Opening Remarks

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Joint Session

New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition (NAFSN) Cooperation Framework for Senegal &

Opening of the 2013 ReSAKSS Annual Conference

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Your Excellency, Prime Minister Aminata Touré; Honorable Commissioners, Honorable Ministers; Distinguished Guests; Ladies and Gentlemen:

- I would like to warmly welcome you to the launch of New Alliance for Food
 Security and Nutrition Cooperation Framework for Senegal and the 2013 ReSAKSS
 annual conference themed "Achieving the Maputo Declaration Target and
 Prioritizing Public Agricultural Expenditures." We are pleased to organize this
 conference in partnership with the African Union Commission and NEPAD
 Planning and Coordinating Agency.
- I would also like to congratulate His Excellency Dr. Papa Abdoulaye Seck for his new position as the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Equipment for Senegal. Dr. Seck assumed this position after seven years of outstanding leadership as Director General of the Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice), among his other contributions. His vision and passionate commitment to the mission and goals of CGIAR and AfricaRice have been transformative. I am confident that he will bring that level of dedication and innovative management to his current position.
- This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture
 Development Programme (CAADP) following its launch in 2003. It also marks 10
 years since the Maputo Declaration—when African heads of state and

government pledged to allocate at least 10% of their national budgets to agriculture.

- African agriculture has seen remarkable transformation. Within just 4 years since
 the Maputo Declaration, Africa south of Sahara's agriculture grew at an average
 annual rate of around 4.5%. Between 2003 and 2011, food and agricultural raw
 materials trade more than doubled.
- Agricultural public spending has also increased, although not uniformly across countries. Between 2003 and 2010, public expenditure in agriculture rose by 7.4% per year on average in Africa. However, this growth is still slower than growth in total expenditures over the same period.
- African countries have shown mixed performance in achieving the CAADP 10% target. Since 2003, only 13 countries have surpassed the target in any single year.
 Of these only 7 have surpassed the target in most years. As of February 2013, 30 countries have signed the CAADP compact and 26 of them have their investment plans ready.
- Many other barriers to agricultural development in Africa remain, including
 - Emphasis on short-term agric. investments (e.g. subsidies) over long-term investments (e.g. agricultural R&D)
 - Limited link between agricultural growth and nutrition and health outcomes
 - Weak policymaking and research capacities
 - Limited reliable and timely data

- Limited cooperation among countries in agricultural research and technology development, infrastructure development, and trade policy
- Weak network of researchers, policy analysts, and policymakers
- IFPRI has a long-standing partnership with African organizations and stakeholders
 that work to realize continent's development potential. We are actively engaged
 in providing policy research, knowledge products, and capacity building to
 facilitate implementation of country-led strategies.
- IFPRI currently spends over 50% of its resources on Africa and focuses its investments in two regions through the East and Southern Africa Regional Office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and the West and Central Africa Office in Dakar, Senegal. IFPRI is also working with national partners to strengthen countries' capacity in policymaking and strategy formulation in agriculture and food security in Nigeria, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Uganda, and DRC through country strategy support programs (CSSPs).
- Since 2006, IFPRI has the great opportunity to facilitate the overall work of the Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS) to support CAADP implementation in more than 24 countries in partnership with the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency leading economic communities, and Africa-based CGIAR centers. ReSAKSS fills critical knowledge gaps, helping African countries to assess their progress toward the CAADP goals.
- The United States Agency for International Development, the UK Department for International Development, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, among other donors have provided us with funding that was critical to establishing and strengthening the

- work of ReSAKSS. I am grateful that these organizations also continue to support our country strategy support programs.
- We will discuss more about the contributions of ReSAKSS so far and how best we can position it going forward to better support the implementation of CAADP in the next session.
- The New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition that was launched in 2012 is also helping to accelerate the implementation of priorities identified in country investment plans through assistance and by facilitating private sector investment in African agriculture. The inclusive nature of the New Alliance that includes G-8 nations, African countries and private sector partners to lift 50 million people out of poverty over the next 10 years is truly innovative and must be promoted and scaled up in all African countries.
- Implementation of commitments made under the New Alliance such as the more than \$3 billion private investment plans in African agriculture must be further advanced. G-8 members should also accelerate the implementation of previous commitments made under the L'Aquila agreements. But African governments must provide an enabling environment for these investments by removing hurdles while promoting opportunities. Mutual accountability will be crucial.
- I am pleased to see that the New Alliance is supporting mutual accountability via agriculture joint sector reviews. The Alliance should also scale-up its support to strengthen African countries' policymaking and research capacities.
- IFPRI-led CGIAR research programs on 'Policies, Institutions and Markets', and 'Agriculture for Nutrition and Health' are well positioned to work with the New Alliance to ensure that agricultural growth in Africa will also lead to improvements in smallholders' income, nutrition and health outcomes.

- Both CAADP and New Alliance should also complement and learn from each other. CAADP needs to better link agricultural growth with nutrition and health outcomes. New Alliance needs to strengthen its country buy-in and needs to have strong technical support like ReSAKSS.
- Canada continues to show strong commitment towards ensuring global food and nutrition security. For example, it is contributing to its commitment to provide \$1.1 billion in new funding between 2011 and 2015 to global efforts to reduce maternal and infant mortality and to improve the health of mothers and children in the world's poorest countries.
- When Canada assumed the G8 presidency in 2010, it also placed maternal and child health at the top of the agenda.
- I am pleased to see that Canada continues to provide IFPRI strong support in nutrition related research. I am confident that our strong partnership will continue in the future.
- Before I finish, I would also like to draw your attention to IFPRI's 2020 International Conference titled 'Building Resilience for Food and Nutrition Security' that will be held from 15-17 May, 2014 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Among others, we expect the conference to identify key emerging shocks to food and nutrition security; draw lessons from past experiences in building resilience; identify key approaches and tools to build resilience; and identify knowledge and action gaps and set priorities for action.
- Finally, I look forward to our discussions today and tomorrow on how we can
 best achieve the Maputo Declaration Target by prioritizing and increasing the
 efficiency of public agricultural expenditures for enhanced food and nutrition
 security.