

African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)

Statements of Commitment to the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty

General section

1. The African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) 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 Development Agency:

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, fo-

cused 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:

Financial support commitments

The African Union Development Agency:

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.

In addition to the above, 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:

We recognise the critical importance of financial resources in achieving the Global Alliance's objectives. As such, we commit to:

1. Undertaking the full range of resource mobilization to support public and private investment African agriculture, food security, and rural development initiatives.
2. Leveraging private sector investments and partnerships in agrifood systems to support agriculture and food security initiatives.
3. Exploring innovative financing mechanisms such as blended finance and impact investing in alignment with the CAADP Agenda.
4. Improving access to financing for agrifood systems transformation, to facilitate greater participation from stakeholders across all sectors, ensuring in particular that adequate levels of finance reach small and medium scale food producers and processors.
5. Strengthening market access and trade facilitation by fostering investment in implementing trade-facilitating policies, infrastructure, and services (energy, road, rail, ports, communication, quality assurance, agro-parks) for connecting food surplus to deficit areas.
6. Promoting increased investments in human and physical capacity for research to

generate agricultural technologies and innovations that mitigate climate change and build resilient agrifood systems.

7. Diversifying funding sources, optimizing resource allocation, and leveraging public-private partnerships to promote sustainable finance for agricultural initiatives. This includes ensuring balanced allocation of financing to all strategic objectives in national and regional agri-food system investment plans

Knowledge support commitments

The African Union Development Agency

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

1. Providing knowledge-based advisory support to African Union Member States and Regional Bodies,
2. Strengthening research and development capacities in agriculture and food security,
3. Promoting increased investments in infrastructure, research, and extension services to support accelerated agrifood systems transformation,
4. Promoting indigenous knowledge and practices, recognising their important role in fostering environmental stewardship and resilience, and
5. Promoting evidence-based decision-making and mutual accountability, ensuring that actions are guided by reliable data.

The African Union Development Agency acknowledges that hunger and poverty are complex, pervasive and multi-faceted challenges that require a strongly coordinated and targeted approach. We believe that the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty provides an important platform for international cooperation and coordination. Under this strategic alliance, we will strive to contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the aspirations enshrined in the African Union's Agenda 2063. The African Union Development Agency therefore, 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. Implementing our mandate to serve as Africa's technical interface with all the continent's development stakeholders and partners to catalyse efforts in support of agriculture and food security,
2. Strengthening policy, strategy and program implementation coordination and cooperation,
3. Sharing knowledge, expertise, best practices and innovations in agriculture, food security and rural development,
4. Fostering partnerships with international organisations and development partners, civil society, the private sector to leverage financial and technical resources,
5. Promoting cooperation mechanisms and peer-to-peer learning opportunities among members states from around the world, and
6. Improving leadership, coordination and accountability at all levels through relevant mutual accountability and reporting processes, and fostering inclusivity and transparency in our actions.

Key areas of cooperation will include:

1. Agrifood systems research, development and monitoring,
2. Sustainable and resilient agricultural development,
3. Food security and nutrition,
4. Financing and investment in agribusiness and private sector development,
5. Innovation and technological advancement for improved agrifood systems,
6. Market access and trade including improved productivity and product diversification, food safety standards and conformity, strengthened value chains, and infrastructure development, and
7. Awareness, advocacy and capacity strengthening for improved agriculture, food security and nutrition and rural development.

In particular, the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), in alignment with the African Union, commits to:

1. Strengthening agrifood systems governance and implementation of national and regional policies to promote agriculture, food security and rural development,
2. Boosting investment and financing for accelerated agrifood systems transformation and enhancing investment in research and extension services,
3. Intensifying sustainable food production, agro-industrialization and trade, including improving access to markets, finance and technology for small-scale producers and rural communities,
4. Ensuring food and nutrition security and education and enhancing nutrition awareness, particularly for vulnerable groups,
5. Advancing inclusivity and equitable livelihoods and promoting social protection programs through cash transfers, school feeding and food assistance,
6. Promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in agrifood systems and rural development,
7. Building resilient agrifood systems and strengthening disaster risk reduction and management efforts to mitigate the impact of shocks, and
8. Enhancing regional coordination and cooperation to address transboundary challenges.

We strive to achieving these commitments by:

1. Providing technical assistance to African Union Member States and Regional Bodies to implement impact-driven agriculture, food security and rural development policies,
2. Establishing and operationalising a continental monitoring and evaluation framework to track progress of achieving the objectives and targets articulated in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) processes,
3. Mobilizing resources and partnerships to support implementation, and

4. Conducting regular reviews and assessments to inform policy implementation adjustments.

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.