

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY HONOURABLE P.A. CHINAMASA,  
MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND  
HEAD OF DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE TO  
THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FINANCING  
FOR DEVELOPMENT : 14 JULY 2015, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

**Honourable Haile Mariam Dessalegn, Prime Minister of Ethiopia  
and President of the Third International Conference on  
Financing for Development,**

**Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,**

**Honourable Sam Kahamba Kutesa, President of the 69<sup>th</sup> Session  
of the General Assembly,**

**Your Excellency Mr Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General of the  
United Nations,**

**Honourable Ministers,**

**Your Excellency, Mr Wu Hongbo, Secretary General of the Third  
International Conference on Financing for Development,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Let me, at the outset, express my delegation and, indeed, my own gratitude to the Government and People of Ethiopia for hosting this important Conference and for the warm and generous traditional hospitality accorded to us since our arrival in this historical city – the seat of our continental organization, the African Union. I would also wish to congratulate you on your election as President of this

Conference. We are confident that under your able stewardship, we will achieve the objectives we have set for ourselves to establish a predictable and ambitious funding framework to match our equally ambitious development agenda.

**Mr President,**

This Conference is a critical component of the several other key encounters we are having this year as we negotiate a new global development agenda. The effective realization of the objectives outlined in that development agenda will be dependent on the resources and means of implementation to be identified in our deliberations here. We expect this Conference to identify concrete deliverables to match the ambition in the sustainable development goals, the post 2015 agenda and the measures to combat climate change.

The Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration set the tone for this Conference. The experiences we gained in undertaking the commitments made at Monterrey and in Doha should inform us on the actions and initiatives we ought to take in order to advance the new transformative agenda we have embraced.

**Mr President,**

An honest and frank assessment of our performance since the Monterrey Conference would suggest that we have fallen short in a number of areas. Commitments made to provide development resources have not been fully met. As a result of this and other shortfalls and weaknesses in the global partnership, there were gaps in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The unfinished business of the MDGs has now been incorporated in the Sustainable Development Goals and we cannot afford a repeat performance of shortcomings this time around.

It is self-evident that our countries are at different levels of development. It follows, therefore, that initiatives and programmes at the global level should recognize these differences in national realities, responsibilities, capacities, needs and levels of development. In that regard, we wish to reiterate the Rio principles. In particular, we recall the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) which should continue to apply to all the three pillars of sustainable development.

We fully embrace the fact that the primary responsibility for national development rests with the Governments supported by national stakeholders. That acceptance does not, however, absolve international partners from their responsibility to complement the

national efforts. After all, we acknowledge the commonality of our future and destiny in the context of the future we want.

**Mr President,**

African countries take their responsibilities for national and continental development seriously. To that end, we have adopted Agenda 2063 as our development plan for the next fifty years. Our priorities under the plan include development of infrastructure, industrialization, value addition and beneficiation which are critical to the transformation of our economies. We therefore welcome the proposed establishment of a global infrastructure forum to bridge the infrastructure gap. Our programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa has an investment gap of around US\$50 billion. The proposed infrastructure forum should not just be a platform for discussion, but should be a catalyst for mobilization of resources and concessional funding by Multilateral Development Banks and other institutions to support infrastructure development in Africa and other needy regions. We also welcome proposals to establish a technology facilitation mechanism to enable developing countries to have access to the latest technology and innovations.

**Mr President,**

Several factors hold back growth and development. The heavy debt burden is one of the major constraints hindering the growth of our economies. It is important for this meeting to address the issue of debt relief. Fair and open trade that is underpinned by universally applicable rules has the potential to provide win win solutions for all countries. We therefore call for the expeditious conclusion of the Doha Development Round of negotiations and implementation of the Bali Package including the Trade Facilitation Agreement. Systemic issues such as the reform of international financial institutions to give developing countries a greater voice in norm setting should also be addressed as part of creating an enabling environment for development.

The draft outcome document covers cooperation in tax matters. We are, however, concerned that the issue of illicit financial flows is not adequately addressed. The Report of the High Level Panel on Financial Flows from Africa indicated that up to US\$60 billion was lost in 2014 as a result of tax evasion through transfer pricing and mispricing. We expect that cooperation in tax matters will be strengthened to help stem the illegal outflow of Africa's resources which exceeds the Official Development Assistance that Africa receives annually.

**Mr President,**

Unilateral economic sanctions severely undermine economic development. The high level meeting on the rule of law held in 2012 called on member states to refrain from such measures as they are contrary to international law, to the principles of the Charter and good relations between States. A number of developing countries, including my own, continue to suffer under the yoke of these illegal sanctions. We call for the immediate removal of sanctions against my country. We hope the spirit of Addis will move those countries that employ these blunt instruments to engage us in dialogue to resolve any differences that may exist between us. Development and the welfare of an entire nation should not be a hostage of such spiteful and immoral measures.

**Mr President,**

It is our conviction that the overarching objective of the global development agenda is to eradicate poverty and hunger through inclusive growth and development. As our economies grow, we will implement appropriate social protection policies. Let us not overload our agenda with extraneous issues that bear no relevance to financing for development. Zimbabwe and the African continent are willing and ready to engage in a constructive manner for the

development of our economies. The success of our development agenda and the confidence of our citizens will depend on a meaningful outcome from this Conference – a real Agenda for Action.

**I thank you for your attention.**