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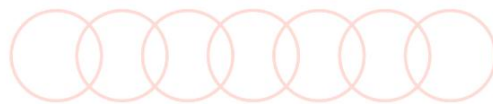
OPENING STATEMENT BY H. E. DR. ANTHONY MOTHAE MARUPING
COMMISSIONER FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

9th Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee Meeting of the Ministers of Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

“Towards An Integrated and Coherent Approach to Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs”

Meeting of the Committee of Experts

United Nations Conference Centre, Addis Ababa
Thursday March 31st, 2016



Official Opening Statement:

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March 31st, 2016

H. E. Dr Anthony Mothae Maruping
Commissioner for Economic Affairs

“Towards An Integrated and Coherent Approach to Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs”

Your Excellency the Chairperson,
Dr Abdalla Hamdok, Deputy ES of UNECA,
Your Excellency Representative of the Ethiopian Authorities,
Excellencies;
Distinguished Senior Officials
and Observers;

It is a distinct honour and special privilege for me to be afforded some time to share some thoughts and reflections with you this morning. It is truly commendable that you found time to come and participate in your meeting despite economic and financial challenges being faced back at base in most cases. On the other hand this affords you an opportunity to exchange views, share experiences and collectively and severally forge a way forward.

It is well known that quite a number of African countries are facing fallen demand in export commodities resulting in the fall in their prices, severe and prolonged drought during the planting season, in places floods. Strengthening of the US Dollar posed additional challenges.

Declined commodities exports has meant cut in production, risen unemployment, fallen incomes and eroded tax bases as well as reduced foreign exchange earnings. This phenomenon sent devastating ripples down the economic and financial system. This took a heavier toll on those economies that are heavily dependent on a narrow base of commodities exports.

Prolonged and severe drought has meant considerably declined agricultural production, disruption of hydro-power generation and supply of clean water and sanitation. Again incomes dwindled, unemployment rose and poverty encroached.

Floods led to displacement of people, destruction of infrastructure, and spread of water borne diseases.

The strengthening of the US Dollar led to the jump in Dollar denominated external debt and increased inflationary pressures.

The adverse effects of the four causes of the economic and financial “headwinds” cascaded down the system through chain reaction, resulting in financial and macro-economic imbalances, downward revision of growth rates and socio-economic development and increased poverty.

Hence on Sunday April 3rd , from 09h00 to 13h30, there will be a Ministerial Roundtable to discuss this current financial and economic challenges under the theme: “Addressing the Impact of Drought, Floods and Declining Commodity Prices in Africa: What Coping Strategies and Capacities are Required?”. Invite your Honorable Ministers to attend and participate. It will be a forum for exchange of views, sharing of experiences and swapping of credible coping ideas. Of immediate attention will be humanitarian interventions and skillful financial and macro-economic management. In the medium to long term transformative and inclusive growth should be the objective.

2015 has been quite an eventful year. Agenda 2063 Strategic Framework was adopted by the AU Summit in January 2015. The First Ten Year Implementation Plan (FTYIP) was adopted by AU Summit in June 2015. On the global front in July there was the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD3) which produced Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) as the outcome document on means of financing development. Later on COP21 addressing climate change also managed to forge global consensus. There is a follow up Summit in New York on April 22nd, 2016. On September 25th, 2015, the global Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the SDGs were adopted by the UN General Assembly. What a year 2015 was on the development front. Africa participated actively in all the global negotiations. Africa influenced the 17 SDGs through the Common African Position on Post 2015 Development Agenda (CAP). Open Working Group (OWG) and the formal intergovernmental negotiations relied heavily on CAP.

Agenda 2063 is the African blue-print for economic transformation. Its formulation was based on wide consultations with a broad spectrum of African stakeholders, including the private sector, labour, civil society,

gender and youth organisations and networks, academia, media, artists, diaspora etc. Within the process of elaborating Agenda 2063, 35 national strategic frameworks and action plans were studied and their contents factored in. 17 countries submitted written inputs. AU Constitutive Act, existing developmental continental frameworks, initiatives, programmes and high level declarations, were taken into account. Mega trends were studied and situational analysis performed.

Agenda 2063 States the African Vision. The Vision unfolds into 7 African aspirations. In the FTYIP these aspirations further unroll into 20 goals and 41 priority areas. FTYIP also has 12 fast-track (flagship) projects. Indicators are near completion, thanks to the team work of AUC, NPCA, AfDB and UNECA as well as the African statisticians. I particularly laud the African statisticians for their invaluable contribution in this regard. More work awaits them during the setting of base lines and monitoring and evaluation. AUC and its technical partners look forward to continued collaboration of our African statisticians. We remain ever indebted to them.

The 20 goals of Agenda 2063 encompass all the 17 SDGs. Compatibility between Agenda 2063 20 goals and 17 SDGs arise from the fact that the source of the two are the same, namely the African stakeholders as explained earlier. Hence the theme of this Conference:

“Towards An Integrated and Coherent Approach to Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs”

The two (Agenda 2063 and SDGs) are to be domesticated by being assimilated or infused into the national plans. Then a single joint or combined periodic progress report from monitoring and evaluation of Agenda 2063 and SDGs is to be produced.

Domestication process of Agenda 2063 is ongoing. Domestication missions to 23 countries have been conducted. Some countries have opted to domesticate Agenda 2063 on their own.

Agenda 2063 will guide transformation of African economies by increasing productive capacities, strengthening competitiveness, fostering diversification, engendering value addition and enabling the joining of supply chains by facilitating investment intra – Africa trade and trade with external trading partners. Integration remains the core of Agenda 2063.

There is cause for optimism with Agenda 2063 and SDGs. With Agenda 2063 lessons were drawn from the past endeavours. Its formulation has been inclusive and participatory (public, private sector and civil society) and thus has stronger sense of ownership and so higher level of commitment and it has been a bottom – up process. Requisite capacity for implementation has been assessed and strategies for closing the gaps devised. Risk has also been assessed and risk mitigation strategies developed. Domestication process is integrating contents into national and RECs plans ensuring implementation. Means of implementation have been given due attention. Communication strategy has been formulated. Results based approach through clear definition of goals, targets, and indicators is an added advantage, enabling monitoring and evaluation. Current economic and financial challenges are spurring member states towards economic transformation. It is timely to embrace Agenda 2063.

So let us embrace “... an integrated and coherent approach to implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Agenda 2063 and SDGs”. At the AUC RECs co-ordination meeting attended also by AfDB, NPCA, UNECA and ACBF, this approach was identified as the most practical from several angles and therefore endorsed. It is anticipated that Regional Co-ordinating Mechanism (RCM) [an AUC - UN mechanism for supporting AUC activities] meeting scheduled for Saturday will do likewise.

Technical team led by AUC, composed of AUC, NPCA, AfDB, UNECA supported by the African Statisticians and RECs, will continue to followup on the implementation of Agenda 2063. This team will be reporting to the Coordination meeting comprising the AUC, NPCA, AfDB, UNECA and RECs Chief Executives. The latter is henceforth considered Agenda 2063 Technical Steering Committee feeding into the ministerial Agenda 2063 Ministerial Committee and then to the Executive Council and the Summit.

May I wish you fruitful deliberations on the assessment of progress in regional integration in Africa and on the status of statistics development in Africa and some selected social development issues. Equally may you consider several statutory issues presented to you with thoroughness and wisdom deserved.

May I thank you for your kind attention.