

African Union

Statements of Commitment to the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty

General section

1. The African Union hereby voluntarily *joins the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty* and states its dedication to pursue the Alliance's mission, objectives and principles, as *expressed* in the Global Alliance's Terms of Reference and Governance Framework, and to collaborate with other members to achieve lasting solutions to poverty and hunger worldwide, as expressed below.

The African Union:

2. *Recognizes* that hunger and malnutrition are the perverse manifestations of persistent, structural poverty and inequality, and recognizes the need to end poverty and hunger in all their forms and dimensions and to fully and effectively implement the 2030 Agenda.
3. *Acknowledges* the alarming growth in the number of people facing food insecurity and poverty in recent years, noting that, despite all significant past and current efforts, the world is not on track to meet SDG 1 and 2 targets, inequality is also on the rise (SDG 10), and a significant increase in collective ambition, as well as improvement in collective alignment and coordination for the fight against hunger and poverty, is urgently needed.
4. To that effect, *endorses* the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty and its mission to *support and accelerate efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty (SDGs 1 and 2) while reducing inequalities (SDG 10), contributing to revitalize global partnerships for sustainable development (SDG 17) and to the achievement of other interlinked SDGs, and championing sustainable, inclusive and just transitions.*
5. *Notes* that it is crucial for the world to unite behind large-scale, integrated approaches combining international, regional, national, and local levels, that recognize the interconnected nature of challenges and solutions to hunger and poverty and pair social protection with access to goods and services that can help the poor and vulnerable populations to overcome structural barriers and drive responsible investment in their productive capacity. These complementary services include but are not limited to interventions for poverty reduction, food security and nutrition, early childhood support, education and skills development, employment services, health and care services, as well as family farmers and smallholders' access to finance, extension services, research and/or agricultural inputs, in line with international commitments and obligations.
6. *Particularly recognizes* the high value and positive impact of quality implementation of national and local country-owned, inclusive policy instruments and programmes, focused on the poorest and most vulnerable, in the fields of poverty reduction, social protection, food security and nutrition, gender equality, decent work in the agri-food sector,

skills development, family farming and smallholder agriculture, food systems transformation, health and care services and resilience building.

7. Also *acknowledges* the Global Alliance's reference basket of such policies as a collectively built, ongoing collection of examples with robust evidence to reduce hunger and poverty, and as a useful basis to guide joint action and increase alignment of the international community at country level. This acknowledgement is applicable to the policy basket approach as a general guide to action and does not imply endorsement of any specific policy instrument or programme contained in the basket.
8. Therefore, by joining the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, *commits* to do its best efforts, in its own field of action, and according to its own mandate, capacities, priorities, preferences, procedures, and legal arrangements and framework, to support the implementation of policy instruments and programmes at country level as appropriate, including by the promotion of shared learning and the mobilization of resources, public and private, at scale.

In particular:

Domestic policy implementation commitments

The African Union acknowledges its role in the regional-level implementation of policies and programmes against hunger and poverty, as well as for providing guidance and support to national and sub-national level policies and programmes.

The African Union:

Commits to make its best efforts to implement, improve, and/or scale-up the implementation of policy instruments and programmes from among those contained in the Global Alliance's policy basket in our national context. These policy instruments and programme suggestions would be adapted to the specific conditions, realities and opportunities presented in our country.

In particular, the African Union commits to implement, improve, or scale-up the implementation of the following policy instruments or programmes, referenced in the Global Alliance's reference basket:

1. Strengthening national and regional policies to promote agriculture, food security, and rural development.
2. Enhancing investment in agriculture, including irrigation, research, and extension services.
3. Promoting social protection programs, including cash transfers, school feeding, and food assistance.
4. Improving access to markets, finance, and technology for smallholder farmers and rural communities.
5. Enhancing nutrition education and awareness, particularly for vulnerable groups.

6. Strengthening disaster risk reduction and management efforts to mitigate the impact of climate-related shocks.

7. Promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in agriculture and rural development.

The African Union commits to the above while also enhancing regional coordination and cooperation to address transboundary challenges.

These commitments will be achieved through:

1. Developing and implementing national and regional agriculture and food security policies.
2. Establishing a continental monitoring and evaluation framework to track progress, especially the use of the CAADP Biennial Review process.
3. Providing technical assistance and capacity building to member states.
4. Mobilizing resources and partnerships to support implementation.
5. Conducting regular reviews and assessments to inform policy adjustments.

The African Union, representing 55-member states, reaffirms its commitment to eradicate hunger and poverty on the continent. We recognize the urgent need to address the root causes of hunger and poverty, and to ensure that all Africans have access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food.

Commits to observe good practices throughout the implementation of such policy instruments and programmes, including maintaining effective governance, seeking avenues for domestic resource mobilization for funding such programs and providing for appropriate monitoring and evaluation, with adaptation and learning based on social involvement and consultation, local stakeholder engagement, minimizing negative impacts and seeking to adequately manage policy trade-offs.

Policy cooperation and support commitments

Commits to, within its capacities, share its own learnings and otherwise provide appropriate help and support, within its means, to other Global Alliance member countries to implement, improve, or scale-up the implementation of policies and programmes referenced in the Alliance's basket.

Specifically, informs and commits to implementing the following actions, programmes, and other activities related to lessons-learned and international cooperation in support of the Global Alliance's objectives:

1. Strengthening policy coordination and cooperation among member states, regional economic communities, and international partners.

2. Sharing knowledge, expertise, and best practices in agriculture, food security, and rural development.
3. Providing technical assistance and capacity building to member states to enhance policy development and implementation.
4. Supporting the development and implementation of regional and national policies, strategies, and programs.
5. Enhancing policy dialogue and advocacy to promote a conducive environment for agriculture and food security investments.
6. Fostering partnerships with international organizations, civil society, and the private sector to leverage resources and expertise.
7. Promoting south-south cooperation and peer-to-peer learning among member states.

We shall cooperate through the following Key Areas of Cooperation:

1. Agricultural research and development
2. Climate-resilient agriculture
3. Sustainable agriculture practices
4. Food safety and standards
5. Nutrition and food systems
6. Rural development and poverty reduction
7. Trade and market access

We will achieve these commitments through:

1. Establishing a continental policy coordination mechanism.
2. Developing and implementing a regional policy framework.
3. Providing technical assistance and capacity building to member states.
4. Organizing regular policy dialogues and peer-to-peer learning events.
5. Fostering partnerships with international organizations and stakeholders.

Through the commitments above, re-reaffirms its collective commitment to eradicate hunger and poverty on the continent. The African Union recognizes the importance of policy cooperation and support in achieving this goal.

Financial support commitments

The African Union:

Informs and commits to implementing the following actions, programmes, and other activities in support of SDGs 1 and 2 and the Global Alliance's objectives:

1. Mobilizing domestic resources through our Member States to support agriculture, food security, and rural development initiatives.
2. Allocating at least 10% of national budgets to agriculture and rural development.
3. Leveraging private sector investments and partnerships to support agriculture and food security initiatives.
4. Exploring innovative financing mechanisms, such as blended finance and impact investing as per the Post Malabo CAADP Agenda

Commits to make its best efforts to improve the destination, allocation and alignment of the use of its resources, including through coordination and cooperation facilitated by the Global Alliance, to support member countries to implement, improve, or scale-up the implementation of select programmes or policy instruments in the Alliance's reference basket to drive the fight against hunger and poverty, in line with sustainable country-led financing and implementation strategies.

Knowledge support commitments

The African Union:

Commits to make its best efforts to co-create and provide technical assistance, capacity building and strengthening, training and/or knowledge-sharing on voluntary and mutually agreed terms in response to requests by Global Alliance member countries that choose to implement policy instruments and programmes in the Alliance's policy basket that are compatible with its areas of expertise.

Commits to make its best efforts to improve the alignment of its actions, including through the Global Alliance's coordination mechanisms, leveraging, and partnering with other actors to better support large scale, country-owned implementation of policies and programmes in the reference basket by Global Alliance member countries, aiming at enhancing country-level outcomes.

Commits to collaborate with other Alliance members to develop innovative solutions and share good practices in learning and knowledge exchange and dissemination on voluntary and mutually agreed terms, data collection and analysis, including by leveraging existing local, national, and international knowledge networks, coalitions, communities and other fora related to aspects relevant to the fight against hunger and poverty.

Informs its capacity and readiness to support Alliance member governments in implementing, improving or scaling-up the following policy instrument types, referenced in the Global Alliance's basket of policy instruments:

Informs and commits to implementing the following actions, programmes, and other activities in support of the Global Alliance's objectives:

1. Strengthening research and development capacities in agriculture and food security.
2. Establishing a continental knowledge sharing platform on agriculture and food security.
3. Providing technical assistance and capacity building to member states.
4. Promoting innovation and entrepreneurship in agriculture and food security.
5. Fostering partnerships with international organizations and stakeholders to leverage expertise and knowledge.

General acknowledgments

Recognizes the possibility to, including through the mechanisms available to Global Alliance members, coordinate, partner with and/or seek support from the Global Alliance's other members, within their respective capacities, availability, and fields of activity, to carry out the present commitments with greater effectiveness.

While recognizing that the above commitments are voluntary and non-legally binding, being subject to and carried out under its own capacities, regulations, priorities, and modalities, as well as to the availability of appropriate resourcing, *strives* to seriously consider, as appropriate, and according to its own legal frameworks and governance process, to review its procedures and priorities as found necessary to better deliver on the present commitments, enhance synergies and joint efforts with other entities and initiatives, and improve outcomes on the collective fight against hunger and poverty.