

**African Fiscal Forum: Building Sustainable Public  
Finances in an Uncertain World  
14–15 March, Park Inn Hotel, Johannesburg**

**Closing address by Lungisa Fuzile, Director General,  
South Africa**

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. Although I am currently concluding, it is still a great pleasure that I welcome you all to the second SUCCESSFUL African Fiscal Forum, jointly hosted by the National Treasury and the IMF, sponsored by the European Commission and USAID. The main aim of this conference was to bring together representatives of Ministries of Finance from African countries, the IMF, World Bank, the OECD and the European Union to discuss fiscal policy challenges facing the economies and governments on the continent. This year we had over 22 country representatives, almost double what we had in 2011. The key focus of this Forum was on issues around (and not limited to) managing fiscal risks in such an uncertain world, strengthening revenue mobilisation and dealing with energy subsidies. I think that the Forum was a success and hope that you share the same sentiments.

Over the past one and a half days, these issues were discussed and debated at great length. It is my hope that this forum has once again provided participants with the opportunity to share experiences, ideas and build relationships that will benefit the development of fiscal

institutions and build capacity in governments to deal with fiscal challenges that arise in future.

I would like to extend my gratitude to a number of people in this room today. Firstly, I would like to thank our sponsors the European Commission and the USAID for the funding they have provided in order for National Treasury and the IMF to host these important discussions. Secondly, thank you to the team of people from the Fiscal Policy Unit in the Budget Office of the National Treasury, the Fiscal Affairs Department and Africa Department of the IMF for all their hard work and efforts in making sure that the second African Fiscal Forum takes place. Thirdly, I would like to thank the participants for their valuable contributions to these discussions. The participation in this Forum made sure that all delegates depart with valuable information that will assist them in forming their fiscal policies in their countries.

Please enjoy the excursion that we have planned for you in the afternoon. Soweto does have a very rich South African history and I hope you learn a bit about this mother land. Thank you all for attending. I wish you a safe journey home and enjoy the rest of your stay here in South Africa.