KEY NOTE SPEECH

BY

H. E. Dr NKOSAZANA DLAMINI ZUMA

CHAIRPERSON OF THE

AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION

ON THE OCCASION OF A SIDE EVENT ON

MONEY MATTERS: FEMALE PARLIAMENTARIANS AND DOMESTIC FINANCING FOR AN EQUAL POST 2015 AGENDA

13 JULY 2015
Keynote speech for the side event money matters: female parliamentarians and domestic financing for an equal post 2015 agenda

H. E. Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma
Chairperson of the African Union Commission

1. Your Excellency, ..........

2. Your Excellency, .................

3. Your Excellency, .................

4. Your Excellency, ....................

5. Distinguished Delegates,

6. Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great pleasure and honor for me to welcome you all on behalf of H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, to this Side Event on the theme “Money Matters: Female Parliamentarians And Domestic Financing For An Equal Post 2015 Agenda” in the margins of the International Conference on Financing for Development.
Let me first of all take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the Women in Parliaments Global Forum (WIP) and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) USA for organising this event, which certainly is timely. It is also taking place during the year that African Union has dedicated to promoting gender equality under the theme of “Women’s Empowerment under Agenda 2063.” We expect to see concrete outcomes and results for women. The Chairperson of the AUC, H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma is working with African leaders (Presidents, Parliamentarians, Farmers, etc.) to banish the hoe to the Museum as demonstrated by the outcomes of the June 2015 AU Summit in Johannesburg,

**Excellences, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Financing for development Conference offers us an opportunity to discuss issues of critical importance to the Development Agenda. Domestic resource mobilization is important because it enhances a sense of ownership for the development process at the national level. At the level of the African Union, we are moving towards mobilizing our own resources to finance our own programmes.
As some of us will have observed from the draft documents on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, the goals and targets are more ambitious than the MDGs which imply that more financial resources will be required and aid from development partners will not be enough. Therefore, domestic resource mobilization will be critical for us as Africa. In the past decades we have relied on Aid to drive our development. This time we must assume an active role in financing our development objectives and in pushing for inclusive growth for the peoples of the continent. Some of the options available include domestic taxation and leveraging on savings and investment generated by households and private domestic firms within the continent has to be considered. We must think outside the box and come up with innovative ways of mobilizing resources domestically.

**Excellences, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen**

By strengthening domestic resource mobilization, African countries will also strengthen fiscal institutions and contribute to improving accountability systems. Less dependency on Aid promotes domestic ownership of development programmes, and helps the allocation of resources towards outcomes that maximize social outcomes.
The gender dimension must be an integral part of the efforts to strengthen domestic resource mobilization and the taxation system must treat women fairly. I look forward to making my inputs to the toolkit to guide Female Parliamentarians in their work on gender transformative and socially responsive domestic resource mobilization. If developed, the toolkit will provide a practical tool to assist parliamentarians in their work. The tool will also assist in mainstreaming the gender dimension in our national and regional development policies. The African Union Commission remains committed to bettering the lives of women in the continent.

**Excellences, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In conclusion, let me end by once again expressing the appreciation of the African Union Commission to the organisers of this event. I have no doubt that all the expertise gathered in this room will contribute to the quality outcomes from this meeting.

I wish you all fruitful deliberations and I thank you for your attention.

**END**