of the state in the context of developmental state model is important and must be complemented by other actors especially the private sector and civil society organizations.
- The need to reform and build new institutions that are targeted for inclusive governance and structural transformation in line with our global and continental development objectives.
- Given that Africa is rich in natural resources, there is need to depoliticize governance and management of natural resources and change the focus away from purely revenue generation towards accelerated investment in sustainable and equitable development and benefit sharing.
- The imperative of policy coherence and coordination for implementation of Africa's transformation agenda and to strategically position the continent in the international arena building on regional integration and south-south collaboration.

Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to commend the collaborative effort of the three institutions (AfDB, ECA and UNDP) that ensured this conference is a huge success. I

especially wish to thank our host institution ECA for the leadership and excellent organization of the Conference. My appreciation to all the Speakers, Moderators, Rapporteurs and the entire AEC Secretariat that ensured that we had an excellent Conference. My final appreciations go to our host country Ethiopia, for the warm hospitality and support throughout the Conference. I wish you all safe journey back to your respective countries and looking forward to see you in the 2018 African Economic Conference which UNDP will proudly be hosting.

Ameseginalew – Thank you
