

Abstract of Statement on “Facing the Challenges to African Countries” to be delivered by Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa at the EU Presidency Conference on Environment, Climate Change and Security in Stockholm

African countries are grappling with a myriad of intricately linked development challenges such as poverty and climate change, which demand priority attention and immediate solutions. The global economic crisis has both reversed Africa’s improved growth prospects and undermined efforts aimed at tackling these challenges including achievement of the MDGs.

Climate change, a global catastrophe for which Africa bears the least responsibility, but to whose impacts it is most vulnerable and has the least capacity to adapt, has emerged as an urgent challenge of our times. This statement highlights the scale of the threat that climate change poses to Africa and its inevitable consequences at the global level.

Africa and its development partners have become more aware of the urgency of tackling these challenges through an integrated development agenda that is underpinned by inclusive dialogue and genuine partnerships at the highest political level, as exemplified the APF Special Session on Climate Change and the Secretary General’s Climate Change Summit held in preparation of the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen.