

**Reflections on the NAP Expo by His Excellency Mr. Kare Chawicha  
Debessa, State Minister, Ministry of Environment and Forests,  
Ethiopia**

**NAP Expo 2014, 8 to 9 August 2014**

**Distinguished participants,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It has been a pleasure for me to be here with you, and listen to the wealth of information on minimizing the adverse effects of climate change to our economic development, social and ecological values, and to our planet at large.

It has interested me to hear from different contexts, from least developed countries and developed countries, on successes, lessons, good practices, as well as the remaining and emerging challenges in implementing adaptation actions.

We all agree that NAP, which my country Ethiopia has benefitted from, have become a winning success in many ways, ranging from raising awareness, building knowledge, and garnering political buy-in.

I hope we also agree that we need to build on such successes for our current and future efforts on adaptation to climate change.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is also pleasing to note that not only in my own country that we know what our needs on adaptation to climate change are, but that in many of the examples presented by the experts and countries it is clear where the gaps are. The Chair of the LDC Group, Mr. Prakash Mathema, for example summarized the needs of all LDCs on the national adaptation plans into overall needs for further clarity on implementation, reporting and monitoring and evaluation.

It has also been comforting to observe that a number of our development partners have taken a leap forward in supporting our vulnerable countries to adapt to climate change. It will indeed be of utmost importance that we assist them in their efforts to support us.

As the cooperation is becoming stronger between the north and the south, as well as within the same hemisphere, various actions have been taken at grass root level. The participation and engagement of the local community is very important to ensure ownership and sustainability of such national adaptation actions.

And let me emphasize that from my own country Ethiopia, and I know from all other LDCs, we are committed to integrate climate change in our development plans from highest levels down to the local communities as it is well stated in our nationally owned strategy called Climate Resilient Green Economy Strategy (CRGE) for which we need additional support on this regard. This will be a core element of reducing vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change for our communities.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is no doubt that events like this are fundamental for sharing the knowledge and information, and for us to interact more closely on the critical elements I just highlighted. It also served as the building block for our negotiations, to have a common ground on the policy direction on the COP, and for subsequent actions to be taken by both developed and developing countries.

The key question, which I leave as a challenge to all of us is: **“how can we develop a community of practice on sharing lessons among LDCs, to allow learning and contrast with each other, while at the same time learning from the rest of the world”**.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We should not underestimate the opportunity availed to us by the Parties, the LEG, and the UNFCCC secretariat to hold this important event. The value added and the capacity gained on this dialogue forum is tremendous.

*Thank you,*