Opening remarks on the occasion of the African Union Commission donor conference for the AU DDR Capacity Program

Abderrahim Fraji,
Transitional Reintegration and Demobilization Program, World Bank

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen.

The World Development Report 2011 on Conflict, Security and Development emphasizes the need for strong institutions to move out of conflict. Strong institutions at local, national, regional and continental level. Commissioner Lamamra, was part of the WDR’s Advisory Council, and against that background it is a pleasure indeed to be here today on the occasion of the launching of the African Union’s Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Capacity Program, the AU DDRCP.

The WDR 2011 also points out the importance of coalitions and partnerships. This applies to countries affected by conflict and instability, as well as to us international actors. The predecessor of the Transitional Demobilization and Reintegration Program, the TDRP was the Multi-Country Demobilization and Reintegration Program or MDRP. From 2002 to 2010, the MDRP was such an international and regional partnership that responded to regional violence around the Democratic Republic of Congo and the
surrounding countries of the Great Lakes Region — and that saw regional DDR as a crucial element of regional stabilization.

The TDRP is the successor program to the MDRP and continues to support demobilization, reintegration and stabilization programs in a number of AU member states. However, the TDRP places greater emphasis on transferring knowledge and bringing to the forefront networks of a generation of African DDR experts. It is in this spirit that a bit more than a year ago we started a very operational partnership with the Peace and Security Department, its Defense and Security Division and the United Nations colleagues from the UN Office to the African Union here in Addis Ababa and the Department of Peace Keeping Operations in New York. The program that you are launching today is the fruit of that collaboration. In the past year we have also started joint missions: to the Central African Republic, the Republic of South Sudan, and most recently to the Union of the Comoros.

This is a donor conference, and let me therefore be practical and to the point. The AFTCS/TDRP is looking forward to deepen its partnership with the AU and intend to support the DDRCP. I am looking forward to this conference.

Thank you for your attention.