

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA P. O. Box 3243 Téléphone : 5517 700 Fax : 5511299

Website: www.africa-union.org

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

PRESS RELEASE N023/2010

“LET US RISE AND TAKE OUR PLACE AND LET US ACT NOW” SAYS NEW AU CHAIRPERSON

Addis Ababa, 31 January 2010- The African Union has elected its new bureau, at its 14th Ordinary Assembly being held in Addis Ababa where the Union is based.

The bureau is as follows. President Bingu wa Mutharika of Malawi becomes the new Chairperson, taking over from Brother Leader Muammar El Gaddafi, leader of the Libyan Revolution, Great Socialist People’s Libyan Jamahiriya, who was elected to office at the January 2009 Assembly meeting.

Other members of the bureau are:

1st Vice President: Gabon

2nd Vice President: Uganda

3rd Vice President: Liberia

4th Vice President: Great Socialist People’s Libyan Jamahiriya

Dr wa Mutharika started his acceptance speech by expressing his and the Malawian peoples’ condolences over the tragic accident of an Ethiopian airways plane on 25 January as well as to families of victims of the Haitian earthquake.

Mr. wa Mutharika said he would prioritise food security in his term of office, adding that Africa should strive to achieve food security for its people and to feed its people before exporting. *“I am, therefore, proposing that our agenda for Africa should focus on Agriculture and food security. I propose that our slogan should be “Feeding Africa through new technologies; let us act now”, the Chairperson said.*

To support food production, the Chairperson suggested investment in the construction of infrastructure.

ICT, which is the theme of the Summit, would, Mr. Mutharika said *“enable our farmers to access important information on agricultural products, advanced technologies, research findings, as well as markets”.*

Other priority areas outlined by the Chairperson include encouraging the African Union to remain committed to the promotion of peace and security, democracy and good

governance ; encouraging member states to ratify the AU Protocol on the Rights of Women and to ensure its implementation; and fighting against the marginalization of Africa by, among other things, ensuring that Africa's collective voice is respected during the Doha Round of Talks, the Economic Partnership Agreements negotiations, climate change commitments, and debt relief initiatives.

Dr wa Mutharika urged the Assembly to begin to act on its resolutions. "Let us rise and take our place. Let us act now", he added.