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OPENING STATEMENT

BY

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**DIRECTOR
SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND BLUE ECONOMY
AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION**

AT THE

**6TH SESSION OF THE AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ON METEOROLOGY (AMCOMET)**

EXPERT SEGMENT

VIRTUAL

15 MAY 2024

15:00 – 18:00 EAST AFRICAN TIME (GMT + 3)

- **Mr. Simplicie Tchinda – Director, National Meteorological Services, Cameroon and Expert Chairperson of AMCOMET**
- **Dr. Agnes Kijazi – Director, WMO Regional Office for Africa and AMCOMET Secretariat**
- **Distinguished Representatives of Members States**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

I have the honour to convey the greetings of H.E. Amb. Josefa SACKO, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment at the African Union Commission.

Distinguished Delegates, you will note that it is now slightly over three years since the 5th Session of AMCOMET, which took place in March 2021. A number of achievements have been recorded. The AMCOMET Secretariat will be upraising us on these. However, allow me to update you on three of the key achievements that would also require follow-up action:

- 1) The AUC submitted the revised Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services) to the AU Policy Organs. I am pleased to inform you that the Strategy was adopted by the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in February 2022. It is, therefore, our collective responsibility to ensure that the Strategy is effectively implemented for the benefit of the continent;
- 2) The African Heads of State and Government further committed “*to strengthen early warning systems and climate information services, as well as to take early action to protect lives, livelihoods and assets...*”. This was done through the **African Leaders Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action**, which was agreed during the Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi, Kenya in September 2023. Following this commitment, the National Meteorological Services have the responsibility to fully execute their mandate to generate and deliver weather and climate information services as well as meteorological early warnings. It is important for us to capitalize on this high-level political commitment.

3) Since the 5th AMCOMET Session, the AU Commission continued with engagements with partners to mobilise financial resources for the implementation of the Abidjan and Cairo Ministerial Declarations. I am further pleased to inform you that the European Union has committed resources, particularly towards exploiting products of meteosat third generation (MTG) satellites for early warning, and for the establishment and operationalization of the African Meteorological Application Facility (AMSAF). While thanking the EU for the support, we have the responsibility to ensure that implementation addresses African needs, and effectively coordinated in a manner that respects established mechanisms while ensuring African ownership.

In spite of the achievements, the continent has also, during the same period, faced devastating meteorological events that threaten our efforts toward attaining the pan African Vision (Agenda 2063) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). I, therefore, wish to stress the need for us to enhance the capacities of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs); and also to strengthen our early warning systems.

In conclusion, I would like to urge all NMHSs to take advantage of the high-level commitments I just mentioned by following up on resourcing of NMHSs and facilitation of provision of enabling environments. The AUC is committed to supporting these efforts and taking its continental leadership role.

Finally, I would like to thank the European Union for the continued financial support; and the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) for the continued collaboration. I also wish to thank EUMETSAT for facilitation of Africa's access to MTG data.

I thank you for your attention.