

Remarks by H.E. Dr. Maxwell Mkwezalamba, Commissioner for Economic Affairs of the African Union (AU) Commission at the Closing Ceremony of the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-4); Busan, Republic of Korea, 1 December 2011

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Busan represents a major turning point! Our engagement reflects commitment and dynamism of the global community. This is an evolution towards a new and inclusive partnership for effective development cooperation.

The imperative of transiting from Aid to Development Effectiveness has been reinforced throughout this Fourth High Level Forum. The critical next step now lies in what we do to collectively nurture this partnership.

The frontiers of development are being re-defined by new opportunities and orientations, driven by emerging economies from the South.

Africa itself is breaking new ground. The Continent is transforming. Governments are accelerating reforms aimed at creating the enabling environment for inclusive growth and sustainable development. Our economic transformation requires a fine balance between a capable private sector and empowered citizenry and collaborative leadership driven by effective institutions.

In Busan, Africa has collectively articulated its position towards making effective development a reality. The African voice has resonated with the clarity displaying the necessary political will and commitment of our leaders to this cause.

The manifestation of the African voice here is a result of the first-ever African Consensus and Position on Development Effectiveness. This position re-affirms the principles and shared values of the African Union and its NEPAD Programme. It is a key reflection of multi-stakeholder approach adopted in defining our priorities for Aid reforms.

Africa is indeed taking charge of its own development agenda. Our core message is that we must address the unfinished aid agenda; develop the necessary capacity and incorporate the regional dimension into development assistance. It is of overriding importance that development partners align their support to African country-owned and defined priorities.

We embrace the promise of South-South and Triangular Cooperation to deliver public goods. This will help to achieve horizontal partnerships driven by evidence-based knowledge exchanges and mutual learning.

Within this context, Africa has prioritized the effective utilization of both domestic and external resources to attain development targets. This calls for innovative ways to direct Aid towards developing transformational capacity for domestic resource mobilization and value addition to mineral and agricultural resources. In this regard, we emphasize the need to channel Aid into Africa's real economy and productive sectors to ensure that Aid catalyzes development. This is Africa's strategy to exit Aid!

We underscore that all outstanding commitments by development partners to Africa must be delivered. Our key priority is to strengthen country systems led by effective institutions for better results. Indeed, Aid delivery should lead to the systematic improvement of individual and institutional capacity, not simply managing poverty. With all the energy behind the building blocks of the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, we can achieve our top priorities.

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen;

What does Busan symbolize and what will it be remembered for?

On our part, the African Union welcomes efforts at building a Global Partnership that takes into account the full participation of and alignment with our national and regional structures. This partnership must respect Africa's endogenous systems and assets for effective development to take root. It is fundamental that Africa secures space to actively engage in determining the content and structure of the new partnership for its effective voice and participation under the umbrella of the African Union.

The Monitoring and evaluation system for this Global Partnership should reflect a more inclusive compact with strong Southern leadership. This evolving global partnership arrangement should have direct linkages with the regional level, driven and shaped by countries for effective coordination. Such design will foster alignment, domestic and mutual accountability with quality common indicators to measure progress and results of our past and current commitments.

To this end, we look forward to establishing formal linkages with the OECD DAC and UNDP who have been tasked to support the effective functioning of the new global partnership. The configuration of this partnership must reflect Africa's priorities and aspirations. We further reiterate our commitment and readiness to directly contribute to the design of the monitoring mechanism.

With political commitment at the highest level, we have setup the Africa Platform for Development Effectiveness as the coordinating mechanism and integrated community of practice to rally and consolidate African interests.

In conclusion, as we depart, the successful implementation of the commitments reached here in Busan rests on our individual and collective resolve. Africa stands ready to play a decisive role. Indeed, African Union Member States have initiated a consultative process to respond to the formation of this partnership architecture.

Accordingly, if the outcomes of High Level Forum 4 are to be relevant and applicable to the African context, our effective representation must be embedded in the working arrangements of this post-Busan partnership. We stand at a critical juncture, where the attainment of equal and effective representation by all countries and stakeholders will be the real test of realizing this inclusive partnership.

Let me end by thanking the Government of the Republic of Korea and OECD for successfully co-organizing this forum.

I thank you.