

2014 Development Cooperation Forum

Ethiopia High-Level Symposium

**“A renewed global partnership for a
post-2015 era”**

UNECA Headquarters, Addis Ababa,

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Opening speech by

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Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government and people of Ethiopia and my own, I warmly welcome you all to Addis Ababa and, in particular to the Ethiopia High-Level Symposium focusing on “*A renewed global partnership for a post-2015 era.*”

It gives me a great pleasure to address this important symposium, which I believe will provide a huge opportunity to assess existing gaps, opportunities and challenges in implementation of development cooperation and generate alternatives to shape the future global partnership for development. Moreover, the outcome of this conference will set the tone for the upcoming Development Cooperation Forum of 2014.

The world has changed fundamentally since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration thirteen years ago. It faced with new challenges and opportunities, many of which require collective actions. A renewed global partnership for development underpinning the post-2015 development agenda will need to evolve with the changing development landscape to enable transformative changes. Therefore, a renewed global partnership for development must go well beyond MDG 8 to respond to new challenges and the changing development landscape and provide effective support for implementation of any post-2015 global development agenda.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The MDG 8 has helped to galvanize support for the millennium development goals agenda and to mobilize resources by highlighting the responsibility of traditional donors. In addition, the growth of South-South cooperation has offered viable opportunities for developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their individual and collective pursuit of sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

In the past decade, several developing countries have registered impressive level of economic growth and transformation. For instance, Ethiopia has registered double digit growth during the last decade which makes the country one of few non-oil producing country experiencing such rapid economic growth. We are, on a hugely promising trajectory and transformation which will help the country to achieve most of the MDGs as well as realizing our vision of becoming low carbon emission middle income country within the coming ten years. Our Growth and Transformation Plan is designed to propel our nation to that destination which has eluded our people for so long but which is now within reach. None of this would have been achieved without our effective cooperation with our development partners.

In spite of the good progress we have experienced, there is still a huge deficit in international cooperation for the development of low income countries and those, which are the least developed. Without ignoring other impediments to development, the major bottleneck for countries such as Ethiopia for ensuring

sustainable development and successfully achieving the MDGs is related to shortfalls in development finance. In this connection, we have said a lot in the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action, and recently, in the Bussan partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. But the results have been few and far between. The current global economic situation, in our view, should never be allowed to detract attention from the critical need for development finance of low income countries.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Our challenge in this area is compounded and made even worse by the challenges of climate change, which is a global phenomenon calling for responsible and wise leadership at the international level. This should rest on full commitment to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities with respective capabilities. While our contribution to climate change is negligible, countries such as Ethiopia have been affected the most. But as a responsible government and to contribute our part to mitigate the effect of climate change, Ethiopia has pursued green growth path, and our current five years Growth and Transformation Plan is based on developing a green economy whose strategy has already been issued and is being implemented.

In addition, the MDG 8 also had important gaps and systemic shortcomings, and there is a large discrepancy between its initial level of ambition and its implementation. It is also important to note that, MDG 8 perpetuated a “donor-recipient” type of relationship and did not pay sufficient attention to mobilizing development financing other than aid. The goal also suffers from weak political commitments on the range of issues covered, including aid, trade, debt relief,

access to essential medicines and ICT; and its lack of a robust accountability mechanism associated with the goal, to ensure delivery on commitments is also another area of its weakness.

Excellences,

For many developing countries aid remains an important source of development finance, and the international community should reaffirm and set clear timelines for achieving its official development assistance (ODA) targets, especially for least-developed countries and countries with special needs. During the post 2015 priorities and a major part of these resources should be targeted towards increasing the capacity of developing countries to mobilize domestic resources; expanding economic infrastructure; improve domestic productive capacity; expanding quality basic social service and thus ensuring human development; addressing the effect of climate change; promoting rapid and inclusive economic growth; ensuring food security and thus eradication of poverty; promoting good governance and democratization.

It is also expected that the renewed global partnership will focus on building a more equitable multilateral trade system, improving the flow of foreign direct investment to developing countries at the same time addressing supply-side constraints in developing countries, including through improved access to new technologies and long-term investment.

In the coming two days I hope this diverse and competent audience can advance new and innovative ideas how we can more effectively realize the objectives of

International Development Cooperation partnership that will pave the road for sustainable development for all countries of the world.

Finally, I would like to emphasize that; reaching to agreement is not the ultimate goal of this meeting, but all decisions should be converted into actions, Promises must be kept, and all commitments should be fulfilled.

I wish you all a successful deliberation.

I Thank you