



**Remarks
by
Boaz Blackie Keizire
Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture**

**On behalf of H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma
Chairperson of the African Union Commission**

Your Excellency the Rt Hon. Prime Minister of Senegal

Your Excellency the Minister of Agriculture, of Senegal

Your Excellency, the Director General of IFPRI

Excellencies Representative of ECOWAS

Excellencies representatives of Development partners G8, Government of
Canada

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of **H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma**, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, I would like, first and far most, to extend our sincere appreciation for the Government of the Republic of Senegal for the invitation accorded to the African Union Commission and specifically to the warm welcome extended our delegation in attending this meeting.

The AU Commission further congratulates the Government of Republic of Senegal, especially H.E. the President of Senegal, who is also a Chair of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee; for his leadership and in steering national as well as Continental programs.

Since the inception of the CAADP agenda in 2003, and later starting from around 2007 when CAADP became really active, the Government of Senegal has been

instrumental in instituting the necessary reforms to transform the economy and specifically in the Agricultural Sector. We may wish to recall that on the 10th of February 2010, Senegal signed a CAADP Compact, signifying a joint commitment of a common Vision and Strategy in advancing agricultural priorities. Senegal, further, put in place an Investment Plan that was validated at a Business Meeting on the 17th of June in 2010. Again this signified a clear commitment to advance the issues of agriculture different from the past. Since, and based on a series of country reports, Senegal has been consistent in the implementation of actions and priorities that were outlined in the CAADP Compact and elaborated in the investment Plan.

A lot of lessons have been learnt and experiences gained in the implementation of these priorities. For example a key lesson learnt was the need to elevate the role of private sector in driving agriculture with a view to stimulate growth, raise household incomes and ensure food and nutrition security. The experience further shows that engagement of private sector requires a unique approach in way partnerships between public and private sector are forged. This was among the key principals that guided the thinking behind the work of Grow Africa and later the G8's New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition. An alliance between the African Union and G8 to raise the political profile and commitments made at different fora and initially with a view to strengthen the involvement of the private sector in agriculture.

The experience gained from the New Alliance participating countries also show that the level of transparency and accountability is beginning to trigger actions towards the broad objectives of CAADP.

The African Union would like to take this opportunity, once again to applaud the G8 for the initiative and also to clarify what the New Alliance for Food Security is

and or is not. The G8's New Alliance is not a project, neither is it a new program as many people may have been imagining. It is rather an instrument to catalyze country efforts in the implementation of Country's CAADP Investment Plans. It should be understood as a mechanism that was initiated to strengthen CAADP implementation and building on the work of Grow Africa, to initially attract private sector investments in CAADP Plans, but more important and using specific instruments mainly the Cooperation framework, to foster mutual accountability and reporting focusing on impact and results.

The Commission appreciates that the Senegal's policy commitments and as evidenced in the policy indicators are beyond attracting private sector to include specific commitments on guarantee of food, focus on nutrition, gender among others. When Senegal was initially approached to engage in the New Alliance, the government clarifies that they would rather first finalize the design of their new programs to better articulate what partnerships they would be looking for. This demonstrated a true spirit of adhering to CAADP principles mainly leadership and seeking evidence to inform decisions.

The African Union therefore applauds the New Alliance for Food Security in this effort of strengthening the broader CAADP principle of accountability. Lessons from the New Alliance will be used to shape the nature, style and manner of how to specify commitments as we roll into the Country Joint Sector Review. The reason is that the New Alliance instrument, the Country Cooperation framework, provides a clear way how commitments by governments, private sector, development partners are set and structured for better tracking, reporting and accountability.

As you may be aware, the African Union has been calling for better alignment of different initiatives such as the New Alliance for Food Security to an African

agricultural transformation agenda, the CAADP. To this effect, progress has been made to align the New Alliance Results Framework to Africa wide CAADP results framework and ensure that a common reporting mechanism is established under the guidance of countries themselves.

In the next two days, we shall be discussing and elaborating the mechanisms and approaches for instituting or elevating the Joint Sector Review work in countries. We will be clarifying and pushing for the New Alliance Results Framework to be an integral part of a country's Joint Sector Review. The intention will be to avoid creating parallel reporting and accountability systems but also respecting other forms of platforms (such as the New Alliance Leadership Council) where the outcomes of the JSR can facilitate effective dialogue.

Lastly, and as all may be aware, the African Heads of State and Government declared 2014, a year of Agriculture and Food Security and Marking 10 Years of CAADP. The 2014 therefore will be the base and launch year for the next Decade. At the July 2014 Summit, Heads of States and Government, after taking note of the progress made in agricultural developments on the continent, will be making specific Decisions and or recommitments on actions and targets for the next decade. The African Union Commission therefore calls for the Government of Republic of Senegal and the international community to observe the events at continental, regional (ECOWAS level) and at national level to engage in effective consultations for better, well informed and evidence Decisions by our Heads of States and Government come, July 2014.

As part of the Launch for Senegal's new Alliance for Food Security, the African Union Commission once again congratulates the work and efforts of the Government of Republic of Senegal, that of the Minister of Agriculture and the

entire team, especially in seeking and forging credible partnerships in advancing agriculture.

The Commission calls for the development partners, the private sector and government to honor commitments especially those cleared mentioned and articulated in the Senegal's Cooperation Framework.

The African Union would like to single out and thank the private sector both from within Senegal and outside who have made specific intentions of investments in a tune of billions of dollars. The African Union would like to further thank all development partners who have announced their commitments to support Senegal an mainly the Governments of Canada, the Unites States of America, the European Union, France, Japan, Spain, Italy, Israel, South Korea and China. We would also like to appreciate the contributions by the African Development Bank and the World Bank for commitments made and those yet to be announced. We call for stronger accountability, coordination, harmonization and alignment of these approaches to Senegal's priorities.

The African Union pledges its continued commitment and support for such efforts. We will coordinate continental policy for better harmonization, create partnerships, mobilise resources (and especially from within) for supporting the implementation of country, programmes and projects.

I wish to thank you and wish you fruitful deliberations

I thank You.