KEYNOTE ADDRESS of the CEO of NEPAD,

Dr. Ibrahim Assane MAYAKI, to the 11th CAADP PP;

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Introduction

Honourable Minister Mrs Susan Shabangu, Honourable Ministers African countries represented, Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen representatives of international organizations, civil society and Farmer organizations and professional organizations, all protocol observed, dear participants.

First of all I would like to express my gratitude to the South African authorities for hosting this event. You know that the NEPAD agency benefits from specific support from the Republic of South African and being here in Johannesburg for this particular event, makes us feel at home.

This 11th CAADP partnership platform is being held in the context of the celebration of the year of Women empowerment and after a landmark summit that celebrated African agriculture last year in Malabo. Let me here convey some messages that we, as a development agency of the African Union, consider as critical for addressing some challenges of achieving the Malabo goals with particular attention to women.

[Malabo: a new ambition]

The African Union Assembly in last July established a set of targets and demonstrated recommitment to the CAADP principles towards Agricultural Growth and Transformation through 2025. The Malabo
Declaration is clear and firm. It is driving us to an ambitious level. It is a request that our leaders have directed to us with specific objectives in terms of results and impact whereas the Maputo Declaration in 2003 had rather put more emphasis on means by affirming the need for more public expenditures and production growth.

The Declaration is situated at the highest level of ambition by placing agricultural development in the broader context of the structural transformation of our societies. This is expressed for instance in the goals of eradicating hunger and halving poverty. It also goes beyond the strict challenges of agricultural production to tackle changes required in African trade and institutions.

After 10 years, the record of CAADP is positive. We have learned a lot from this process. CAADP has become a powerful tool for advocacy and guidance on agricultural transformation in Africa. The CAADP has become a recognized brand, adopted by a wide range of constituencies including development partners, farmers, civil society, and the private sector. But to most of all, it has been and still is an efficient tool to foster alignment to priorities defined in common by Africans.

Now there are different reasons to make a leap.

Actually the energy so far focused on the remobilization of African States towards participatory and improved planning processes in agriculture, resulting in the design of more than 40 investment plans, some of which were carried out with significant results. But the first decade of CAADP focused essentially on public investment which
implicitly has created a financial dependency to which mainly only donors could respond.

Also CAADP focused on the primary production at the expense of a more comprehensive relation of agriculture to development, for instance its implications for income and employment generation. This came in particular from the difficulty to cut across sectors and departments to address challenges for agriculture transformation.

With the change of gear, the strategy to implement Malabo can no longer simply be aimed at committing to more planning and investment.

The tight focus on Investment Plans has shown its limits in terms of transformation. While, action and improvements are still necessary in these areas, the leap forward is going to come from increased and bold focus on reforms in economic policies and in institutional capabilities.

Lessons of the past decade show that the results are most likely to come by when the financial reinvestment is accompanied by a clear vision of the state's role in the revitalization of the private sector.

It is by creating an economic environment that stimulates initiatives - particularly by conducting transparent and foreseeable policies - and at the same time by regulating the market in order to deal with market failures that we will attain results and impact through the new thrust given to our farmers and entrepreneurs. The consequence is that our strategy and roadmap for implementing the Malabo declaration should primarily address the issue of economic policy for the agricultural sector.

[The rationale of the Malabo Declaration]

The Malabo Implementation strategy and roadmap has defined 4
“thematic areas” of priority action. The African Union and the NEPAD Agency, through its experience and reflection on development issues has progressively elaborated its own philosophy on key drivers of success with the horizon of transforming agriculture.

- First we are convinced that our farmers have the best potential for intensifying the production if only we give them the same opportunities that large firms get from banks or suppliers to run their business. Supporting smallholder farmers towards their transformation into modernized farms will have a knock-on effect in terms of job creation for youth, food security and empowerment of entrepreneurship in the countryside. By strengthening the position of farmers, women and youth in the value-chains we should aim at reducing inequality and creating a more equitable society. Specifically, we urge our political entrepreneurs to exert all their weight to change the status of women and enforce new regulations to create more economic opportunities, to promote their equal rights to land, inheritance and financial autonomy. We can no longer afford to allow discrimination of rights!

- Secondly, in an increasingly unstable global environment, Africa has to define its own pathway to prosperity based on the principles of regional preference and on the possibility to regulate strategic markets. Indeed, to take advantage of the growing domestic market and reduce food dependency, a regional preference strategy is essential. It should consist of promoting regional integration at Regional Economic Community level first, before we could aim for a fully functional free trade area on the continent. Our integration into global markets will have to be gradual.
• Third, we should **increase resilience of livelihoods and organizations** not only through coping and adaptation mechanisms, but also by promoting risk and shock reduction measures particularly purposing to improve the functioning of markets; the transformation of agriculture. Building resilience must integrate a comprehensive approach that includes regulation of relationships between stakeholders, market institutional arrangements that would incentivize investment thanks to a more stable and predictable economic environment.

• And fourth, the **management of natural resources** must rely on the increased participation of the local communities for securing equitable access to opportunities and for enhancing fair distribution of the wealth that will be created.

Our vision is that of articulating the benefits of regional integration and preference for regional markets and the rational use of opportunities offered by global markets. As I already explained it in many other occasions; it is what I understand under a **policy of food sovereignty** for Africa.

A direct consequence of the change in the approach towards the implementation of economic policy is that we will use all the prerogatives given to us as a development agency. We cannot limit ourselves solely to support planning processes at country or regional level as we used to. Economic policy options and set of accompanying instruments need to be debated, without hesitation and then efficiently implemented. We must be able to provide technical expertise and guidance to the discussions that any economic policy proposal provokes.
In that regard, the objective of strengthening the "systemic capacity" of CAADP stakeholders is important to achieve Malabo’s targets.

Economic policy implementation is not an abstraction. It must respond to concrete needs of farmers for the benefit of all. It sometimes will oblige to change our mindset and to be bolder in issues such as special and differential treatment, regulation of markets, norms and property rights for instance, in the sense of a better defence of African interests. Reinforcing the regulatory role of economic measures conducive to increased confidence for farmers business should be our objective. We reaffirm the central role of farmers and their organisations, small-medium entrepreneurs, men and particularly women to be at the forefront to foster decisions on matters of economic policy. We know they are ready to address the issues that I just presented to you.

We are conscious on what it might imply in terms of the sector’s political economy in the current context. Particular interests might be unveiled by debating on economic policies and options for choice. For instance the still insufficient financial commitment of African States towards agriculture allows new players in particular big companies to step into the breach whereas safeguards and frames have not been established in advance. I here refer in particular to the land acquisition issue and the agro-dealing industry.

Accordingly, we should focus our attention to three particular factors.

- First, institutions have to be reinforced and consistent in the way they design and implement policies. Notably efforts should be made to
strengthen the capacity of African parties to interact proactively among different sectors within Africa and with the global players.

- Second, attention must be paid to farmers’ capabilities in light of the emergence of a strong private sector in agriculture.
- Third and it is directly linked to what I just said, “partnering” means mainly fostering the voice of stakeholders who will be actors of the transformation and need to reinforce their voice in the change of game rules and not multiplying conferences and seminars with the traditional clients of CAADP.

As a consequence, partnership will evolve. Alignment can reach a new stage thanks to the CAADP Results Framework that is becoming our benchmarking document that charts the way for the next decade. The Malabo Declaration is fed from the Results Framework development work that was itself, a collaborative effort involving CAADP stakeholders, development and technical partners. It must become the reference document for all, to which partners in particular will align in the same spirit as they did towards the CAADP Compact at the first stage of the CAADP. We also hope that partners will own it by aligning their monitoring and evaluation systems to it for the actions they undertake in support of CAADP implementation, and also use it as the yardstick to take stock of this support.

[What are the current key challenges and opportunities in implementing the Malabo declaration?]

Now we have to tackle the task for achieving the Malabo targets. I see four particular challenges for which mobilizing each one’s energy won’t
First, we need to admit that this is not because almost all countries have established their investment plans that the CAADP task is completed. **CAADP is a way of working and promoting dialogue** within countries. External partners have helped us to achieve this and their support is still important. But we must also admit that by engaging on economic policy issues, it is no doubt that Africans need to assert improved leadership. We have always said that we have common goals with partners in terms of transformation of agriculture but different responsibilities: arbitration on economic policy issues will be African; at the same time, decisions will be fed by knowledge and science produced by all. Streamlining the partnership aspects includes bringing clarity and practicality into the accountability relationship.

Our second challenge is to mobilize stakeholders internally. CAADP in the next ten years needs to innovate in a way that brings farmers and farmer organisations to engage and participate directly in determining and driving the Africa’s agriculture transformation agenda. I have already mentioned the complexity of reconciling the sometimes conflicting interests of the various components of the private sector. But we also have to learn to work better between sectors. Agricultural development is not the responsibility of the sole ministries of agriculture. I cannot overemphasize this. The challenges of increasing productivity must be addressed in a more systemic and multi-sectorial way, by handling together the issues of education, finance, environment, trade or industrialization among others. These will have to be factored into one single and complex equation if agriculture is to transform. On some of these policies, the regional level is essential. That
is why as from now, we will be exploring all opportunities accessible to us in our facilitation role as we look forward to strengthening our cooperation with RECs.

- The third challenge is likely to be that of assisting individual countries develop their national CAADP Results Framework in the very spirit of Malabo where mutual accountability was elevated at a level where it has not been before. Succeeding in operationalizing this commitment would demand more stakeholder engagement at national level and as a consequence, more facilitation and advocacy role from our part. We stand ready to do this as in the past.

- Our fourth challenge is that of financing agricultural development. From Maputo as well as in the Malabo Declaration, the issue of deploying Africa’s own resources remains central. The first phase of CAADP with support of a multi donor trust fund is coming to an end in 2015. For the next 10 years, we need to re-mobilize African constituencies and partners. We also count on the new dynamism of private sector incentivized by the focus on more favourable economic policies to partly self-finance collective actions. Fiscal reforms should support the capacity to set-up development funds for professional and commodity associations.

**Conclusion**

But our top challenge remains that of changing the lives of our farmers that will benefit all our fellow citizens by improving our collective food and nutrition security. And of course this can only happen by tapping into the potential of those who can most contribute to it. Our women have to be at the forefront. Let us remember that if women had the same access to productive resources as men, they could increase yields.
on their farms by 20-30 percent and raise total agricultural outputs in a way that could lead to an estimated 100-150 million people out of hunger according to FAO data. Gender discriminations facing women farmers are not only detrimental to them, but also to the economic and social development of all. In that sense, empowerment of women is not a question of economic justice only but of efficiency as well. And what is at stake for women is also what plagues most of Africa, discriminations in access to productive resources and assets, marginalization.

For concluding, I give you this reflection on the marginalization of a majority of our people as expressed by a great African conscience who, by the way, was a woman, Wangari Maathai. She said: “When you think of all the conflicts we have - whether those conflicts are local, whether they are regional or global - these conflicts are often over the management, the distribution of resources. If these resources are very valuable, if these resources are scarce, if these resources are degraded, there is going to be competition.” And she added “We are sharing our resources in a very inequitable way. In a few decades, the relationship between the environment, resources and conflict may seem almost as obvious as the connection we see today between human rights, democracy and peace. »

We are confident at African Union and NEPAD Agency that empowering people and giving equal opportunities is key to agricultural transformation.

Thank you. Merci.