

AFRICAN UNION

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Summit on Food Security in Africa

December 4-7, 2006

Abuja, Nigeria

FS/Decl (I)

DECLARATION OF THE ABUJA FOOD SECURITY SUMMIT

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WE the Heads of State and Government of the African Union assembled in Abuja, Nigeria, on the 7th day of December 2006;

EXPRESSING our appreciation to His Excellency, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Government and People of Nigeria, for hosting this Summit which has offered us an opportunity to renew our commitment to combating poverty and food and nutrition insecurity in Africa, and to direct our attention to a few key decisions that can best move us forward with a view to eradicating hunger by 2030;

RECALLING the decision to adopt the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) at the Maputo Summit in July 2003 as a framework for accelerating agricultural development and Food Security on the continent;

RECALLING the Sirte declaration of 2004 on the challenges of implementing integrated and sustainable development on agriculture and water in Africa;

FURTHER RECALLING the Fertilizer Summit held in Abuja in June 2006, which called for a Green Revolution in Africa;

RECOGNIZING the efforts and progress being made by many African countries in agricultural growth and reducing food and nutrition insecurity;

ADOPTING the Ministerial Resolution on the Abuja Food Security Summit promoting focused action to implement selected critical commitments already made in the past Summits;

AFFIRMING the commitment made in Maputo in 2003 to increase resources for Agriculture and Rural Development to at least 10% of national budgets within 5 years;

Declare our firm Commitment to:

1. Increase Intra-African trade by promoting and protecting rice, maize, legumes, cotton, oil palm, beef, dairy, poultry and fisheries products as strategic commodities at the continental level, and cassava, sorghum and millet at sub-regional level without prejudice to focused attention being given also to products of particular national importance;
2. Take urgent measures to accelerate the development of the strategic commodities by fast tracking the implementation of trade arrangements adopted in the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) through lowering tariff barriers and elimination of non tariff barriers both technical and non technical by 2010;
3. Ratify and implement harmonized standards and grades including sanitary and phytosanitary standards within and across RECs by 2010;

4. Construct and maintain critical infrastructure to facilitate the movement of strategic agricultural products across national boundaries at minimal cost;
5. Develop continental and regional market information systems and support the development of the same at national level by 2008;
6. Promote public sector investment in agriculture related infrastructure, particularly regarding water, irrigation, electricity and roads through public-private partnership;
7. Reduce risks of both natural and commercial origins, including through marketing arrangements and insurance schemes.
8. Call upon Africa based development banks and financial institutions to improve access to soft loans, small loans and grants;
9. Expand the implementation of the NEPAD Home-Grown School feeding initiative to reach 20% of member states by 2008 through a financing and delivery partnership between Government and development partners with benefits to reach 25% of the needy children by 2015;
10. Initiate the implementation of the African Regional Nutrition Strategy, the NEPAD African Nutrition Initiative, and the NEPAD 10-year strategy for combating Vitamin and Mineral Deficiency by 2008 with focus on long-term household food security and ending child hunger and under-nutrition;
11. Establish a technical assistance programme for agriculture and food security based on African resources and expertise and in collaboration with development partners and develop regional centres of excellence;
12. Establish, in consultation with the African Development Bank (ADB) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) a funding mechanism or adapt existing ones to mobilize additional resources for purposes of up-scaling agricultural successes within and across countries in Africa;
13. Establish a system for selecting and prioritizing key AUC and NEPAD CAADP related summit commitments by undertaking a review and prioritization of past commitments for implementation to meet the objectives of food and nutrition security;
14. Take ownership of important commitments by way of formalizing and institutionalizing them, including making adequate resources available;
15. Call upon the African Union Commission to follow up with member states, RECs and other relevant stakeholders on the implementation of the above declarations and report to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government annually on progress and challenges.

We request the AUC to establish an ad-hoc follow-up committee consisting of representatives of the AUC, NEPAD, RECs, FAO, IFAD, ECA and WFP to strengthen the capacity of Member States to implement food security and nutrition programmes and to monitor the implementation of the summit outcomes.

Adopted, this 7th day of December, 2006, in Abuja, Nigeria