

**Seventh Session of the Committee on Food Security
and Sustainable Development**

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**Expert Segment of the Africa Regional Preparatory
Conference for the United Nations Conference**

On sustainable development (Rio +20)

Opening Session

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

October 20th, 2011

Remarks by Mounkaila Goumandakoye

**Regional Director and Representative of the United Nations
Environment Programme (UNEP)**

Your Excellency Henri Djombo, Minister of Sustainable
Development, Forest economy, and Environment of the Republic
of Congo

Your Excellency Dr Abebe Haile of the African Union Commission

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Regional Director and Representative of the United Nations
Environment Programme (UNEP)

Your Excellency, Honorable Minister of Sustainable
Development, Forest Economy, and Environment of the Republic
of Congo

Your Excellency, Orinda Hala of the African Union Commission

Your Excellency, Ms Jennifer Kargo Deputy Executive Secretary
of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Chairperson of the Bureau of CFSSD 6

MrAbdirhamaneBeileh, Representative of the African
Development Bank

Representatives of UNDESA and UNDP

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great honor and privilege to address this important conference on the Seventh Session of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development which is taking place at a critical time when Africa is articulating the regional concerns, priorities and expectations in preparation for the United Nations Conference on sustainable development referred to as Rio + 20. This is a reference to 20 years after the Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development organized in Rio de Janeiro , 20 years during which we have prepared strategies, policies and action plans to achieve sustainable development .

Agenda 21 has been negotiated and adopted in 1992,we thereafter developed in 1997 the programme for further implementation of Agenda 21, and in 2002 prepared and endorsed the Johannesburgplan of implementation. Despite these planning for “implementation” and “further implementation”, the world is still grappling with seemingly intractable challenges of sustainable development.

Many international commitments have been taken to support the sustainable development agenda: the 2000 United Nations Millennium Declaration with the 8 major Millennium Development Goals; the Monterrey Consensus on financing for development which reaffirmed the target to raise aid volumes to the equivalent of 0.7 per cent of donors' Gross National Incomes; the G-8 summit at Gleneagles, United Kingdom, in 2005 with the commitment to more than double aid to Africa in real terms among others. There are lags and deficiencies on the implementation of these commitments. African countries themselves have taken commitments that have been partially fulfilled. When addressing this 7th Conference on Food Security and Sustainable Development it is worth recalling also the target of devoting 10 % of public expenditure to agriculture and rural development taken by African countries in the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and food security.

The aim of the Conference of Rio + 20 to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, and to assess the progress to date and remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and addressing new and emerging challenges is highly commendable.

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

During the past decade, growth of the Africa domestic product average 5.2 % ,a rate higher that the global average. We need to ensure that this economic growth continues and increases, that it is socially beneficial to all, particularly to the poor and that it is environmentally sound. Indeed while the continent enjoys high economic growth rate, it remains the developing region with the highest extreme poverty rate.

We need to engage in a regional economy in which growth is driven by public and private investments that are intended to eradicate poverty and enhance human well-being, reduce carbon emissions and pollution, enhance energy and resource efficiency, and prevent the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. The sustainable development path requires investments that contribute simultaneously to economic growth, environmental and social objectives. The world's approach so far has led us to juxtapose instead of integrating the three pillars of sustainable development.

A green economy development path with a good analysis of the benefits and risks,can help African countries attain economic and social gains on several fronts. The huge natural assets of the continent can provide an opportunity of investments in more sustainable agriculture to increase food productivity, cleaner and more efficient production approaches, access to renewable energy, creation of jobs, improvement of what can be called the GDP of the poor who depends significantly on natural resources.

Your Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The world is looking for an Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development (IFSD) that can ensure that the economic/ecological/social dimensions are integrally related and brought into harmony. As for the International Environment Governance which is a component of the IFSD, the Head of States and Governments of Africa at the 17th African Union Summit in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea in July this year have recognized that *“current institutional structures do not fully address Africa’s needs in matters of the environment, sustainable development and climate change.”* They have called for the transformation of UNEP into a UN specialized agency, demonstrating vision and commitment for structural change and for effective leadership to respond to the challenges facing the continent and to build on the available opportunities. Indeed, the current IEG system is not responding adequately to the needs and priorities of the African countries to enable them to use the immense natural potential and engage meaningfully in the sustainable development path. Moreover, despite the 500 Multilateral Agreements, the world has lost 60% of ecosystems services during the past 50 years and the loss of species is in certain cases as 1000 times higher than in geological times, worsening climate change. Opportunities for increased economic growth and social welfare are also lost. During this meeting the

experts will provide their analysis and recommendations for the bestway forward towards the implementation of the Heads of States decision.

Excellences,

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Nous voudrions au nom du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement exprimer nos vifs remerciements pour l'excellence de la cooperation a l'Union Africaine et a la Commission Economique pour l'Afrique, ainsi qu'aux autres organizations avec lesquelles nous avons travaille pour accompagner les pays dans le processus de preparation de Rio + 20.

Je voudrais ici reiterer la disponibilite du PNUE a poursuivre et intensifier son soutien aux pays de la region dans leurs efforts de developpement durable , pour une Afrique plus prospere, une Afrique toujours solidaire avec le reste du monde.

Je vousremercie

experts will provide their analysis and recommendations for the
country forward towards the implementation of the Health of
State decision.

Excellencies,

Members of the Council,

As you know, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has
been providing technical assistance to the Government of
Guatemala since its independence in 1963. Over the years, UNDP
has worked closely with the Government to support its efforts
to improve the quality of life for the people of Guatemala.
We are pleased to continue this partnership and to support
the Government's efforts to achieve the Millennium Development
Goals.

Thank you.

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Thank you.