

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP BOARD OF GOVERNORS

**STATEMENT BY MR. GATA NGOULOU
MINISTER OF FINANCE AND BUDGET,
GOVERNOR FOR THE REPUBLIC OF CHAD**

Abidjan, 28 May 2010

**Mr. President of the Board of Governors,
Honorable Governors,
Mr. President of the ADB Group,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is an immense pleasure to address you at these meetings of the African Development Bank Group. As the last speaker, I wish, like all those who have preceded me, to heartily congratulate Mr. Donald KABERUKA, on my own behalf and that of the Government of Chad, on his brilliant re-election to the office of President of the Bank.

The whole of Africa has been proud to see ADB hold its own as the bank of reference for development issues concerning our continent. I am particularly pleased that its performance, its solid reputation and its credibility have attracted to it new non-regional shareholders. I take this opportunity to commend the Bank's leadership for its efforts culminating in the positive results noted as well as the various initiatives undertaken to provide apt responses to the legitimate concerns of its member countries. With the phenomenal re-election of our brother, President KABERUKA, and the decision for the 200% capital increase, we are reassured of the Institution's capacity to continue reconciling financial soundness and operational effectiveness, as already witnessed in recent years.

**Mr. President,
My Dear Governor Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Chad, like many African countries, is facing major challenges, aggravated by the food, energy and financial crises that have jeopardized development.

As a sahelo-saharan country greatly exposed to the effects of global warming and a victim of greenhouse gas emissions, Chad is hard hit by the vagaries of climate change that has affected its environment and people. Lake Chad's recession is the most eloquent and serious manifestation of this natural catastrophe, as the Chairman of the Board of Governors rightly pointed out here yesterday. The constant disappearance of waterways and the scanty and uneven rainfall leading to endemic drought are other visible consequences of climate change, in turn causing: significant dwindling of herds for lack of watering and pasture grounds, cereal production deficits and even famine in some regions. Such calamities are central concerns of the country's highest authorities, since they thwart all development efforts.

This explains our country's keen interest in the ADB initiative addressing climate change. We also welcome the suitable solutions it is recommending in relation to the issues of energy, governance, regional integration, infrastructure, agriculture, stock raising and the business climate.

In that regard, I hasten to mention the assistance my country has received through the emergency grant and Fragile States Facility. I also wish to express my satisfaction with the opening of the Chad Field Office in 2007, which has afforded our country close-to-client support.

**Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

To conclude my statement, I thank the Ivorian authorities and people for all the attention and kindness they have shown us since our arrival in Abidjan. What else would we expect, given the legendary tradition of hospitality in this great country, Cote d' Ivoire?

Lastly, I wish to congratulate the President of the Bank, his staff and the entire organizing committee, on the exceptional organization and smooth conduct of these ADB Group Annual Meetings.

Thank you.