



**CAADP ROUNDTABLE MEETING
3 MARCH 2010 –Royal Swazi Sun- Mbabane- Swaziland**

**Statement of UN Resident Coordinator
MUSINGA T. BANDORA**

**The Right Honorable Prime Minister;
Your Royal Highnesses;
Honorable Minister of Agriculture,
Honorable Ministers
The Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme
The Assistant Secretary General of COMESA
Representative of the African Union
Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
Farmers and representatives of the private sector
Colleagues; members of the UN Family
Ladies and gentlemen**

Allow me to begin by congratulating the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland on the occasion of this CAADP Round Table Meeting being held in the country. I am confident that the deliberations over the next two days will add value to the CAADP process and help in identifying long-term programmes to stimulate agricultural growth, and strengthen social safety nets which are critical to achieving food security, particularly of the vulnerable including orphaned children. I wish in particular to commend the government for the major step it has taken in moving the CAADP process beyond the stage of political commitment and begin to plan for programme development and implementation on the ground.

In this respect, I wish to thank the Ministry of Agriculture for leading the process in the country and commend the contribution made by other partners such as COMESA, the Ministries of Economic Planning and Development and Finance, National Farmers' Union, NGOs, in particular World Vision, the University of Swaziland as well as our colleagues of FAO and the World Food Programme.

I wish also to commend the AU-NEPAD and COMESA for this CAAPD initiative to accelerate economic growth, enhance food and nutrition security and end hunger in Africa. Needless to say, this initiative will bear fruit only if it is owned and led by the African governments themselves. This is why I am glad to see the level of participation by the Swaziland government at this roundtable.

Indeed this is a first step in the right direction. The more critical step is ensuring that the plan and programme which finally emerge from this roundtable, respond to the specific needs of the country in promoting agricultural growth, ending hunger and food insecurity as well as reducing poverty, that it adds value and complements what exist on the ground to avoid duplication and overlap. Ultimately, in its implementation, it must also provide for the effective participation of all key stakeholders especially at the grass root level.

Honorable Prime Minister

The four pillars of CAADP address a cross section of key issues that relate to agriculture and food security. There are nonetheless other aspects which need to be taken into account of so as to give the programme, a comprehensive reach. We in the UN would like to see

that developmental issues that are not addressed by the CAADP's current draft Compact and Investment Plan such as food and nutrition security, HIV and AIDS, social safety nets, community stimulation, monitoring and evaluation and Disaster Risk Reduction are included as part of that comprehensive approach.

Agricultural production, HIV and AIDS, food security and poverty are interconnected and cannot be tackled in isolation of each other. We believe a comprehensive approach is key to achieving the underlying objective of CAADP - that of meeting Goal ONE of the Millennium Development Goals of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger. Coincidentally this is one of the goals - which at current trends, Swaziland is unlikely to achieve by 2015.

We believe therefore that, there is merit, in investing some time in the elaboration of a thorough and comprehensive Compact addressing all critical development areas taking into account the unique needs and circumstances of Swaziland. In so doing, we will ensure that the Investment Plan to be developed will also be comprehensive and tailored to the needs of the country.

Honorable Prime Minister

CAAPD enhances the African vision expressed in the Maputo Declaration of 2003 in which countries undertook a commitment to allocate at least 10% of their national budgets to agriculture and rural development. In CAAPD that vision is given concrete expression in terms of a Compact and Investment Plan. True to the spirit of the Maputo Declaration, the onus of developing agriculture must lie with Africans themselves. This is why CAAPD must be less

about new money from outside and more about renewed commitment by Africa to develop strategy to promote agriculture as a vehicle for ending hunger and food insecurity and for reducing poverty. Part of that strategy is forging creative partnerships with the private sector, empowering farmers and farmers associations as well as mobilizing internal capacities and allocating commensurate resources for agriculture and rural development. External partnership and resources must be only to complement and fill gaps. Needless to say it is only if CAAPD is owned and driven from within, that its vision and programme, can be sustainable in the long run.

This is why we commend the government for the effort being deployed to stimulate agriculture. The support given to farmers during this season - in terms of seeds, fertilizer, extension services and other inputs, complemented by a generally good rains should see increases in yields and hopefully lesser food insecurity for the year. This good effort needs to be sustained and measures of sustainability mainstreamed so as to avoid cyclical dependence on government. We also note that the government is already deliberating other structural issues such as land and water management, as well as environmental protection which have implications to long term agricultural growth and poverty reduction as well as to food and nutritional security and ultimately to the success of CAADP itself.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished Ladies and gentlemen

It is opportune that the implementation of CAAPD is coinciding with the roll out of the new Swaziland United Nations Development Assistance Framework –UNDAF- for the years 2011-2015. This is the framework that provides the strategic vision and elaborates a programme for UN development support to the country. I am happy that the process of developing UNDAF was participatory and government led and that we have finalized the UNDAF document and are in consultation with government on its signature. The UNDAF is aligned to the national development strategies and programmes, in particular to NDS, the PRSAP as well as the Government Priority Programme. The UNDAF Poverty and Sustainable Livelihoods Pillar addresses issues of access to productive resources, capacity of government and partners to address hunger and food insecurity among vulnerable groups, and development of a comprehensive national social protection framework.

Within this pillar the United Nations will support government to deliver appropriate technology and skills, enhance food and nutrition security programmes, address disaster risk reduction and respond to climate change issues. There is considerable alignment of UNDAF to CAADP - both in terms of substance and time frame and therefore great scope for partnership.

In this respect, the UN is ready to support the Government where we have comparative advantage including in technical support, policy dialogue, monitoring and evaluation, management information systems; procurement; social safety nets; and capacity building for disaster preparedness and response. The UN is therefore looking

forward to more engagement with Government and Stakeholders in developing the CAADP Investment Plan further.

I thank you.