



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Achieving Zero Hunger in Africa by 2025

TAKING STOCK OF PROGRESS

27 January 2018

African Union High-Level Meeting
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
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FOREWORD

It was an honour to host the High-Level Meeting on Renewed Partnership to End Hunger in Africa by 2025 – Five Years Later: Taking Stock of Progress and Lessons in Light of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The meeting was a follow-up to the Renewed Partnership Meeting held in July 2013 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where the African Union Commission (AUC), in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Lula Institute, among other partners, launched a policy dialogue platform dubbed The Renewed Partnership to End Hunger in Africa by 2025. At that meeting, a sense of hope and promise were evident as global hunger had been steadily declining in absolute terms for several consecutive years.

In 2014, African Heads of State and Government adopted the Malabo Declaration, laying out a road map for making agricultural development the highway to ending hunger. That Declaration ensured mutual accountability for results through a biennial review and reporting process.

This year however, the situation has changed: the number of undernourished people in the world rose in 2016 to more than 815 million, as revealed in FAO's *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2017* report, and we are at risk of losing a decade's worth of progress. This recent adverse upward swing was driven by various factors, most notably an intensification of protracted conflicts, severe impacts from the El Niño weather phenomenon, adverse climate conditions, and volatile migration trends coupled with strains on land and water resources.

In this context, the AUC, the Government of Ethiopia and FAO decided to gather again in 2018 at the margins of the 30th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the AU Heads of State and Government, to renew the global partnership and refocus the zero hunger challenge in Africa.

During the meeting we joined other high-level political leaders – including UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, the President of the AU and of the Republic of Guinea, Alpha Condé, the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Hailemariam Desalegn, the former Presidents of Brazil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (by video message) and of Nigeria, Olusegun Obasanjo, and others – to review and identify areas of success as well as deterrents that need to be addressed in the context of the Malabo

Declaration and its Commitment 3: Ending Hunger by 2025. We also discussed how this objective could be integrated into the 2030 Agenda and specifically Sustainable Development Goal 2.

The meeting was instrumental in highlighting that political commitment and timely actions are paramount in reversing the slide back into a situation of hunger rising again. In particular, we proposed political and economic interventions that would lead to conflict prevention and resolution, in order to make sure global and regional agricultural development systems will help tackle Africa's food insecurity.

With this positive spirit, the AUC, FAO and their development partners will continue the tradition of bringing together policy makers, advocacy groups, donors and research organizations from all over the world to intensify the fight against hunger in Africa.

We will also remain committed to sharing the ideas and best practices of our distinguished guests to a wider audience. This booklet is meant to serve this purpose: it will furnish our partners with the critical reflections and experiences of prominent leaders, scholars and experts on the policies and strategies that best serve to end hunger in Africa. You will also find the communiqué issued following the meeting, in which we committed with concrete steps and actions to achieve zero hunger in Africa in our lifetimes..



**Josefa Leonel
Correia Sacko**

*African Union Commissioner for
Rural Economy and Agriculture*



**José Graziano
da Silva**

*Director-General, Food and Agriculture
Organization of the United Nations*

CONCEPT NOTE

Despite progress made over the past few decades, about 767 million people globally continue to live in extreme poverty, half of them in sub-Saharan Africa. The majority of the world's poor and hungry live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for their survival. However, their livelihoods are often constrained by limited access to resources, services, technologies, markets and economic opportunities, lowering their productivity and income. Fast population growth, increasing conflicts, civil insecurity and climate change exacerbate the situation, as the poor are invariably the most vulnerable.

In 2013, the African Union convened a High-Level Meeting on Renewed Partnership for a Unified Approach to End Hunger in Africa and signed a declaration to end hunger on the continent by 2025, by sustaining the momentum behind the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). The outcome of this meeting was a precursor to the 2014 Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods. Amongst others, this Declaration committed to end hunger and malnutrition by 2025 and ensure mutual accountability for results through a biennial review and reporting progress.

The Inaugural Biennial Report reveals that commitment number 3, “Ending hunger by 2025”, is not on track, with a score of 1.62 compared to a benchmark of 3.17 in 2017. The report is in line with the UN publication *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2017*, which recognized that despite a prolonged decline, world hunger appears to be on the rise again. It also highlighted that this trend is closely associated with the increase in conflicts in Africa, exacerbated by climate-related shocks, drought and other factors that threaten to reduce the agricultural and livestock productivity of the African continent. The warning sign that Africa needs to step up its efforts and find new ways working with its partners towards the ambition of ending hunger in Africa by 2025 is thus clear.

The commitment to end hunger was further strengthened by the adoption of the Africa 2063 Agenda, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Specifically, SDG 2 aims to “End hunger, achieve food

security and improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.” Several countries in Africa, as well as their regional economic entities, have made considerable progress to align agricultural and other policies, programmes and investments related to food security and nutrition with the Zero Hunger vision of the 2014 Malabo Declaration and SDG 2.

However, the continent as a whole faces considerable challenges in attaining these goals while facing low agricultural productivity, climate change and environmental degradation, as well as high youth unemployment. Recent estimates on food security and nutrition reveal that the prevalence of undernourishment in sub-Saharan Africa rose from 20.8 percent in 2015 to 22.7 percent in 2016; in concrete terms, this amounts to about 224 million people who are undernourished, up from 200 million in 2015.

Ending hunger is both a moral and an economic imperative. With strategic concerted efforts, it is a dream that is possible by 2030. It is, therefore, important to keep up the momentum and redouble current efforts in a coordinated, integrated and aligned approach to enhance food security and curb malnutrition.

A renewed call for action

Key challenges in achieving the SDGs include addressing food insecurity and undernourishment in Africa. Doing so will require:

- Greater investment in agriculture and increased agricultural productivity, including through higher levels of irrigation, technology and value addition.
- Commitments made in the Maputo Protocol to allocate 10 percent of national budgets to agriculture and rural development policy should inspire the achievement of this goal.
- Building resilience to shocks, including by adapting to the effects of climate change, strengthening institutional response mechanisms and sustained and sustainable development will enable countries to deal with disasters and address food insecurity more effectively.

- There are huge data requirements for the proper monitoring of the Goals, and analysis reveals large gaps in availability and sharing. There is an urgent need to invest more in generating and disseminating reliable data at all levels to allow for efficient monitoring and reporting.
- Harmonized governance of food security and nutrition by harnessing coordination efforts across sectors and stakeholders on the continent.

1 From left to right: Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture; Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; Alpha Condé, Chair of the African Union and President of the Republic of Guinea; and Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General. **2** From left to right: Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko; Olusegun Obasanjo, President, Federal Republic of Nigeria. **3** Gilbert F. Houngbo, President, IFAD. **4** From left to right: Alpha Condé; and António Guterres, UN Secretary-General. **5** From left to right: Patrick Kormawa, SRC-SFE; Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, former Minister of Finance, Federal Republic of Nigeria; José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General and Eyasu Abraha Alle, Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources Development, Ethiopia.

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1. OPENING SESSION



Alpha Condé

*Chair of the African Union
and President of the Republic of Guinea*

I am greatly honoured to be here today. Looking around the hall and noticing the presence of highly placed international leaders makes me feel there is a serious issue at hand. Therefore, let me start by saluting you all for the value you have attached to this meeting. Speaking on behalf the African Heads of State and Government, I sincerely laud the Prime Minister and Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the leadership of the African Union Commission for the initiative of hosting this meeting. Sincere thanks go to you, Mr. José Graziano Da Silva, FAO Director-General, for your passion and determination to galvanize efforts toward the goal of attaining zero hunger in Africa, the continent most afflicted by hunger.

The matter that has led us to assemble in this hall today is something we cannot sit on. Food insecurity and micronutrient deficiency – also known as ‘hidden hunger’ – have been silently ravaging our continent for far too long. Not paying attention to this impasse that threatens to claim a substantial proportion of our population, and that leaves many lacking in terms of educational attainment, cognition and leading productive lives, is to contradict our declared aspirations for the development of our continent. On top of this is our Common Vision – the Agenda 2063 – and the Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

We all know that investment in sustainable agriculture and animal resource development

lies at the heart of food security, improved wellbeing and the prosperity of a nation. For this reason, for close to fifteen years we have advocated and urged Member States to align their development and poverty eradication plans with one of our AU flagship programmes – the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). I am glad to point out that 44 Member States are implementing their National Agricultural Investment Plans, which are informed by CAADP principles and implementation guidelines. However, it is noted that the progress attained is far from that desired, which prompted the 2014 Malabo Declaration on Agricultural Growth and Transformation.

I am informed that steps have been taken and plans have been developed to pave the way for action at national, regional and continental level, which leads to achievement of the desired results and impact. This being the case, our Member States should gratefully make use of the support and opportunities made available to them by supporting the implementation of their agriculture, food security and nutrition plans. The essential business of governments that are concerned with lifting their people out of poverty is to enable the environment for learning and innovation,

entrepreneurship and investment, insurance and safeguarding peace and security.

Stopping conflict and preventing it from breaking out rampantly as it is now in some parts of Eastern, Central and Western Africa –while other nations are in the serious business of sustaining industrial development and reducing unemployment – must not be an afterthought.

Without question, peace and tranquillity provide a level playing field: a sports game played on rough or slippery ground is never enjoyable and is potentially dangerous!

Food insecurity and malnutrition, like injustice, breed dissatisfaction and conflict, and thus the vicious cycle continues. We may be preoccupied with resolving conflicts while forgetting that what underlies them is poverty and hunger. As the adage goes, “a hungry man is an angry man”. Remember that to make a double-edged sword non-fatal, you must blunt it from both sides. Therefore, the primary concern of our governments and our union should be with this intertwined double burden and finding a solution for ridding the continent of both these threats in the shortest time possible. It has already been decided that 2025 should be the year we declare hunger as no longer a problem on our continent. So, how do we get there?

In the first place, I must say that as leaders, governments and societies we all have roles to play. What is required for all to play their roles effectively is to provide and utilize every opportunity and support mechanism and to complement each other. A fight against a common menace can only be successful through concerted efforts. This requires central command posts. By this I mean that we need to put in place effective and viable hubs for coordinating, harmonizing and continuously supporting operations taking place at every level or peripheral point for ensuring that quality food is available, accessible and affordable by all. Therefore, I strongly advocate that the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Agency establish a joint hub that acts like an airport watch tower, one that is well equipped to support countries in their operations to end hunger and malnutrition.

Equally, our Regional Economic Communities (RECs) should be employing and reinforcing technical capacities dedicated to planning, coordinating, facilitating and supporting their Member States in their efforts to root out hunger. Then the Rome-based food security agencies need to find common ground and mechanisms for working together, rather than competing with each other at the country level, in order to harmonize and streamline support to the country food security setups and capacities. Certainly, we cannot afford to allow piecemeal and disjointed efforts to

rampage, as this frustrates our national, continental and regional plans.

I would like to conclude by wondering aloud why it is taking so long to start seeing the results of our decisions on accelerating intra-African trade in agricultural and food commodities! We surely need to switch lanes, from the rhetoric of lamenting over the huge external trade deficits, to the serious business of seeing more of our money remaining in the continent while attracting more from outside. It is just not right that we keep pouring our meagre resources outside, rather than into what we could produce locally. This being a foregone conclusion, I wish to call for the RECs to mobilize resources, employ cadres and implement activities for putting in place the much talked-about common markets in which food producers are facilitated and operate based on a win-win principle. Let us also work to see that our food systems and value chains are developed and sustained. We also need to invest in food storage and distribution systems through public-private partnerships. Let's invest our tax and natural-resources money into such infrastructure if we are really committed to our vision of a prosperous Africa by 2063. Pouring our hard-earned money and our oil, mining and other exhaustible natural resources into warfare and armies is evidently counterproductive and the cause of entrapped poverty. Let's learn from the experience of Japan from six decades ago. ■



Hailemariam Desalegn

Prime Minister, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

It gives me great pleasure to be among you to share the experiences of Ethiopia in its determination to end hunger.

The Heads of States of Africa have long been committed to reducing poverty and hunger in Africa using our state governments' machineries, specifically as part of our collective agreement to work to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

With the African Union's New Partnership for Africa's Development (AU/NEPAD) leadership role by the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, the Heads of African states revisited the MDGs achievement track record, specifically of Goal 1 which sets targets to reduce poverty and hunger by half from their levels in 2000. Concerns over meeting these targets led to the 2003 Maputo Declaration, which in turn brought about the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP).

The achievements made thanks to this programme indicate that our drive to end hunger in our continent needs additional efforts and commitments.

We revisited this in our 2014 Malabo Declaration as well as in the 2015 Addis Ababa Agenda 2063 for an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa. We also continued to work on realizing our commitments by agreeing to act on the SDGs, specifically Zero Hunger.

However, various studies indicate that more remains to be done to ensure the goal of ending hunger by 2025 is achieved. Poverty reduction and eliminating hunger have never been matters of choice for the Ethiopian Government and the peoples of Ethiopia. Both hunger and poverty are our frontline enemies. Cognizant of this, the government of Ethiopia has embarked on indigenous agriculture and allied sector policy and strategy formulation and

implementation since the launch of the first five-year Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Program (SDPRP).

The Government has also accepted and implemented continental and international initiatives such as the CAADP and the MDGs to strongly engage itself in the areas of poverty reduction and eliminating hunger. In giving space to such initiatives, the Government has also revised its policies and strategies.

Particularly, in the second five-year poverty reduction plan period, known as the Plan for Accelerated and Sustainable Development to End Poverty (PASDEP), the Government revisited its policies and strategies and adjusted these initiatives to commit resources as indicated in the CAADP targets.

Similar revisions and commitments were made during the first and second Growth Transformation Plan (GTP) periods. Indeed, the Government has realized the fruits of its planned efforts and commitments.

Ending Hunger by 2025 is among the seven agreed commitment areas of the 2014 Malabo Declaration. This commitment includes action areas of doubling productivity, reducing post-harvest loss by half, integrating agricultural productivity increases with social protection initiatives, and eliminating undernourishment. Achieving these requires a multi-sectoral integrated approach.

Of course, agriculture and related sectors have been burdened with the task of

leading national efforts to deal with these areas of commitment. In Ethiopia, as a result of the federal and regional governments' efforts, agriculture has continuously registered a positive and high growth rate, even during natural disasters such as the 2015 effects of El Niño.

On average, agriculture and related sectors in Ethiopia have shown an annual 10 percent growth rate for the last fifteen years. On a head count ratio, poverty was reduced from the MDG base level of 44 percent to 23 percent. The rate of undernourishment was reduced from 74.8 percent to 35 percent between the early 1990s and 2015, leading to the Government of Ethiopia receiving an FAO award in 2015.

All this indicates our determination and continued efforts to end hunger and reduce poverty, as acknowledged by our development partners. The African Heads of States' initiatives have been instrumental in our policy, strategy, and institutional arrangements review as well as in our commitments to allocate resources to agriculture and related sectors. We have been allocating more than 10 percent of our federal budget to the agriculture and related sectors, which is more than the CAADP target.

In this regard, I would like to elaborate on how we made use of the CAADP initiative towards ensuring food security, reducing poverty and keeping to the path of achieving the goal of ending hunger by 2025. As I indicated earlier, ending hunger

requires a multisector, integrated approach. However, agriculture and related sectors have been accorded the leadership role. Thus far, our commitments in research, extension, development policies, strategies, and institutional arrangements have remained instrumental in meeting the goals of poverty reduction and eliminating hunger.

As part of the MDGs Needs Assessment/ CAADP Ethiopia study, we reviewed our extension approach and allocated enormous resources to train and deploy thousands of agricultural extension agents throughout the country. We also introduced an agricultural commercialization cluster extension approach that is paving way for the introduction of agricultural mechanization and machinery services. The cluster approach, which takes advantage of its size for the provision of such services, is also expediting our efforts to reduce post-harvest losses.

Our farmers are also becoming beneficiaries of ICT facilities, in order to take advantage of improved agricultural extension services from production to marketing and trade points. This has helped us increase production and productivity in crop agriculture. Moreover, we have been taking measures to strengthen agricultural cooperatives when dealing with marketing, credits and savings, and agricultural finance mobilizations.

Ethiopia has managed to increase the average productivity of its cereal crops from 15.7 quintals per hectare to 23 quintals per hectare since the launch of CAADP Ethiopia. Over the same period,

crop production in the main season by smallholder farmers increased from 180.8 million quintals to 290 million quintals.

At national level, we achieved food self-sufficiency status on a grain-equivalent-per-capita production measure. The productivity and production gains made in the crop sub-sector were possible in part due to the efforts made in strengthening our national agricultural research system. Using the research system, the role of biotechnology was enhanced in the production of various raw material and consumable products. National agriculture efforts are being led by an institution that has Ethiopia's Agricultural Research Council at the helm.

However, although we claimed to achieve food self-sufficiency at a national level, we are still struggling to ensure food security. Of course, ensuring food security and eliminating hunger are not only a function of production, but also of national and household-level purchasing powers and entitlements to productive economic resources and development infrastructure. In recent years we managed to overcome food security challenges by increasing our purchasing power. This is what my government did during the 2015 El Niño-related incidents. When production was hit hard, the country managed to allocate more than 18 billion ETB to procure cereals from abroad. This was also acknowledged by friends and development partners.

Millions of men and women in disaster-hit areas benefited from productive safety net programmes, which have become part of our New Social Protection Policy implementing instruments. Together with our development partners, studies made thanks to the 2003 Maputo CAADP initiative and the 2014 Malabo Declaration – specifically the development of the 10-year Agriculture Sector Policy and Investment Framework (PIF) – enabled us to revisit our livestock sub-sector's role in the drive to tackle poverty and end hunger.

We noticed an institutional arrangement problem in this sub-sector. My Government took swift measures to solve the problem. After the CAADP and PIF study, the livestock sector was accorded a ministerial portfolio. Today, we have two major ministries in the agriculture sector — the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Both are shouldering responsibility for the ending hunger programmes.

The Government of Ethiopia realizes that ending hunger by 2025 requires intensive work that goes beyond the realms the ministries dealing with crop agriculture, natural resources, livestock and fisheries. Efforts with other core poverty-reduction and hunger-elimination ministries – such as water, energy and irrigation, public enterprises, education, trade, industry and health – are equally central for achieving the goal of ending hunger.

Poverty and hunger in agriculture-based economies cannot be tackled by staying rain-dependent. The sector ministries responsible for the promotion of irrigation agriculture must be directed to take measures to expand irrigation infrastructure at small, medium, and large scales. Since the launch of CAADP, we have managed to increase the coverage of irrigated agriculture from half a million to 2.8 million hectares. Denuded area that has been rehabilitated and covered with multipurpose trees has increased from 6.1 million to 16.2 million hectares.

We also allocated resources for the expansion and improvement of economic and social infrastructure in rural agricultural areas. Rural roads are one example: during the first GTP period, the proportion of rural kebeles connected to all-weather roads increased from 39 percent to 76 percent; the average time required to reach the nearest all-weather roads declined from 3.7 hours to 1.7 hours; and the share of rural kebeles with access to telecom services within a 5 km radius increased from 62.1 percent to 97 percent.

We are using our public enterprises to expand the provision of agricultural mechanization and machinery services. Our trade-facilitating agencies are working tirelessly to increase gains from foreign trade. We are committed to regional trade promotion both in inputs and outputs of agriculture. We have made progress to become active players in the East African seed business.

The agriculture sector ministries are also working closely with the Ministry of Health to ensure that not only a food- but a nutrition-secured country is built. A National Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture initiative was prepared and launched, and since the start of the 2003 Maputo CAADP the prevalence of stunting among children aged 6 months to 59 months has been reduced from 58 percent to 38 percent.

The policies and strategies to establish and promote the use of agro-industrial parks is becoming exemplary in its content. The agro-processing industries housed in parks not only make use of raw materials to produce value-added agricultural manufactured goods, but also serve as the basis for our industrial economy-building. We are doing this cognizant of our responsibilities in supporting and facilitating job creation for the increasing number of jobless youth in both rural and urban areas. To support and facilitate job creation in rural agricultural areas, my Government recently prepared and launched the rural Job Creation Strategy.

The few points I have raised give only a bird's eye view of what we are doing to achieve the ending hunger and, more broadly, Zero Hunger SDGs. Reducing poverty and ensuring food security are relatively frail challenges compared to ending hunger in all forms, including the elimination of malnutrition and promotion of sustainable agriculture.

My Government has established eliminating hunger as a matter of urgency. We are working to eliminate it before the target year, 2025. When we do so, the support we received so far and that we expect to receive in the future from our development partners will have been crucial. In this regard, we acknowledge the support of all multilateral, bilateral, and UN agencies. We also appreciate the African Union's leadership.

One key point in using agriculture as the leading sector to make progress to end hunger – or for that matter to bring economy-wide progress – is the capacity to formulate indigenous policies and strategies. Indigenous policy and strategy making in Ethiopia has not only been a measure for ensuring political independence to make policy choices, but is also anchored on the principle of what we call “a foot on the ground”.

This principle has been one of the five fundamentals of Ethiopia's agricultural policy and strategy formulation. It entails that we Africans must make space for indigenous knowledge, wisdom and practices while working to develop exogenously-driven, modern and improved agricultural technologies and knowledge. We have made effective use of this principle to make agriculture register a continuously high growth rate. We will make use of it to ensure that we will achieve the goal of ending hunger, too. I suggest to you, my fellow experts and Heads of States, to also maximize our African indigenous knowledge and wisdom in our policy and

strategy formulation to achieve this goal. My Government has no hesitation in sharing its experiences in indigenous policy making.

It is also important to raise some of the problems and challenges that we have been facing. There are still challenges in various areas of commitment for the ending hunger initiative. Ensuring the linkage and coordination of various actors and institutions is among the major challenges. Our efforts to create jobs and ensure food security via enhanced revenue generation in the textile, leather and leather products, horticulture, meat and dairy sub-sectors is partially constrained by weak and inefficient linkages and coordination systems. We are taking measures to improve this.

The solution partly requires strengthening and improving capacities, capabilities and competences. Resource-based strategies need to be tuned to the efficient and effective use of available human and non-human resources via pragmatic capability creation. All this can be done if the support of development partners is enhanced for creating sustainable development programmes and functioning

institutions that overcome the problems associated with short-lived projects.

While appreciating the multi-faceted support of development partners, we need to establish the capacity and ability to create policies and strategies from within. As Africans, we must increasingly exercise our freedom to create policies and strategies that will make us achieve the different goals we set in the Agenda 2063, the CAADP Maputo initiative, and the Malabo Declaration, as well as the SDGs, specifically the No Poverty and the Zero Hunger by 2030 goals.

I would finally like to say that external pressure in the form of aid conditionality should not deter us from making choices for our destiny. We should be aware of policy conditionality and have be enthusiastic to assess whether the evidence harmonizes with our beliefs and values. It is only by taking this stance that we can achieve the target of ending hunger and many other development goals. It is my sincere belief that we all work along this line. ■



António Guterres

UN Secretary-General

After a period of prolonged decline, world hunger is on the rise. Africa has the highest rates of hunger in the world, and they are increasing. Agricultural and livestock productivity in Africa is under threat. This is largely due to conflict and climate change.

Hunger, food insecurity and poverty are closely linked. Sustainable and inclusive agricultural growth is vital to achieve both SDG1 on poverty and SDG2 on hunger, and also influences many other Goals. This means adopting national agricultural policies and investment plans that focus not only on agricultural sector development, but also on poverty, hunger and resilience to climate change.

Climatic shocks, environmental degradation, crop and livestock price collapse and conflict are all interlinked. Climate change adaptation should be promoted as an integral part of conflict prevention, with special attention to sustainable agriculture and pastoralist and semi-pastoralist livelihoods.

It is important to highlight that the majority of undernourished people in Africa live in countries affected by conflict. Moreover, hunger is almost twice as high in conflict-affected countries with a protracted crisis. Stronger commitment by governments, the African Union and the United Nations is needed to promote peace, human rights and sustainable development also as an instrument to fight hunger.

During conflicts and protracted crises, we still need to assist people most at risk of hunger and malnutrition and support them in building more resilient livelihoods. That means preventive interventions to break the link between food insecurity and conflict, such as shielding consumers and producers from food price shocks through price stabilization measures and social protection interventions. Over time, by helping vulnerable households manage risks better, social protection can support investments in livelihoods that enhance people's resilience to future threats and crises.

To build and sustain peace and address hunger and poverty, we need community-based approaches that build social cohesion as well as the capacity of local institutions and actors. Improved governance that can deliver equitable services is essential.

Social protection is needed to complement development efforts. The poor need to be helped from the poverty trap and given the tools to ensure they do not slide back.

Gender equality is also essential and will help us accelerate progress towards achieving food security and nutrition. Women represent 60 per cent of the agricultural workforce in parts of Africa and make crucial contributions to food production, processing and marketing. Improving women's social and economic status within their households and communities has a direct impact on food security and nutrition, in particular on child nutrition.

While much of the effort of development partners is on developing policies and programmes, too little attention is given to mobilizing resources or to investment in implementation and capacity-building.

It is important that international cooperation be brought to bear under the framework of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and

that developed countries not only meet the Official Development Assistance targets but that they allocate adequate levels of resources for sustainable agriculture too.

Many countries in Africa have increased agricultural expenditures, but only five have met the 10 percent target of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme. Most National Agriculture Investment Plans are not fully implemented. Governments and development partners need to significantly increase their resource allocation and improve their targeting of hunger and poverty eradication initiatives.

Governments need to create conditions for much greater investment by the private sector in enterprises that can generate benefits for the poor and the food-insecure. Market inefficiencies remain a primary handicap for farmers. Infrastructure is often lacking to ease access to local markets, and regional market integration is insufficient.

Finally, all stakeholders must be accountable for their commitments. That means generating and sharing data and information on policy and institutional changes, resource allocations and investments, as well as progress on SDG1 and SDG2 and related national and regional goals and targets. ■

2. POLICIES FOR ENDING HUNGER IN AFRICA



José Graziano da Silva

FAO Director-General

First of all, I would like to thank you for the presence of so many important personalities and good friends, including the President of the African Union, H.E. Alpha Condé; the UN Secretary-General, Mr António Guterres; the President of the African Union Commission, Mr Moussa Faki; the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn and the former Presidents of Brazil, Mr Lula da Silva; and of Nigeria, Mr Olusegun Obasanjo.

I also want to convey my greetings to the former President of Ghana, Mr John Kufuor, who was scheduled to be present but unfortunately could not join us today due to medical restrictions to

travel. We hope he will recover soon and join us again on another occasion.

In July 2013, FAO was here in Addis Ababa to launch the partnership to end hunger in Africa by 2025, together with the AU and the Instituto Lula. At that time, although still at a very high level, global hunger had been following a continuous path of decline. Many countries, including African nations, were making clear progress towards the accomplishment of the Millennium Development Goals. In fact, FAO awarded 72 out of 129 countries – or 56 percent of those monitored by the Organization, including 17 African countries – for having at least halved hunger by 2015.

But following the adoption of the Sustainable Development Agenda, which set the global Zero Hunger goal for 2030, several concerns seem to obstruct our hope to eradicate hunger in our lifetimes. The number of hungry people globally started to rise again in 2016, as announced by FAO's 2017 report, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World*. This document also emphasized that this increase in undernourishment, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, is extremely worrisome.

2016 was unusually negative, however, and is not proof of a reversal of the positive trend witnessed in previous years. A mix of the intensification of internal conflicts, the impacts of climate change, and national economic slowdowns were surely crucial catalysts for the increase of global food insecurity during the last year.

I am glad to say, however, that we are facing a new and promising scenario that renews our optimism. First, the efforts towards peace carried out by the UN Secretary-General are noteworthy, as sustaining peace is a precondition for sustainable development.

Second, the Green Climate Fund established by the Paris Agreement is already operational and financing those countries most affected by climate change. The benefits of these investments will be clear to see in the coming years.

And, third, the global economic scenario seems to be showing signs of recovery, as the International Monetary Fund recently raised

its growth forecast for 2018 and 2019 for both developed and developing countries.

As I noted, it was five years ago here today that we set out to end hunger on this continent by 2025. Since then the international community has pledged to eradicate hunger everywhere in the world by 2030.

What is clear is that achieving zero hunger by the African Union's target date or that of the Sustainable Development Agenda will require both a redoubling of current efforts and a push for political commitment and timely concrete actions such as never seen before. Those actions need to recognize the nexus between nutrition and food security, rural development and sustainable agriculture, biodiversity and climate change. It is also crucial to strengthen social protection, especially in rural areas, where most of the poor live and where formal social security systems are typically nonexistent.

Investment in agricultural development remains the single most effective way to provide opportunities for families to generate income and improve nutrition in Africa, as has been tirelessly said by my friend Gilbert Houngbo, President of IFAD. Linking productive investments with social protection schemes can create virtuous cycles of local development, which benefits the most vulnerable: women, children and youth.

Purchasing local food from family farmers is a very good example of a social policy that has been implemented in several

countries, in all regions of the world. This is a very positive approach to how we can build a virtuous cycle of local food purchasing and consumption.

Moreover, evaluations of seven cash transfer programmes in sub-Saharan Africa led by FAO and UNICEF found that these generate a broad range of social, economic and productive impacts among poor, small family farmers. And contrary to common perceptions, these programmes do not encourage dependency.

Working together, we, African governments and international governments, can take up the Zero Hunger Challenge in Africa. And let me add that Brazil managed to exit FAO's Hunger Map thanks to one decade of concerted action, proving that with conviction things can be done quickly.

So it is possible to reverse the recent trend and put the number of undernourished people in Africa back on a downward course.

Achieving zero hunger in our lifetime is still possible. ■



Gilbert F. Houngbo

President of the International Fund for Agriculture Development

Let me start by perhaps stating the obvious, that all of us here would recognize that ending hunger in Africa or elsewhere in the world is not only a moral imperative, but also an economic one.

As we consider the different ways of achieving this objective, it is important for us to also consider the capacity of our countries in Africa to implement the necessary policies that work effectively. Particularly, it is not only increasing production that matters, but also how we integrate the qualitative perspective – for example nutrition and climate change – into our agricultural practices.

I would just like to hopefully complement the point made by my colleague, Graziano, and then focus on a very few and specific points. First of all, let's recall some of the numbers, such as that in most of our countries in Africa two-thirds if not more of the population live in rural areas. We also know that

smallholder family farmers produce 80 percent of the total agricultural output in Africa. Moreover, agriculture provides 56 percent of jobs. When you consider that, it's going to be quite crucial for most of our countries to make not only agriculture but also rural transformation a centrepiece of our national development strategies. This is in line with the whole challenge of governance that the Director-General touched on.

Second, we would also agree that technology is part of the solution. I don't want to come back too much on that. What is going to be important, the more we try to use technology not only for production but also for climate-related matters, is to make sure that the required policy framework adjustments are going hand in hand with the pace of the change that we are witnessing in the framework of technology. Otherwise, we're going to have a lot of technological solutions but without adequate policy frameworks at national or regional level.

Third, we also know that according to ILO statistics, on an annual basis about 12 million young Africans will enter the job market. Clearly, finding ways to incentivize the youth to remain in rural settings and embrace work at the agricultural level – not only farming but also non-farming activities – is going to be quite critical if we want to get the results we are looking for.

Fourth, this morning we had a very productive event chaired by President Obasanjo on the involvement of women in Africa. It is important to keep making sure that women are at the centre of our strategies, particularly as regards not only ending poverty or hunger, but also nutrition.

Fifth, risk management is going to be critical. I will not elaborate too much on that, but finding ways for us to be able to provide risk management, from production to access to

markets, is going to be critical, as well as managing the whole 40 percent of food that is lost or wasted. Those are a few points that I want to leave with you. Just before closing, I feel it's going to be important as well that at the global level we have the SDGs, and in Africa we have our Agenda 2063.

Specifically for agriculture, we have the CAADP. At the national level, we have our national development strategies. And let's also recognize that there has been a lot of progress. There has been a lot of positive development. How do we bring all those initiatives together in a better partnership, on a better platform? Optimizing the synergy of those different partnership is going to be another challenge. The bottom line is that it's going to be critical for us to move from speeches, from visions, from intentions, to much more action on the ground and at the field level. ■



Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

*Former Minister of Finance, the Federal Republic of Nigeria,
and previously Managing Director of the World Bank*

I just want to thank you for the opportunity to be able to present one of the solutions that the African continent has put on the table to deal with issues of food security and hunger: the African Risk Capacity.

We've heard today that Africa has made tremendous efforts and is still doing so. We've had examples from the Prime Minister of Ethiopia and from the former President of Nigeria. Successful efforts are being made to improve agriculture and reduce our dependence on food imports, on which we spend USD 34 billion per year as a continent to import food that we could grow ourselves and end hunger. There is a lot happening on the continent, you've heard all of that, but it appears that our efforts are not being sustained, and we have a long way to go. I say this after the statistics on hunger that we have heard from FAO and from the Secretary-General of the UN, who said that Africa has the

highest incidence of hunger in the world due to conflicts and climate change.

Conflict and climate change are very important – particularly climate change, as I don't think we talk about it enough. If you look at the report that the World Economic Forum just released in Davos, you'll see that issues of natural disasters, climate change and extreme weather events topped the list of risks for 2018 as identified by the world's top CEOs. It is really remarkable that environmental risks are at the top this year in terms of priority and impact.

My problem is that we are not talking enough on the continent about these risks or how to manage them, while they are having a significant impact on agriculture, on nutrition, and on hunger. That's the not-so-good news. I think that in this forum we need to use the opportunity to raise our game in terms of talking about this issue.

The good news is that Africa is ahead in terms of having proposed one of the solutions to this problem, but most people on the continent don't know about this solution. They don't know that in 2012 the African Union established an agency called the African Risk Capacity, with the mandate to help countries to prepare a plan for extreme weather events and natural disasters, and to thereby help them protect the food security of their vulnerable populations. The idea was that when an event occurs, no longer would a country have to wait for the UN to make all the calls, the donors to bring money, for the time it takes, but that by creating an agency that would shift some of the risks to the market, we would have our own mechanism.

This is an insurance mechanism. Countries would subscribe and pay a premium for insurance, and when an event happens we would already have prepared them with a contingency plan that could be implemented immediately. We wouldn't wait until the event happens, we would act before. Once it happens, within two to three weeks money would be disbursed to these countries in order for them to deal with the situation. Africa has provided a solution that is being touted as one of the best examples now internationally, but here in Africa we know little or nothing about it.

The African Risk Capacity is designed to provide contingent funds linked to early warning systems, and to appropriate contingency plans with credible national response mechanisms that deliver the most effective and efficient solutions

to weather shocks in the short term. This can facilitate longer-term investments in increasing food security and disaster-risk reduction as well as climate resilience.

How do we do this? The African Risk Capacity works with governments to develop a pan-African response system that enables countries to meet the direct needs of the people who would be impacted by these natural disasters. We have to shift out of the old paradigm of waiting for a crisis to occur and into the new one of being prepared beforehand and acting immediately. This is what the African Risk Capacity does, by disbursing insurance money to conflicts as soon as possible. This is just one of a basket of instruments for managing risks, and I'm very glad that the president of IFAD, my brother Gilbert, referred to the need for us to manage risks as a means of managing the issue of agriculture, development and hunger.

The African Risk Capacity is also being supported by several donors – Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Sweden, Switzerland, Canada and the United States of America, as well as the Rockefeller Foundation and the World Food Programme. The agency has made a lot of progress, with active capacity-building programmes assisting African countries.

In 2014 the African Risk Capacity established an insurance company known as the African Risk Capacity Limited. It became Africa's first parametric weather-risk-analysis measure, with a model that triggers

enough money to be disbursed to help people manage risks after an event.

We've been supported by the Governments of Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to the tune of USD 200 million. So they have put in capital to support us. To date, 36 countries on the continent have registered to be members, but only eight have actually subscribed to buy insurance in the four risk pools that we have put forward so far. So far we've underwritten over USD 400 million in drought-risk insurance during this period, and of this another USD 180 million has been transferred to international risk markets at a very reasonable rate.

There is increasing interest by reinsurance companies to support us. We've gone from eight to 24 reinsurers who are interested in working with us. Additionally, over these four years, participating African governments have paid USD 52 million in premiums, with 95 percent of this coming from their national budgets. So it shows a high degree of responsiveness, that African countries are willing to do this and have paid such an amount.

Of the 36 Member countries who have signed, we want to encourage up to 15 or 20 of them to participate in this insurance, as this will reduce the premiums that countries have to pay and make it much more affordable. In the first three years of our operation we have also made pay-outs to countries from Mauritania to Niger to Malawi, totalling USD 36 million. This has

helped us to impact two million people and one million livestock. What did we do? The money has been disbursed by governments to households to help them take care of their food needs, to help them feed their livestock, and to help them feed children in school during this period.

This is so important because it means people stay in place. When we experience these events, people normally migrate out because they cannot find food where they are living. But by having such monies disbursed to them they are able to take care of their problems. So this is really and truly a powerful instrument. We are talking of impact on people here, people and their animals. By doing this we also avoid conflict, because what happens when people migrate? They migrate to other areas where there are people farming and this results in a lot of conflict.

I just want to put this to you: one of the challenges we are facing is obviously getting countries to be consistent in paying their premiums every year. We have gone to institutions, international and national, to help us solve this problem. The African Development Bank has stepped forward in a very big way, and we want to thank Akin Adesina for his support here in accepting to set up a facility to finance premiums for countries.

As of now we are processing about 11 countries for funding. It will still be their money coming, because ultimately they will be reimbursing, but it just saves them

the stress for the next five or seven years of having to worry about getting these premiums from their budgets. So we urge those of you here, if you are not participating in this please tell us so that we can work with you and the African Development Bank to make this possible. The Islamic Development Bank, the World Bank and others are also looking at how to get involved in this.

So in summary, ladies and gentlemen, there is good news, and the good news is that Africa is leading in the area of insurance tools to manage weather-based events.

I want you all to know about it because I wanted everyone leaving this room today to become an ambassador for the African Risk Capacity. Thank you very much. ■

3. SHARING EXPERIENCES ON THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER



Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva

*Former President of Brazil and Laureate of the
World Food Prize in 2013*

When we met here in Addis Ababa for the High-Level Meeting on Renewed Partnership to Eradicate Hunger in Africa back in June 2013, we conveyed to the international community the message that it would be possible to do away with hunger in Africa in 12 years.

On that occasion, after debating successful experiences from different countries, we concluded that – with the full participation of civil society – states ought to reaffirm their firm resolution to lead this process by making room in national budgets for policies to combat poverty and hunger.

I can assert this premise based on what happened in Brazil, where very

significant results were accomplished in the struggle against hunger and poverty. I do not intend to dictate models to you, for each country has experienced its own singularities. I just want to explain once again what happened in our country.

The Brazilian experience proves that it is possible to overcome hunger: when the fight against poverty is addressed as a national policy, with adequate resources assigned in the state's domestic budget; when social policies on health, food security and education are combined with official assistance to small farmers; and when governments adopt permanent strategies

for redistribution of wealth, appreciation of the minimum wage and job creation.

In 2002, the year I was elected President, 11 million families were living in conditions deemed below the earning threshold of USD 1 per day, which was the extreme poverty line adopted by the World Bank at that time. Nearly 50 million people were suffering from hunger – that is to say almost one-third of the Brazilian population, mostly children who were sentenced to malnutrition and related diseases.

Against this backdrop, the absolute top priority of our administrations was to assure that every household in Brazil could have three meals a day. Under the leadership of José Graziano da Silva, we created “Zero Hunger”, a programme that articulated different public policies, of which “Bolsa Família” is the broadest. These policies also included: providing technical assistance and funding for family farmers; granting property titles to rural land for smallholder farmers; buying products from family farmers for school meal programmes; capacity building, job creation and ensuring access to health and public education.

Such a far-reaching strategy could only be implemented with the full participation of civil society. That is why we decided to relaunch the National Council on Food Security (CONSEA), where non-profit NGOs, private sector and workers’ representatives sit side by side and act effectively in designing policies and strategies for action.

Shortly after, we created the Bolsa Família, a programme that transfers a monthly income to the poorest families, provided that three conditions are met: children attend schools, babies are properly vaccinated and pregnant women are examined by doctors regularly.

Under the presidency of Dilma Rousseff, Bolsa-Família was extended to the Brazil Without Extreme Poverty programme to reach approximately 14 million families, or 55 million Brazilians. The investment in Bolsa-Família represented merely 0.5 percent of Brazil’s GDP, or approximately USD 10 billion per year.

The biggest obstacle we faced, however, did not stem from economics, but had its roots in the ignorance and prejudice of some privileged segments of our society. This can occur in any

country that implements conditional cash transfer programmes.

Families are registered into the Bolsa-Família programme through a single system of national registry (“Cadastro Unico”), which is carried out by a partnership between the federal government, municipalities and local communities. The single registry is permanently updated and monitored by the Public Prosecutor’s Office.

The actual payment of benefits is made through a magnetic card issued by a Government bank, without delay or middlemen. In other words, there is no need to ask favours from anyone in order to receive the benefit.

Another noteworthy aspect of our strategy was to have these magnetic cards issued to women, to ensure that the benefits were used in favour of children. This strategy led to the empowerment of women within their families and communities.

The Bolsa-Família benefit also had a positive impact on local businesses, as it increased demand for basic products, boosting internal markets. Cash transfers to the poor were instrumental for the entire nation as they increased demand, hence fostering production, trade and jobs. They generated a virtuous cycle of development. Most importantly, Bolsa-Família grants citizenship and ensures dignity for people to shape their future.

The Brazilian strategy to overcome hunger included strengthening the agricultural sector, which doubled its production in 10 years. This would not be feasible if special attention had not been given to family farmers. There are about 4 million small farms in Brazil today, and millions of other families in temporary settlements by virtue of the Rural Land Reform programme. Our Government allocated 47 million hectares of rural land for agrarian reform, an amount that represents more than half of the land allocated for agrarian reform throughout Brazilian history.

Credit with low interest rates for small- and medium-sized farms and recently settled farmers was estimated altogether at 2.8 billion reais in 2003. This was to reach 30 billion reais 12 years later – or roughly 10 billion US dollars. Women gained access to rural credits and were granted preferential treatment in the process of agrarian property registration.

We designed a system of insurance against the loss of crops and a minimum price for procurement of agricultural products. We introduced legislation to establish that 30 percent of the products for school meals were to be bought directly from local farmers. We implemented a programme called “Light for All” (“Luz para Todos”) in order to extend the transmission of electric energy to small rural households. Over three million families benefited from this programme.

The proportion of rural households with access to electricity went up from 78 percent to 97 percent, transforming daily life for more than 13 million people who live in the countryside. These families were able to add value to their products by purchasing simple machinery, such as grinders, blenders, water pumps, and they also bought 2.2 million new refrigerators, 2.4 billion TV sets and other manufactured goods that provided a great incentive to industrial production.

In 2008, when Brazil was initially hit by the global economic crisis, one of the measures we took to mitigate the negative impact of that brutal recession was to incentivize farmers to buy 80 horse-power tractors and other tools by reducing taxation of these products and offering credit lines in public banks. The response of small farmers was immediate: more than 30 million new tractors were sold and thus the countryside once again cooperated with industry and commerce in job creation. We created a programme called “Territories of Citizenship” (“Territorios da Cidadania) to integrate government activities in health, education, culture, income-generation in rural areas, improving overall conditions in the countryside and thereby curbing the exodus to urban areas. As a result of these combined social policies, small producers have increased their income by 52 percent over the past decade.

Inequality is not only economic and social by nature – inequality in Brazil

also has a critical and unjustified aspect of regional imbalance. For this reason we began to develop in the most remote areas, particularly in the north and northeastern regions, which are historically more deprived and ignored by central decision-makers. We allocated resources in these regions by building railroads, dams, new ports, industrial plants and even oil refineries. All these actions converged to the main goal of eradicating hunger and extreme poverty.

It is also worth noting that the minimum wage saw a real increase of 74 percent in 12 years. The net income of an average Brazilian family increased substantially by one-third, while the income of the poorest families increased by two-thirds. The financial credit granted to these families went up from 24 percent to 57 percent of GDP. The end result of these public policies and programmes is well known to all: 36 million people emancipated from extreme poverty, over 40 million reached purchasing power and 22 million new jobs were created in the formal sector. We proved that when the poor become a central part of the decision making of a government they are no longer the nation’s number one problem: instead they become the number one solution to this nation’s problems.

Endeavours have been undertaken since we met here in Addis Ababa five years ago, but achieving the goal of eradicating hunger in Africa remains somewhat slow and distant. We are even seeing the

situation deteriorate in some countries. What is a matter of great concern for us is not only the high indicators of hunger in Africa still today, but the estimated trend of higher rates of hunger. According to these recent indicators, as reported by FAO and other agencies in the most recent studies on the state of food security in the world, there are three major challenges to be surpassed: first of all, conflict. This is one of the main variables for hunger in the continent. The vast majority of people vulnerable to hunger in Africa live in countries affected by war or other internal violent conflicts. Therefore, peace becomes an absolute condition for food security.

Second, climate change and environmental degradation. There is enough evidence that these two factors cause the downturn of food security indicators in our planet. In the particular case of Africa, recurrent droughts and erratic rain seasons jeopardize agricultural byproducts that were already in precarious conditions.

Finally, the most recent FAO report asserts the correlation between hunger and poverty. In effect, in order to surpass their conditions of poverty, the poor must first have access to food. In this context, we noticed that several countries have failed to keep their social protection and cash transfer programmes functioning properly or regularly. This social protection net is a paramount condition for the

achievement of a sustainable and efficient path to development in favour of the poor. Nations should not relegate their conditional cash transfer programmes to a goal of minor importance. They can reinforce the domestic economy by stimulating consumption, even in difficult times of economic instability.

It is imperative to strengthen social services in each country. Private sector, civil society and government agencies need to act together to place the issue of hunger as a top priority on the political agenda. Yes, hunger is a political issue, and the best way to fight it is a strong political will to include the poor in the national budget.

It is due to our political will that we managed to eradicate hunger over the course of one decade in Brazil, a country with a population of over 200 million. This great achievement is nonetheless under serious threat from a political plot that violated the Constitution and broke up President Dilma Rousseff's administration in August 2016. Public policies and social programmes that promoted conditions for the creation of new jobs and appreciation of the minimum wage have been undermined since then. Hunger has reappeared in Brazil.

Although a significant part of the job done by development partners is to elaborate and implement social policies, it is clear to me that other efforts merit

priority treatment as well, such as the integration of the African regional market. It is also important to reinforce Purchase from Africans for Africa (PAA Africa), an initiative inspired by the Brazilian food procurement programme that has benefited several African countries in recent years.

It is still possible to eradicate hunger by 2025, as established in Malabo, or by

2030, as asserted by the international community when the Sustainable Development Goals were approved in New York. It is certainly even more ambitious today than it was a few years ago, when we met in 2013. But if the African nations firmly commit to this objective the whole world will see the resurgence of hope that is so badly needed today. ■



Olusegun Obasanjo

Former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and former Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to the Democratic Republic of the Congo

I want to put on the table my experience from the short period that I was President of Nigeria, on what we did, and what we achieved, and see how that can be applied in any situation in any country. The first thing we realize is that peace, security, and stability are the foundations of any economic activity for it to be sustainable and lead to growth and development. That was paramount in our minds.

One area of our country during that period of my presidency that was a little bit troublesome was the Niger Delta, where we had militants. I sent people out to meet them and invited them to come and have a dialogue with me. I brought them over. I gave them temporary amnesty. I said, "Just come, whatever might have been your offence or crime, for the purpose of this exercise you are not going to be arrested, just come." They came. They came and I received them in my council chamber where the Cabinet meets, and I said "Look, tell me why you are doing what you're doing". I was very instructive.

One of them said to me, "Look, when you were a military Head of State, you started public education, free primary education. That was why I was able to go to school. Because I went to primary school, I was able to go to secondary school. Because I went to secondary school, I was able to go to university. I said to myself when I was in university, "because I come from an oil-producing area I will study petroleum engineering. Now, four years later I have qualified as a petroleum engineer, I have no job. What do you expect me to do?" He had taken to militancy to earn a living, so you have to do something about that to ensure that we have peace, we have security, and we have stability.

We believe agriculture must be treated as a business, not just as a development issue. In the past we have tried to treat agriculture as a development issue. We had people coming from everywhere and telling us what we should do for the development of agriculture. As we just heard from the Prime Minister of

Ethiopia, there must be indigenous wisdom. There must be indigenous input, and of course we must also realize that the indigenous have to move along with modernization, particularly in terms of technology, improved seeds, fertilizer application and other aspects.

We decided that all three levels of farmers – smallholders, medium-sized, and large-scale or commercial farmers – must be given appropriate attention. Some people ask, “What do you do? Should we ignore the small holders and pay attention only to large-scale farmers?” I will say no. We pay attention to all of them, and all of them have a role to play, particularly the smallholder farmers.

Now, government policy programmes and guidance and leadership must be given at the highest political level. Yes, you can delegate out of that function, but at the highest political level you must give direction. You must give leadership. Contributions must come from all stakeholders and all ministries and departments of government: there should be no action in silence. The Ministry of Agriculture is important in this business. The Ministry of Finance is important in this business. The Ministry of Water Resources is important in this business. The Ministry of Works and Infrastructure is important in this business and they must all work together. That is why coordination and leadership must be at the highest political level.

All levels of government must also be involved and coordinated. Community, local government – state government in our own case since we are a federal system – and national government

must all be involved. Access to funds at reasonable rates of interest must be ensured. If you leave farmers, it doesn't matter at what level, if you leave them to commercial banks, they are shylocks. They will demand a pound of flesh and we will not get agriculture to develop that way. Anything more than single-digits in interest rates, you are not going to get farmers making any progress unless they are growing cocaine. If they are going to grow meagre legitimate crops, they cannot make it at double-digit rates of interest.

Other stakeholders must also be involved. Marketers, processors, exporters, researchers, all of them must be brought in, of course including anchors. If all these are put together, there should be increased production, there should be reduction in waste. Take our experience in Nigeria as an example: we increased cocoa production over a period of five years, from 150 000 to 400 000 metric tonnes. We increased cassava production from 30 million to 50 million metric tonnes. Agricultural growth was in the region of 7 percent while it used to be under 3 percent. That was even much more than the growth in oil and gas, which we regarded as the mainstay of our economy.

Nigeria's experience shows that if all these things are put together under leadership at the highest political level, then success will be achieved. That is our experience, and I believe it can be the experience of any country in Africa. It has to be sustained because if there is no sustenance, then it can reverse very badly indeed. ■

4. MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE



Kanayo F. Nwanze

FAO Special Goodwill Ambassador on Zero Hunger for the Africa Region and former President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

We have listened to briefs on progress in sustaining the momentum behind CAADP, meeting the Malabo commitments and putting in place a mutual accountability framework, and the outcomes from the inaugural Biennial Report. The report, however, concludes that Commitment 3 – “Ending Hunger by 2025” – is not on track.

An earlier FAO report, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2017*, highlighted a sharp deterioration in parts of sub-Saharan Africa. Notwithstanding this, the 2017 Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) Agriculture Status Report sees favourable prospects for African agriculture in the coming decades.

Viewed from another perspective, while agribusiness and farmers with adequate government support could create a trillion-dollar food market, Africa’s import bill for raw and processed foods that can be produced here at home is projected to rise from USD 35 billion to USD 110 billion by 2025, creating jobs and putting money in the pockets of foreigners abroad, whereas every year 50 percent of our young graduates remain unemployed.

I am not here to applaud the contents of a half-full glass or progress with respect to the commitments to end hunger in Africa by 2025, that is, in seven years’

time! Let us talk about the glass that is half empty and why now is the time for action.

Ending hunger or achieving Zero Hunger should not be addressed in isolation of our overall national, regional and continental development framework: infrastructure, services, functional institutions, education, agriculture, health and nutrition, and social protection, especially for the most vulnerable of our populations – the rural poor –are all interconnected.

No nation or region of the world has developed without leveraging the potential of the agriculture sector and without going through an agricultural transformation that generates inclusive social and economic growth, from agrarian to industrial revolutions: Great Britain and Europe in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; Japan in the nineteenth century; China, Brazil, India and so on in the twentieth century.

The Brazilian model, Fome Zero (Zero Hunger) was an ambitious programme that lifted more than 36 million from extreme poverty in just over a decade.

For Africa, ending hunger calls for a transformation that must begin with the rural sector, because as shown by FAO, IFAD,

the African Development Bank (AfDB), the World Bank and others, this is the environment and these are the populations of farmers, fishers, herders and pastoralists that are hit the hardest by hunger, poverty, climate change, and conflict - ironically, the populations and the environment that feed most of Africa. And they are mostly women.

In my remaining time, let me make a plea and a call to action as we work towards 2025.

Farming, whether of crops, livestock or fisheries, is not just a way of life; it is an economic activity, a money-generating business that produces food, feeds people, creates jobs and employment, brings wealth, empowers and transforms people. It is the pathway to sustainable development.

Broad-based and inclusive rural transformation is a pre-requisite to ending hunger or achieving Zero Hunger, because Africa's poor and hungry live mostly in rural areas, not in bloated urban slums. They are the custodians of our agricultural heritage.

A healthy, competitive, indigenous private sector, particularly for small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), is needed in partnership with government and civil society to bring

about lasting change. AGRA's approach in this area is commendable.

And Africa is not poor. Africa is bountiful: minerals, oil and gas, 200 million hectares of fertile, uncultivated agricultural land, plenty of sunshine, abundant rainfall and waterways, and people, with a predominantly vibrant, youthful population.

Africa's development problems will only be solved when we Africans learn how to manage our own resources. No amount of foreign development assistance will solve Africa's problems.

Development is not what people do for others, but what they do for themselves. Above all, it takes committed, visionary and selfless leadership at the highest political level and by governments for change to happen.

Holding Summits in the capitals of Europe, the Americas and Asia to be told about our problems and how to solve them is simply humiliating!

We have talent, qualified and experienced, brilliant, world-class Africans in all professional fields and sectors

And we should also maximise our collaborative partnerships with global and continental organizations and institutions

that have decades of experience: FAO, where I serve as Special Goodwill Ambassador for Zero Hunger, Africa Region, IFAD, my last post as President, and our own home-grown institutions, the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), AGRA – where I serve on the Board – and of course the AfDB and others.

Without good governance our efforts at development will always remain crippled. Poor governance results in mediocrity, weak institutions, blatant corruption, inconsistent policies and dysfunctional leadership.

Above all, we must capitalize on our demographic dividend, our youth – the lifeblood of a continent with 65 percent of its population under 35 years old. If we do not resolve the increasingly volatile youth unemployment challenges, our rich demographic dividend will in no time become a nightmare – starting with the shameful plight of masses of illegal African immigrants in Europe, the result of the absence of economic opportunities, of frustration and of hopelessness.

We have the tools, the knowledge; we have people and talent, and we know what to do. The time is now; we should harness our endowments, our resources: our people, the wealth of our land and all that it offers us, both above and below, for today and for future generations. ■



Jacqueline Amongin

Member of Parliament in the Republic of Uganda and Pan-African Parliament

I happen to have joined the Parliament of Uganda when I was just 24 years old. I can assuredly tell you that the experience I have has been purely in Parliament for many years. We are talking about the health sector, we are talking about education, but the heart of Africa and the comparative advantage that we have as a continent is in agriculture.

I want to wish – when I was a student I used to blame, but now I'm in government I don't blame anybody – I wish that everyone would take action when we come for Summits like this, when we come for international gatherings. Last year in Melbourne, we came up with a Smart Programme. We came up with the Talanoa Agreement to track progress on the implementation of the Climate Change Agreement.

Now let me ask everyone in this room – how many of us are following up with what we agreed on? I know we are going to have more AU Summits. We are talking

about the Malabo Declaration. I challenge Member States – how many of us have committed our resources to ensuring that agriculture is implementable, is effective in our countries? For me, I believe that Africa is still very much virgin territory, because as I speak today at the age of 33, I have lived in all the continents of the world.

Today we are talking about the SDGs. Africa came up with a smart plan. When you look at the SDGs and the Agenda 2063, they are almost correlated. That means the Agenda is a child of Africa, but how many of us have taken a bigger step in ensuring that hunger in Africa becomes history?

To me, speaking here as a legislator, speaking here as a woman and speaking here as a young person – because by African standards I am still a young person – I believe that we have to focus on the people who cultivate our land but who have no say on land, and that is women. You are

saying to end hunger by 2025, when I don't have a say on what I cultivate. I am the one who goes long distances to fetch water, but it is the men who make decisions.

When we talk about climate change it has a gender imperative. I am happy that I see some women here. Please, always consider women at the table, women farmers. Because all these women we are talking about, if they are not involved, if they don't know, if their capacities are not built, then we will not do otherwise. These women will continue along their usual path.

If we are not going to make agriculture sexy to attract young people, if we are not going to get exemplary farmers to show young people who leave university, we will have many agriculture graduates from the various universities but who go and look for jobs outside Africa. They go even across the waters to cross to Europe to get jobs. That means young people do not yet appreciate agriculture. It's our role and we are the ones to blame if we don't attract the youth into agriculture, because that's where our comparative advantage is. ■



Ahmed Aboul Gheit

*Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and
Chairperson of the Africa Risk Capacity Board*

The League of Arab States is proud of its multidimensional cooperation with the AU in order to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and reiterates its readiness to intensify efforts with African countries to mobilize financial resources and technical expertise to achieve food security and eradicate hunger in the continent by the year 2025.

I'm very happy to present to you some of the progress that we have been able to achieve within the framework of this Arab and African cooperation. At the forefront we have the joint Arab-African Ministerial meeting on agricultural development and food security, with the third event held in Khartoum in November 2016.

At the latest Malabo Summit, the Heads of State and Government of Arab and African countries agreed on a comprehensive policy to promote agricultural development and food security. They also agreed on a number

of measures that include the following: first of all, to work together to achieve food security in the Arab and African regions by 2025, and establish a good Arab-African coordinating unit to achieve joint action and provide the necessary funds for its activities. Second, to consolidate trade and attract the necessary investment in agriculture to speed up development in the Arab and African regions. Third, to facilitate agricultural technology transfers and eradicate all hurdles that impede the development of agriculture and the achievement of food security in the Arab and African regions. Fourth, to organize fairs and exhibitions for Arab and African agricultural produce every two years, in order to encourage trade between Arab and African regions in the agricultural sector.

The League of Arab States is open to developing this partnership to the highest possible level and is determined to work seriously and comprehensively with the African Union to achieve these joint

objectives. Among them is achieving food security in the Arab and African regions through the various specialized Arab Ministerial Councils, which aim at to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.

I wish to note that the League of Arab States is interested in continuing to exchange expertise with the African Union and taking into consideration lessons learned in order to enhance the outcomes of initiatives implemented on the ground. Among these we can cite the executive plan

for the Arab Food Security Emergency Program, which is in its second phase and covers the bill from 2017 to 2021.

There's also the initiative launched by the President of the Republic of the Sudan to achieve Arab food security, as decided upon by the Arab Summit to create mechanisms to this effect. In the League of Arab States, we are monitoring the large-scale Arab and African programmes and we shall endeavour to eradicate all the hurdles. ■



Shenggen Fan

Director General of International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

First, I would like to commend the African Union Commission and partners for reconvening, five years after the adoption of the Malabo Declaration in 2013. To achieve our collective aspirations, we must transform our commitments to actions.

Despite ambitious commitments made in Malabo, hunger and undernutrition in Africa are on the rise. As of 2016 nearly 23 percent of the population in Africa south of the Sahara are undernourished, an increase from under 21 percent in 2015. Similarly, the total number of undernourished people in Africa rose from 219 million in 2015 to 243 million in 2016. Africa is not on track to end hunger by 2025.

To make meaningful progress towards eliminating extreme poverty by 2030, ending hunger and undernutrition is a must. Without tackling hunger and undernutrition, the vicious cycle of poverty cannot be broken, as they negatively impact health,

limit human capital development, and hinder productivity. A healthy and well-nourished population is vital for economic gains.

In order to end hunger and malnutrition, leadership, accountability, and setting priorities are essential. I am pleased to note that African leaders are genuinely committed to end hunger and undernutrition.

This commitment must be sustained and translated into action. Leadership and commitment must also be supported by accountability mechanisms. The peer review mechanism undertaken by African leaders has produced positive results, but they must be supported by reliable and timely data.

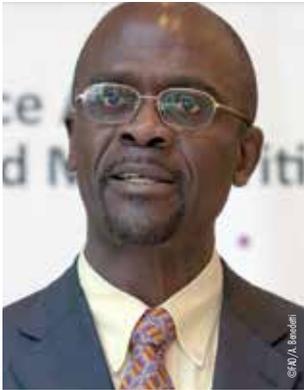
African countries must fulfil their CAADP commitments to allocate 10 percent of national budgets on agriculture.

In particular, increasing investment in agricultural research and development (R&D) to produce more nutrition with fewer resources must be a priority.

Biofortification is critical tool which can improve yields and nutrition outcomes for many food crops. HarvestPlus, for example, is now working closely with 12 African countries to include biofortification in their national agriculture and nutrition plans.

In this regard, IFPRI is committed to continue supporting the African Union by providing research and evidence to inform policies and decision making. IFPRI has been supporting CAADP through data, capacity building, and monitoring and

evaluation through Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support Systems (ReSAKSS). We will continue to support the biennial review of the Malabo declaration by improving data and capacity and by assisting in developing the African Agricultural Transformation Scorecard. Furthermore, IFPRI's Compact2025 initiative will work to bring stakeholders together to set priorities, innovate and learn, fine-tune actions, build on successes, and synthesize lessons to accelerate progress in ending hunger and undernutrition by 2025. ■



Kwesi Attah-Krah

Director for Systems and Integration at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)

It's a pleasure to be here. I think we've heard that nobody is happy with hunger and we all want to fight it. It is recognized that research has a significant role to play in this task, but it should not just be research for research's sake: we need to look at it for the sake of development. This whole technology of agricultural transformation basically means that whatever we are doing in agriculture should be done in such a way that it contributes as an engine for economic development, and research has a role to play in that.

When I say research, I'm talking about national agriculture research systems. Let me pause for a second and say that we really need to direct more resources to national agricultural research systems. There are so many national systems where salaries are being paid and there is no money to actually conduct research. This is an area where we really need more investment. We've also heard about the international

centres, we've heard of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), which played a significant role in helping to drive the research agenda in the continent. My own institution – the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) – last year celebrated 50 years, but in celebration we also look forward to the coming 50 years.

We identified three key areas that we feel should be emphasized. The first is that there is a need for better integration in the work we do in the various domains of research. Second, there is a need for better alignment of our research to the strategic goals of the countries where we operate. If you take a particular country it will have its own strategic goals, but when you come down to the research level, projects are developed without clear reference to these goals and we feel that has to change. It has to be strong, focused, all that.

Third, we want to strongly emphasize that for those of us in international agricultural research, they should not just be over-producing international public groups – which is a generic term we use for developing broad issues. We should look at the country first to really help them achieve what they need to for improving community livelihoods and helping economic development.

Finally, let me mention four key aspects that are of particular interest for research: cohesion is key, integration is key, and alignment towards the national groups and within the international research systems. We believe these are areas that we will put a lot more emphasis on when working with the African Union and with the other regional organizations as well as national research institutions. ■



John Miller

Senior Vice President, Nestlé

If I may, I would like to just start by talking a little about our business model, then I will go on to talk about four points where I believe that industry, governments, and non-governmental agencies can work in unison to address this pressing problem of hunger. In particular among the youth of Africa. It's has been a real pleasure, since I arrived, to have seen a number of people – friends who I actually met in Abidjan some time ago and who attended the ‘creating shared value’ forum that was held there a couple of years back.

The reason I mention this is that creating shared value is really at the heart of our business model. Indeed, I believe it is at the heart of other businesses as well. It is this belief that a company like ours cannot prosper, cannot develop in the long term, if we do not enable the societies in which we operate to also benefit economically, and most importantly in terms of nutrition. As the largest nutritional

health and wellness, food and beverage company in the world, we have an onerous responsibility in that respect. So our whole business model is really predicated on that. Indeed, I believe that for creating shared value, nowhere is that notion more powerful than in the continent of Africa.

Let me just talk through this in terms of roles. It starts with the farm. We source about 64 percent of our raw materials from the continent of Africa, but it goes much further than that. We then convert those raw materials in our numerous factories – 19 in all across the continent. We work with farmers. We create a ready market for the products of those farmers. We then convert those raw materials into our brands, which we distribute as far and wide as we can across numerous countries within Africa, to make sure that these nutritional health and wellness offerings are available to as many people as possible.

This is a business model that is really predicated on the development of Africa. We've heard from several of the respected speakers about the importance of agriculture: not only for nutrition, but also in terms of generating employment. Indeed, it's the single largest generator of jobs in an environment where rates of unemployment are all too readily apparent.

Most important is the formulation of our products. Not only do we source raw materials from African farmers, but we also ensure that we address the pressing micronutrient deficiencies we see across the continent, and which are contributing to unacceptably high levels of malnutrition. I'm proud to say that last year we delivered 68 billion fortified servings to consumers across the continent of Africa.

This is only the beginning. There is still so much to do. We've already heard this afternoon that indeed we're not going to hit those nutritional goals. It is the beginning, and I really believe the private sector has the responsibility, the duty, and an extremely important role to play in addressing these pressing needs.

But enough on our business model. Let me now move very briefly on to four areas where I believe private industry, governments and non-governmental agencies can work hand in hand, in concert, to move together towards our shared goals and objectives. These really fall into four areas. First, farm productivity, second,

infrastructure, third, food safety, and finally the honing of strong nutritional policies.

Let me take the first point, and forgive me because I'm repeating some points which have already been made far more tellingly perhaps than I will be able to do. I begin with the work we do with farmers to help them to improve their productivity. Last year we worked with 100 000 African farmers to help improve post-harvest losses, to reduce those losses, to address issues of aflatoxins and other difficulties that are encountered. We worked to improve the productivity of the crops generated through the sweat equity of small-, medium-, and large-scale farmers, who are all so important to our business model. We have a responsibility, together, I believe, to promote intercropping, to develop and maintain kitchen gardens and livestock, to develop sustainable economic activities, to ensure that people are earning a fair reward for that sweat equity.

As I said, not only are we working with farmers, but we are providing a ready market for their products and generating a virtuous economic model. Second, infrastructure: we are building on that first point. Infrastructure can only be generated if the economy is functioning strongly. Here also the private sector has such a broad role to play. This business has been in Africa for one hundred years.

This is a responsibility we've taken extremely seriously, obeying governance, ensuring that taxes are paid in full, making sure we are contributing to the economic life

of the nation so that governments can invest in infrastructure. Here, I talk of farm-to-market produce. I talk of roads that allow us to distribute our brands far and wide, not just in growing urban centres but also in the rural economy, which is so important for the economic health of African nations. Also infrastructure that moves in the direction of the continental free trade area, thereby facilitating more intra-African trade. This is a direction of travel which we are very encouraged by, because we believe the more trade that occurs between African nations, the stronger the economies will be, and the better that will be for business and for the consumers we serve. Third, food safety. We know food safety is such a serious problem, and there were more than 90 million incidents of food-related health issues in 2016.

Here I have to say that I've been very encouraged by the discussions and our interaction with the African Union. We are, as I speak, in dialogue with the view to setting up a regulatory laboratory that be available to all industries. This is not something that is confined to our sectors. Nestlé is ready to commit technical support for the running of such a laboratory,

one which I hope will lead towards the standardization of health standards, of food safety standards, so that we can more easily move products between countries. Again, contributing to that all-important development of intra-African trade.

Finally, the importance of a sustainable nutritional policies. Again, we fully support government policies to address the pressing needs of micronutrient deficiencies. We wish to work together on dietary mapping, so that we really understand what the most pressing needs are. I think by working together collaboratively, we really can make a meaningful difference.

In conclusion, I believe that we need to work together to modernize agriculture, to encourage more youthful farmers into the sector. The average age of the farmer is 59 years old – nearly as old as I am. We need more young people. We need more women in this sector. We need to improve infrastructure, particularly farms and market roads. We need to invest in food safety, and we need to create comprehensive national nutritional policies, to ensure that we're addressing those pressing micronutrient deficiencies. ■



Ntiokam Divine

Managing Director, Climate-Smart Agriculture Youth Network

In order to end hunger by 2025, Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) is one of the best solutions to turn to, as it is three dimensional: it ends food security through increased productivity and income, adapts to climate change, and contributes to climate change mitigation.

Looking at these three points, let us consider some of the things we've been able to do so far with young people across the continent. We have come up with some programmes for planting fruit trees, and established "Hunger Clubs" in schools. We also thought it would be a very wise practice to engage the young generation of 2030-50 by sharing success stories at country and committee levels.

In this sense we are equally making sure that agriculture is attractive for young people. As I said earlier, you can't just tell a young person to go to the field and do agriculture. We should be able to create incentives and enabling environments for them as

well. To sum up, we need to encourage agribusiness. What do I mean by this? Looking at agriculture as the whole industry, the entire management, we are telling young people, "If you studied medicine for example, why don't you focus on nutrition security?" If you were a mechanic – or should I say someone with a technical education – why don't you look at infrastructure from farms to markets? If you did accounting, why don't you look at it from the finance perspective, saying that you can have this agribusiness component to be able to push for and employ more young people. This is going to help us actually stem illegal migration from rural to urban areas, and from Africa to the European continent.

I urge all global leaders here to focus much more on community-based initiatives. What do I mean by this? For example, take Cameroon, where I come from. In the village XY in the rural community, let's ensure

that all the infrastructure of the cities is actually available in that rural community.

Finally, young people should be considered as development partners and not as beneficiaries. Because if you look at them as partners of development you are going to really invest and trust in what they are able to do. We should invest more, create an enabling environment.

That's why right now with African Development Bank we are implementing the African Climate-Smart Agriculture. FAO recently funded some programmes in Zimbabwe and in Tanzania. I would be very, very delighted if we could all commit to saying, 'we are going to support all the branches we've started in schools and in the various African countries'. ■



Philip Baker

Ambassador of Canada to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

It's a great honour to address everyone here today on the occasion of this high-level follow-up meeting on Zero Hunger in Africa. According to the McKinsey Global Institute, with positive intervention and sound public policies supporting gender equality women's economic empowerment could add USD 12 trillion to the global economy by 2025.

Evidence suggests that if women and men had equal access to productive resources in agriculture, food production would increase by up to 30 percent – enough to pull 150 million people out of hunger. Women are responsible for sustaining their households by providing food and nutrition, but they do not have the same access and control over land reproductive resources as men do, which is not only unfair but inefficient. As part of its new feminist international policy, in June 2017 Canada announced a Feminist International Assistance policy.

The policy is based on simple and powerful ideas promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls as the most effective ways to eradicate poverty. We feel this is essential to achieve systemic development goals and the aspirations of the Agenda 2063 in Africa. To do this, we need to both target and integrate gender equality in all our work. This applies across all areas: the empowerment of women and girls, human dignity, growth that works for everyone, environment and climate action, inclusive governments and peace and security.

Women's empowerment is essential to ending hunger in Africa. To get there, Canada strongly believes in solidarity and multilateralism. It is only by coming together that we find effective solutions to such great challenges. We have supported these values since contributing to the drafting of the UN Charter in 1945 and hosting the first session of the FAO conference in Québec City, during which FAO was established. We also

believe that it's crucial to involve women in decision making, and ensure that projects respond to women's specific needs and help strengthen women's brains. Women make essential contributions to agricultural development and food security as farmers, entrepreneurs, and managers of natural resources. They also play a decisive role in food security, dietary diversity, and children's health, typically spending more of their incomes on food and, as mothers naturally do, placing their children's nutritional needs before their own. Although they represent 40 percent of the agricultural labour force they continue to face barriers that limit their access to reproductive resources, including land, financial extension of marketing services and economic empowerment.

They're also disproportionately affected by the negative effects of climate change. We need to ensure that our efforts contribute to building a more inclusive environment that places women as decision-makers,

innovators, and resource stewards at the centre of rural development. Canada fully supports African privatization within the theme of Zero Hunger. A good example of a successful African-led initiative is Ethiopia's productive safety net programme. Every year it provides predictable cash-for-food transfers for close to 8 million people in all regions of Ethiopia, including 4 million women, in exchange for their participation in activities that improve livelihoods and resilience at the community level.

Canada proudly supports that initiative and helps alleviate food insecurity and malnutrition particularly for the most vulnerable. Finally, such initiatives need to be accelerated and extended to ensure food security for all, particularly those who have been left out, including women and girls. Zero Hunger is an achievable target. Canada stands with Africa in its efforts to reach it. ■



Jacob Ouédraogo

Minister of Agriculture, Burkina Faso

I wish on behalf of the Specialized Technical Committee, responsible for agriculture, rural development and water and environment, to say that all the policies and strategies that have been put on the table, all actions and commitments, should become reality.

It has always been said that there are too many words spoken and we should move forward through action. However, we sit on the Commission that is responsible for rural development and that wants to ensure that all the commitments made in the Agenda 2063 and within the Maputo Declaration should become reality. I wish to call on all countries here present, to all African countries, to stop speaking mere words but commit to action involving women and the youth, so that they may all become stakeholders who are committed, stakeholders that are not going to restrict themselves to asking for aid.

We know that most of our countries rely on aid and I was happy to note that the former

Chair of IFAD said that is not what is going to develop Africa. We are going to develop Africa ourselves, and our commitment should be towards the rural poor. It's not only agriculture – we need infrastructure, we need development, trade even for that. There should be processing. The value chain should be utilized so that our commitments become reality.

That said, I wish that every participant in this conference, when they go back to their respective countries, will replicate everything that has been said here. That should be the driving force, the locomotive that would help us bring Africa out of hunger. It is a commitment to make so that whenever we do this, we would put a focus on hunger. Most of the time we forget that when we return to our countries we don't apply what we have learned here. 2025 is very near, it's around the corner. If we continue to make speeches as mere words, we will not attain the goals that we have to attain together. It is together that we have to move forward and it is together that we attain. ■



Martin Fregene

*Director of the Department of Agriculture,
African Development Bank*

Missions in several African countries have demonstrated that an investment in seeds, in more policies and in partnerships can actually reach the most remote farmers. Seeds can improve productivity and food security. Agricultural production has increased in the last ten years by more than 20 000 African tonnes. That's a lot, but it still only plants five million hectares, which amounts to about two percent of the entire crop acreage of the continent. Working closely with the AU commission and with development partners of FAO, the African Development Bank has launched what we call the “Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation”, or TAAT.

TAAT is a platform that brings together finance, partners, and technologies to reach African farmers no matter where they are. Weed technology has already been developed by national programmes in city centres, and some farmers have also received training in these initiatives. The first USD 40 million

dispersed by TAAT came from the African Development Bank, money that will finance technology providers in city centres to identify the best technology to work with.

We're thinking about how to bring these technologies to farmers by supplying them with seeds and fertilizers, and also by putting in place policies that liberalize seed production, as well as provide public sector access to produce and develop seeds through National Agricultural Research Systems. As you are all aware, TAAT is front and centre in African countries, where there is a need for these policies to be put in place.

They are the ones who need to support the National Agriculture Research Centres so that they might succeed. These countries are also the ones that must provide resources from the African Development Bank and other development partners in order to finance technical skills. We at the African Development Bank believe very strongly

that those technologies that have been produced need to get to the African farmers.

We at the African Development Bank also believe very strongly that technology is a particularly important part of the job. You also need access to markets. After that, we are also working very closely with partners on interventions that provide access to markets. Three come to mind: first, what is the staple crop in these zones? Investments in infrastructure and fiscal incentives are important to attract processors into rural areas of that food production. The second is post-harvest reduction and intervention – simple technologies and bags that we can use to seal grains for the whole year. And third, price is very important for our farmers.

Farmers don't know what the price will be like at the harvest time, often growing crops that cannot cover their production cost. But price comes down to company mechanisms like information,

commodity exchanges, warehouses and other systems: they all create the market farmers so desperately need. Lastly, I'd like to share another initiative the African Development Bank is doing. Saying no to famine, a very important initiative of African Development Bank that seeks to fix the problems with food distribution and also with productivity in the great pastures that lead to areas prone to famine.

We are working to build an alliance that will permanently end famine on the continent. Also, we're working very closely with a nutritional panel that recognizes African leaders who make free nutrition in their countries a priority, naming and shaming those who don't do the same. Finally, I'd like to just close by saying – African leaders, you have within your reach, from what Accra has done from just a few examples, within a decade to actually end hunger. I believe that you will step forward and take the bull by its horns. ■

5. JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

Renewed call for action to end hunger in Africa by 2025

We, the participants of the High-Level Special Session on the “Renewed Partnership to End Hunger in Africa by 2025 – Five Years Later: Taking Stock of Progress and lessons in Light of the Sustainable Development Goals”, wish to commend the African Union and the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for convening a High-Level Session on this critical topic, and acknowledge the support provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

The participants of the High-Level Session were comprised of Heads of State and Government of African Union Member States, former Heads of State and Government, Heads of international organizations, Heads of international financial institutions, representatives of civil society organizations, the private sector, farmers’ organizations, youth, academia, research and other partners, gathered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the 27th of January 2018, on the margins of the 30th Session of the Ordinary Summit of the African Union.

We express our appreciation to the High-Level speakers who shared with us their perspectives on policies and practices that have contributed to the goal of Zero Hunger, and in this regard regret the unavailability of His Excellency Mr. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, former President of Brazil, who could not join us in this Session owing to circumstances beyond his control, thus depriving us of sharing his vast experience in championing the cause of zero hunger in Brazil.

We derive inspiration from the AU Agenda 2063 aspiration for a “Prosperous Africa, based on inclusive growth and sustainable development”, asserting that African people deserve a high standard of living, quality of life, sound health and well-being, thereby envisioning an Africa free from hunger and malnutrition.

We recall the 2013 commitment to the Declaration on Renewed Partnership for a Unified Approach to End Hunger in Africa by 2025 within the Framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

We further recall the 2014 Malabo Declaration on “Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods”, in which a commitment was made to end hunger and malnutrition in Africa by 2025, among other targets; we emphasize the need for its implementation in an integrated manner with the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG 2.

We note the progress made towards meeting these commitments, but nevertheless are deeply concerned by the worsening trends of food insecurity and malnutrition across most of Africa, driven largely by adverse climatic conditions and persistent conflicts. This was illustrated by a recent FAO report on the number of undernourished people to have reached about 224 million in 2016, representing an increase of 24 million compared to 2015, effectively putting almost one out of every four African people in such a trap.

We are concerned that if such a trend continues, which may be a plausible outcome under a business-as-usual scenario, the majority of countries on the continent will not be on track towards meeting the Malabo and SDG2 commitments to end hunger in Africa.

We recognize the decisive role that national leadership can play in advancing food security and nutrition agendas for the achievement of concrete results, through putting in place conducive policies and strategies, mobilizing and allocating adequate resources, and channelling institutional capacities and capabilities for accelerated implementation of sustainable food and agriculture systems in an integrated and coordinated manner.

We are conscious that sustainable food and agriculture systems in Africa have direct dividends in curbing the current negative influences on public health, decent youth employment, education, economic and social development, triggering distress youth migration and tendencies to engage in illegal and socially disruptive activities.

We are cognizant of the potential of promoting private sector development through better incentive systems for investment in sustainable food and agriculture value-chains, as well as the role of other actors for enhanced mutual accountability for actions and results.

We are convinced that redoubling efforts and concerted action by all stakeholders are essential to reverse the current worsening trends and enable meeting Africa’s commitment to the Zero Hunger goal.

Call for action

Request the national Governments of AU Member States to:

- 1.** Strengthen the resilience of populations and livelihoods to natural and man-made threats and risks, through improved early warning systems and preparedness, promotion of climate-smart agriculture approaches, and sustainable food and agriculture systems. National governments and development partners to create and support mechanisms for linking development and humanitarian approaches in resilience building in the context of peace-building initiatives.
- 2.** Empower vulnerable groups with appropriate social protection interventions that can catalyze increased production and productivity by linking local food consumption with production, for example through home-grown school meal programmes.
- 3.** Make concerted multisector efforts for positive nutrition outcomes through promotion of nutrition-sensitive agriculture, education and health.
- 4.** Promote agribusiness to create opportunities for decent jobs for youth as a mechanism to address causes of distress migration.
- 5.** Implement good governance practices that promote transparency and mutual accountability.
- 6.** Formulate, review, implement and monitor evidence-based policies, strategies and programmes towards ending hunger and malnutrition.
- 7.** Promote the harmonization of national policies and initiatives with regional and continental frameworks.
- 8.** Strengthen institutional implementation capacities and capabilities for effective delivery of services and results, including by promoting multisector engagements.

Request the AU Commission, NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and Regional Economic Communities to:

- 9.** Coordinate the efforts of Member States, other stakeholders and development partners in implementing these actions.

- 10.** Mobilize and allocate adequate funds for the Zero Hunger Goal and forge partnerships, including through public-private sectors and South-South Cooperation.

Request technical and resource partners, civil society organizations, and the private sector to:

- 11.** Constructively engage and support Member States, Regional Economic Communities and the AU in the course of implementing these actions for enhanced delivery of results.

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,
27th of January 2018

6. CLOSING REMARKS



Eyasu Abraha Alle

Minister of Agriculture, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

On the behalf of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all of you for participating in this two-day high-level policy meeting. I believe this meeting has ended successfully, and that a new partnership to end hunger in Africa by 2025 has been formed.

It is therefore my pleasure to thank the African Union Commission, the FAO

Sub-Regional Office for Eastern Africa, and the FAO Country Office for jointly organizing this high-level meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in honouring this high-level policy meeting. Nothing is impossible and together we can and will achieve the goal to end hunger in Africa by 2025. Thank you for your attention. Thank you very much. ■

Achieving Zero Hunger in Africa by 2025

TAKING STOCK OF PROGRESS

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