

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY MELES ZENAWI**

**PRIME MINISTER OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA**

**AND**

**CHAIRPERSON OF THE NEPAD HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT  
ORIENTATION COMMITTEE (HSGOC)**

**AT 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY NEPAD COLLOQUIUM AND CONGRESS**

**ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

**MARCH 28, 2011**

**Excellencies;**

**Former President Thabo Mbeki of the Republic of South Africa**

**Former President Olusegun Obasanjo of the Federal Republic of Nigeria**

**Former President Jerry John Rawlings of the Republic of Ghana**

**Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr. Jean Ping;**

**Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Mr. Erastus Mwencha**

**Honourable Ministers of State;**

**African Union Commissioners and Chief Executive Officer, NEPAD Agency;**

**Chairperson of the Eminent Panel of the African Peer Review Mechanism**

**Heads of Regional Economic Communities and Partner Institutions;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

*Excellencies,*

Let me take this opportunity to welcome you all, most warmly, to Addis Ababa to the NEPAD Colloquium in commemoration of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NEPAD.

It is heart warming to have an assembly of important stakeholders in Africa's development to brainstorm on NEPAD implementation at this colloquium.

2012 signals the beginning of the second decade for NEPAD. A key milestone has been achieved with NEPAD serving as a common and shared vision for Africa's renewal. The NEPAD agenda has retained its significance and relevance 10 years on!

The Journey so far has been a learning experience since Lusaka 2001 when the African Union Assembly adopted NEPAD. This represents the hallmark in Africa's desire to build a lasting development platform that is fully owned and led by Africans. The observance of this milestone calls for a deeper reflection on NEPAD's contribution to Africa's development and to chart new courses as we seek to deepen the values and vision of NEPAD. Some of accomplishments have had the desired impact while more challenges

remain. In the process we have observed some critical lessons and gained substantial knowledge on sustainable development.

The vision of NEPAD initiators is one that is premised on the need for Africa to take its rightful place in the global system based on our self-defined transformative agenda and ownership. I acknowledge the participation of key actors of NEPAD at this colloquium including Presidents Mbeki and Obasanjo. Once again, we shall tap into their rich knowledge, experience and vision of NEPAD as it enters into a very critical phase of implementation.

Indeed, over the years NEPAD has matured into the flagship development program of the African Union. Its programmatic activities have promoted stronger African ownership through creative partnerships with African stakeholders. NEPAD has been contributing immensely to the transformation of the policy design and implementation of Africa's development objectives.

Most importantly, NEPAD implementation has been revitalized through its integration NEPAD into the structures and processes of the African Union. You will recall that the 14th African Union Summit of January 2010 adopted the decision to set up the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency as the technical body of the African Union.

The development challenges facing Africa remain complex and enormous, however the continent is moving towards better political consensus and policy coherence, to promote coordination and multi-level consultation in response to these challenges. Our fervent commitment to the NEPAD principles is very clear in this regard.

Africa is witnessing a new era of renewed momentum. This includes efforts at unlocking the continent's full potential, despite internal and external exigencies. The role of the developmental state with planning at the core is critical to this process. Growth in Africa is projected at 5% in the next decade but only a double digit growth can make Africa a growth pole in the global integrated economy. In doing this we need to move beyond

managing poverty. I believe very strongly that NEPAD can act as the stimuli for prosperity on our continent.

Global realities have continued to influence Africa's development outlook since the turn of the New Millennium. The global financial and economic crisis worsened by the fiscal disarray particularly in the Euro-currency zone and Climate change have impacted, directly and indirectly, on the high GDP growth rates in Africa, which reached a peak of about 6 per cent in 2007. The growth was made possible due to good macro-economic governance and improved investor confidence in Africa. Our recovery from the crisis was remarkable and faster than expected. Africa must however, continue to build on raising our domestic resource base for self-reliance and ownership.

I am therefore, delighted that the theme for the colloquium is geared at 'Mobilising Domestic Resources for NEPAD implementation'. The focus is very critical to the successful delivery of NEPAD programmes and projects. We need to adopt the most innovative mechanisms and methods to finance our major programmes. In this regard, I commend the joint work of the AU Commission, NEPAD Agency, UNECA and other partners to undertake a study on domestic resource mobilization for Africa's development.

A major platform through which NEPAD has provided strong support is the mobilization of development partners for Africa's development objectives. Africa has engaged key partners within the G8, G20 and South - South Cooperation platforms to interact with the North and South players to promote sustainable results on global economic cooperation. Surely, on Africa's part, we must continue to strive at strengthening partnerships with our development partners. This next decade should witness a renewed Africa with more inclusive and accelerated growth to engage globally and drive development in this Century. Confidently we can affirm that Africa is on the Move!

Excellencies;

Overall, the last decade in Africa has witnessed a period of change and progress. It is critical more than ever before that we continue to support the African Union and its

NEPAD Programme in the next decade. NEPAD has moved into a new phase of Africa's development trajectory. The focus is now on the implementation of key programmes and projects in key sectors such as infrastructure, energy, agriculture and enhancing African ownership. Essentially, the core objectives of NEPAD should be actualized through collaboration with African stakeholders at all levels.

*Excellencies; distinguished participants;*

As I conclude this statement, I want to re-affirm the validity of NEPAD as our continental strategic framework for development. The integration of NEPAD into the African Union has provided us with a new impetus and fresh opportunity to re-focus on the implementation and delivery of the NEPAD overarching objectives. We must re-affirm our faith and commitment to the NEPAD vision of taking full ownership of our development process. NEPAD should serve as the catalyst for both growth and development. Here and now, I call on all African stakeholders and development partners to work towards re-energizing NEPAD implementation.

*Excellencies, Distinguished Participants*

This colloquium is critically important as it provides a unique platform for us to consider far-reaching conclusions on NEPAD's overall outlook.

I thank you