



**United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa**

Statement delivered by

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At the

Sixth Session of Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development (CFSSD-6)

And the

**Africa Regional Implementation Meeting for the Eighteenth Session of the Commission
on Sustainable Development (CSD-18)**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
27 October 2009**

Chairperson of the Bureau of ACSD-5

Your Excellency, Mr. Mitiku Kassa, State Minister for Disaster Risk Management and Food Security of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia,

Your Excellency, Mr. Mohamed A.A. Alahraf, Vice-Chair of CSD-18 Bureau,

Excellencies, Ambassadors, Permanent Representatives to ECA and the African Union,

Dr. James N. Mbata, representing the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, it is my pleasure to welcome you to ECA and to this Sixth Session of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development.

The objectives of your meeting are: to review the implementation of the 2008-2009 work programme of ECA on Food Security and Sustainable Development, to give guidance on further work during the 2010-2011 biennium, and to provide a platform for the Africa Regional Implementation Meeting (RIM) for the Eighteenth Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-18).

From the report that we will present today, you will note that your Secretariat has made significant progress in implementing activities of the subprogramme on food security and sustainable development issues in 2008-2009. Moreover, this work has contributed to achieving notable results with regard to land policy, agricultural development and food security, and addressing the challenges posed by climate change. However, implementation has not been without challenges and important lessons have been learned, in light of which we would greatly appreciate your guidance on further work to be undertaken during the upcoming biennium.

Given the significance of climate change for the growth and development prospects of our continent, and the issues at stake for the region in the impending Copenhagen Summit on Climate Change, we will apprise you of progress made in the implementation of the Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa) Programme and the establishment of its African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) at ECA. Your guidance and support will be particularly needed on how to scale up and sustain our work on climate change and development.

Your Secretariat has been supporting the African regional preparatory process towards the Copenhagen global negotiations on climate change. Our technical support has effectively contributed to the preparation of the African Common negotiating position on Climate Change, which was endorsed by the Thirteenth Ordinary Summit of the African Union in July 2009. As you are aware, the same Summit established the Conference of African Heads of State and Governments on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), an unprecedented and commendable move that provides Africa the much needed political impetus to engage in an

efficient and effective manner with the global community on climate change issues, and ensure that the continent's concerns, interests and expectations are heard and addressed.

**Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates and participants,**

Since 2005, meetings of your Committee have provided an excellent platform for Africa RIMs. The statements produced at the RIMs have been very useful inputs to CSD sessions, as they have helped in clearly articulating and conveying to the international community Africa's concerns, priorities and expectations for accelerating progress towards sustainable development.

The theme of the Sixth Session of your Committee is quite pertinent in this regard. This theme was inspired by the thematic cluster of issues that will be considered during the 2010-2011 CSD cycle, namely: Transport, Chemicals, Waste Management, Mining, and A Ten-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP). Sustainable Consumption and Production is clearly the running thread of this cluster of issues. And, sustainable consumption and production in the face of an ever growing population, dwindling resources, coupled with the challenges of climate change, food and energy insecurity, has a great potential for promoting sustainable and broad-based growth, thereby contributing to achieving the crucial sustainable development imperative of poverty reduction in Africa.

The collaboration among ECA, UNDESA, UNEP and UNIDO in the preparation and organization of the RIM is a testimony of our continued commitment to forging and strengthening partnerships in taking Africa's sustainable development agenda forward. For this Session of your Committee, UNDESA sponsored the travel of one participant for each of the African countries that are currently members of CSD.

Our partnership has been particularly effective in the preparation of the draft thematic reports on sustainable consumption and production by UNEP, on chemicals and waste management by UNIDO, and on transport and mining by ECA. These reports were reviewed and enriched with inputs from an Ad hoc Expert Group Meeting that ECA co-organized with UNEP and UNIDO in June 2009, which also helped inform the working document for the Africa RIM Statement and the various reports to be submitted to UNDESA as inputs into the Secretary General's report to CSD-18. Furthermore, the third issue of the flagship Sustainable Development Report on Africa will be jointly produced with UNEP and UNIDO under the theme "*Sustainable Consumption and Production, for Sustainable Growth and Poverty Reduction*"

During the RIM segment of your meeting, the five regional implementation review reports on the thematic cluster of issues for the UN-CSD 18 and 19 review and policy sessions will be presented to you. These presentations are meant to stimulate discussions for adequate inputs not only to the finalization of the regional review reports, but also to the Africa RIM Statement. The final regional review reports will serve as reference documents for CSD-18 deliberations. They will be disseminated to member States, African regional and sub-regional organisations, and all relevant partners and organizations, with a view to highlighting the status of implementation in Africa of commitments in Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, and to serving as an advocacy tool

for promoting appropriate actions by stakeholders at all levels to accelerate progress towards sustainable development in Africa. Your contribution towards this end is crucial.

As we approach the end of the meeting, your Secretariat will seek your guidance on the theme of the next – i.e. the Seventh -- session of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development. We recommend that this theme be in line with the thematic cluster of issues to be considered during the 2012-2013 CSD cycle, namely: Forests; Biodiversity; Biotechnology; Tourism; and Mountains. This would enhance the effectiveness and results of our work.

**Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

At this juncture, I wish to recognize the presence of Africa's partners at this meeting, which demonstrates our common resolve to follow a development path that recognizes the centrality of sustainability in decisions and actions for the benefit of current and future generations. Their partnership in this endeavour is greatly valued.

I am also pleased to mention and invited you to two important side events that will be held during the course of your meeting: the CSO Side Event on CSD processes led by UNDESA on Wednesday, 28 October, and the World Bank's Consultations on their Environment Strategy on Thursday, 29 October.

Let me conclude by thanking the ACSD-5 Bureau and all of you for the leadership provided in guiding the work of your Secretariat during the past two years. I also wish to thank all those who have worked hard and contributed, in one way or the other, to the successful convening of this meeting. While wishing you the most productive deliberations, I hope that, notwithstanding the busy programme of work, those of you coming from outside Ethiopia will find time to enjoy the beauty and hospitality of Addis Ababa.

I thank you for your kind attention.