

Short Statement by H.E. Ambassador Gebreab Newaye at the 10th APF,

Distinguished participants
Ladies and Gentlemen

This year, 2008, marks the mid-point of the period between 2000 and 2015 for the attainments of the MDGs. Once more, the achievements to date and the challenges ahead of the last developed countries, and in particular of Africa will be assessed and reviewed. This review is, of course, of utmost importance to our African Partnership Forum, since the over-arching objective of the APF itself is the attainment of the targets of MDGs by way of reduction of poverty. It is thus appropriate for us to put our deliberations here in this meeting within the overall context of the MDGs.

The 10th APF will be covering three important themes, relating to Climate Change, Boosting Economic Growth and Infrastructure development in Africa.

In recent years, Africa has recorded encouraging results in terms of economic growth, with a continental annual average growth rate of GDP of around 5 percent. Whilst this is a considerable improvement, it still lags behind the benchmark of 7% growth rate required to attain the poverty reduction goal of the MDGs.

At the same time, this recent growth is faced with the problems of huge price increase of food crops and energy, underlining further the importance of the partnership between Africa and the advanced countries. Our discussions on boosting economic growth should take this problem of global inflation into account.

Our partnership is not only about fostering economic growth. It also includes the promotion of good governance, to serve the purposes of peace and stability and the democratization process. Africa has initiated a unique mechanism of APRM in this regard. Several countries have conducted their own country self assessment and opened themselves to peer review, this is a good beginning which we may also wish to bear in mind our deliberations.

Thank you.