Opening speech

by

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Workshop on 'New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in Ethiopia'

Radisson Blu Hotel, Kazanchis

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Addis Ababa

Excellencies

Ambassadors

Workshop Participants,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

It is indeed an honor and a great pleasure for me to make an opening remark for this august gathering where you get together to discuss on mechanisms of mainstreaming the G8 Action on Food Security and Nutrition initiative into the Agricultural Policy and Investment Framework (PIF). I believe that this creates an opportunity for New Alliance cooperation frameworks that align with the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program (CAADP) and the National Agriculture sector Policy and Investment Framework.

The agriculture sector has been the priority of Ethiopia since the early 1990's, when the Agricultural Development-led Industrialization (ADLI) Strategy and other related policy frameworks were adopted. Subsequently, the development policies and strategies included in the Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Programme (SDPRP) provided the basis for the Plan for Accelerated and Sustainable Development to End Poverty (PASDEP 2005-2010), which also adopted the goals and targets laid out in the Millennium Development Goals.

Based on the lessons learned and the country's long-term vision, the Growth and Transformation Plan (2010/11-2014/15) has been adopted to provide the overarching framework guiding the development agenda of the country.

It is important at this juncture to note that the agricultural strategy gives emphasis on supporting the intensification of marketable farm products both for domestic and export markets.

The commercialization of smallholder farming will continue to be the major source of agricultural growth and also concerted support will be made to increase private investment in large commercial farms. In addition, a range of public investments will continue to scale up the successes registered in the past.

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Ladies & Gentlemen,

Achieving food security is one of the major milestones of Ethiopia's development plans. In 2005, Ethiopia began its Food Security Programme. One of the key areas of the food security programme is the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP), in which more predictable food and cash transfers are made to targeted households in return for labor on public work projects, in particular community based watershed rehabilitation.

These investments help to protect and build household assets, while at the same time strengthening the productive base of food insecure areas. The PSNP public work activities currently represent the largest Sustainable Land Management (SLM) investment in the country.

As we all aware the Ethiopian economy has registered double digit growth rates per annum over the past nine years, which has placed Ethiopia among the top performing economies. And the New Five year Growth and Transformation plan also envisages continuing GDP growth at a minimum of 11% per annum.

Despite these achievements, however, the Government has made ending poverty its top priorities and has also recognized that much remains to be done in the agriculture sector to realize the vision of becoming a middle income country by 2025.

Droughts periodically pose threat to agricultural sector performance gains with negative effects on household food security and poverty levels. Vulnerability to droughts is greatest in the pastoral areas of the lowlands and densely populated, food-insecure districts of the highlands. This needs to be addressed through effective implementation of the GTP.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

The Government of Ethiopia together with its Development Partners developed the Ethiopian Agriculture Sector Policy and Investment Framework (PIF) for the period 2010-2020.

Pursuant of its growth ambitions, the Government led the process to design the Agriculture Sector Policy and Investment Framework/PIF which is a 10 year plan that would make operational the CAADP compact by identifying priority areas of investment and estimating the financing requirements of both Government and Development Partners. The PIF recognizes that effective and efficient funding needs to be harmonized, aligned and delivered within a framework that considers the mandates and resources of the GoE and its Development Partners.

Excellencies
Ambassadors
Workshop Participants,
Ladies & Gentlemen,

The G8 Cooperation Framework fine-tuned in the context of the "New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in Ethiopia" is believed to contribute to the attainment of the Growth & Transformation Plan /GTP/ and also accelerates the implementation of the PIF. Hence, the outcomes of this workshop would be used as potential inputs for mainstreaming the New Alliance agenda in to our Agriculture sector Policy & Investment Framework (PIF).

Wishing you a very successful deliberations and discussions, I now declare that the Workshop is officially open.

I Thank You All!