Communique by the Finance Ministers from Burundi, Kenya and Malawi on the ADF Sensitization Workshop Held in Nairobi, May 17, 2013

East Africa based Governors support a successful ADF replenishment

We, the African Development Fund’s Governors and Finance Ministers from Burundi, Kenya and Malawi attended the African Development Fund (ADF) Sensitization Workshop in Nairobi, on May 17, 2013.

At this meeting, we discussed the contribution of the ADF to our countries’ development efforts and its role in the transformation of our economies. Acknowledging the responsiveness of the African Development Bank (AfDB) to the diverse needs and priorities of regional member countries has been vital. The ADF strategic orientation and operational priorities are aligned to the Africa’s development agenda. We strongly endorse the ADF’s special focus on regional integration and fragile states and the continuation of this support through dedicated resource envelopes. Several fragile states in our region have benefitted from the Fragile States Facility which provides enhanced support to rebuild the capacity of institutions.

Recognizing that institutional reforms have, in particular, the decentralization, strengthened the Bank Group’s capacity to deliver support more effectively and enhance in particular its focus on development results. We encourage the Bank to forge strategic partnerships with other Donors and Governments to strengthen the delivery of support to Regional Member Countries (RMCs) in the region.

The AfDB’s engagement in the development of Africa’s infrastructures, promoting governance, human capital as well as private sector development are very important, given the continent’s huge unrealised potential. The ADF support for regional integration, particularly through infrastructure investments, is vital for economic growth, job creation and improvement to the livelihoods of our populations. The financing of successive phases of the Mombasa-Nairobi-Addis Ababa Road Transport Corridor and the recently launched Horn of Africa Drought Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods project are just a few examples of the ADF’s support for regional cooperation. We strongly encourage the ADF to scale up its financing for infrastructure, both at the national and regional levels. We underscore the need for capacity building and project preparation support in addition to the financing.

Realizing that the stakes for Africa in today’s global economy are high and the proactive role of the ADF in providing concessional resources cannot be overemphasized. We would like to see the AfDB deepen its analytical work and resource mobilisation in order to complement donor resources. In this regard, we call on the Bank to develop new and innovative instruments in addition to leveraging co-financing arrangements and to help regional member countries improve their absorptive capacity.
We urge the African Development Bank to continue to develop and provide "innovative products and services" to African countries in order to transform their rural economies as well as exploit mineral and tourism resources for the benefit and welfare of their people.

Finally, the approval of the Bank’s new Strategy is timely and we believe it will contribute in shaping the mission and operational priorities as we forge ahead with Africa’s transformation agenda. We recognize that there are major challenges for the Fund to mobilize resources at a time when some donor countries are fiscally constrained. Nevertheless, we believe that we need to sustain the momentum, which is to help RMCs transform their economies, promote inclusive growth and effectively transition to green economies. We call upon all donors and partners to support a robust ADF-13 replenishment.

Signed in Nairobi 17 May, 2013

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