SPEECH FOR COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, BLUE ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

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FOR

THE HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON ANTICIPATORY ACTION EVENT CO-ORGANIZED BY THE UNITED NATIONS, THE GOVERNMENTS OF GERMANY AND THE UNITED KINGDOM

VENUE:

DATE:  THURSDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2021
Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants
Ladies and Gentlemen,
All Protocols Duly Observed,

1. I am honoured to join you in this important High-level meeting on anticipatory actions.

2. Successful anticipatory actions depend on effective early warning systems and capable institutions able to undertake anticipatory actions to save lives, protect livelihoods, environment and development gains from impacts of hazards.

3. The AUC is implementing the Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action (AMHEWAS) Programme to minimise hazards exposure and mitigate impacts of hazards on African populations, with the aim to contribute to substantial reduction of disaster losses by 2030.

4. The programme includes the establishment of a Situation Room in AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, which is in advance stage. The situation room is expected to be inaugurated this year.

5. In the coming years, the AUC will work toward supporting establishment of similar situation rooms at national and regional levels. The goal is to ensure interoperability between the different situation rooms to facilitate exchange of information on risks for rapid decision-making and anticipatory actions.

6. African Governments, RECs and African Union have been investing substantial resources in meteorological networks to anticipate, prepare for and respond to the hazards with a view to improve anticipatory actions on the Continent.

7. In addition, development and humanitarian partners have contributed significant resources to support these efforts. The AU Commission extends gratitude to the Italian Government and UNDRR for supporting the project, and UNDP and Sweden for laying firm foundation for the project.
8. The AU Commission is implementing Intra-ACP Climate Information Service and Related Applications (CLIMSA) in Africa. This programme will provide critical inputs to the situation room through generation of data needed for hazards prediction, detection and monitoring to improve anticipatory actions and response.

9. We must acknowledge that successful anticipatory actions do not only require forecasting capacity but, also, an enabling environment.

10. The AUC is finalising the development of a continental coherent institutional framework for multi-hazards early warning and early action to facilitate multi-level, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholders’ actions across the continent. The framework outlines roles and responsibilities and the vision for the continent on early warning systems and anticipatory actions.

11. In tandem with the Institutional Framework, the AU Commission is also finalising detailed Standard Operating Procedures for the situation room.

12. I wish, also, to invite various partners to support the Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action Programme to contribute to strengthen anticipatory actions and substantial reduction in disaster losses.

13. Together, we can contribute to reduce disaster risk and the impact of disasters on our vulnerable communities.

14. I thank you for your kind attention.