

OPENING STATEMENT

By

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On

ECA

**The sixth session of the Committee on Food
Security and sustainable
Development**

**October 27, 2009
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia**

Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, please allow me to welcome you all, on behalf of the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and on that of my own to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

I am very pleased to be honored to participate in and to deliver the opening address at the sixth session of the committee on Food Security and Sustainable development with the theme of the meeting "sustainable consumption and production for sustainable Growth and poverty reduction."

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The major challenge of food security in Africa is its under developed Agriculture sector that is characterized by over reliance on rain-fed Agriculture, low fertility of soils, minimal use of farm inputs, environmental degradation as well as other obstacles including reduced access to markets.

In order to get out of this food insecurity situation the solution lies in increasing food availability, food access and food adequacy through improving Agricultural Productivity, facilitating market access, Building on Coping mechanism and designing and Implementing Proper Food Security Programmes.

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you all may know in 2004 the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Launched the Food Security Programme (FSP) which combines a series of

complementary interventions designed .to enable chronic food insecure households attain sufficient assets and income level to get out of food insecurity and improve their resilience to shocks.

The food security programme is also intended to make contribution to the objectives of the Government's Plan for accelerated and sustained development to end poverty (PASDEP) and to play a role in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, Particularly Goal 1 which is halve extreme poverty and hunger by 2015.

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since the Maputo declaration by AU heads of states and Governments in 2003, the comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme(CAADP) has become the central focus of efforts by African Governments under the AU/NEPAD initiative to accelerate growth and alleviate poverty and Hunger among African countries.

The focus of the CAADP in Ethiopia is to strengthen and add value to the Agricultural Development Led industrialization (ADLI) strategy under the ongoing plan for accelerated and Sustained Development to end poverty (PASDEP) and other related programmes supportive of Ethiopians rural economic development and food security (RED & FS) objectives. The Government of Ethiopia is entirely committed to the overall AU/NEPAD CAADP Objectives and principles and initiated the process of institutionalizing the CAADP frame work in to National Agriculture sector Policies, strategies and programmes in September 2008. And the compact signatory successfully completed on 28th of August 2009.

Excellencies

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

In the context of the Paris Declaration on Aid effectiveness and Accra Action plan, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia confirms its commitment to promote long term economic and social development to reduce poverty and achieve food and nutrition security. It endeavors to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of public expenditure in pursuing the implementation of the PASDEP agenda as its action plan to continue to sustain the 10% economic growth over the next 5 years. It also commits at minimum to maintain the Maputo decision by African heads of states and Government of the African Union to allocate 10% of its National budget to the Agricultural sector and will strive to sustain or increase the current share of 13%.

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Efforts made so far in areas of economic and social development particularly in food security and sustainable development in line with the framework and directions set up by the African Union and NEPAD show that how the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia committed to work together with African countries to achieve sustainable development, eradicate Poverty and ensure food security among African countries.

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am indeed confident that the sixth session of the committee on food security and sustainable development with its two objectives.

First to review the implementation of the 2008/2008 work programme of ECA's food security and sustainable development division and provide guidance on further work during We 2010/2011 biennium in the context of the proposed programme budget of the ECA strategic frame work for 2010/2011 second to provide a platform for the Africa Regional Implementation meeting (RIM) for the eighteenth session of the UN commission on sustainable development will successfully attain its expected out comes and a number of out puts generated from each session of the meeting.

Finally, I assure you that the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia will be on your side as it has been doing so far to work with you in all your areas of Interventions.

With these words, I declare that the meeting is officially open.

I wish you all the best.

I thank you!