

Egypt

Statements of Commitment to the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty

General section

1. The Arab Republic of Egypt 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 Arab Republic of Egypt:

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 Arab Republic of Egypt acknowledges its role in the national-level implementation of policies and programmes against hunger and poverty, as well as for providing guidance and support to sub-national level policies and programmes.

The Arab Republic of Egypt:

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 Arab Republic of Egypt 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) **Decent Life Initiative (Hayah Karima):** A national program to improve accessibility to basic services in rural areas and regions in Upper Egypt in particular. This initiative will be implemented over several phases with the ultimate goal of improving accessibility to basic services such as health care, educational services and improving overall standards of living for citizens.
- 2) **Takaful and Karama and Social Insurance Pension:** A cash transfer program which involves a monthly payment to low-income families and most vulnerable segments of society.
- 3) **National School Feeding Program:** offers school meals to millions of students ranging from kindergarten to primary schooling in educational institutions located in low-income and vulnerable rural areas, with the sole aim of improving the health and welfare of students.

- 4) **National Social Housing Program:** offers subsidized support from the State Treasury to help low-income individuals gain access to housing.
- 5) **Support to Small Farmers Program:** this national program aims at improving and increasing the livelihood and living standards of small farmers by making an efficient use of resources available to them to improve their economic and social status, in addition to supporting women in the agriculture sector by enhancing their economic status and increasing their financial literacy.
- 6) **The Universal Healthcare System (UHS):** this national program designed by the Ministry of Finance aims at covering Egypt's 27 Governorates with basic healthcare services by improving the health infrastructure, enhancing medical staff capabilities and providing better accessibility to basic healthcare.
- 7) **Food Subsidies:** this program covers more than 60 million beneficiaries, with allocations directed at subsidizing bread and supporting food ration cards.
- 8) **Gender-driven Policies:** With the aim of increasing, and enhancing women empowerment, guidelines on implementing gender-related fiscal and social policies have been published in order to guide policymakers on how best to implement policies aimed at supporting women especially women-led families among the most vulnerable segments of the society.
- 9) **Food Safety Enhancement Program:** This program works to improve food safety standards by developing new systems to ensure the quality of food products, aligning with international standards. This enhances food exports and ensures consumer health. Additionally, the program organizes and strengthens the safety and sustainability of locally produced food products to protect consumers' health and safety.
- 10) **Motherhood and Childhood Program:** This program aims to improve the lives of rural residents by empowering rural women in education, health, and training sectors. It includes support for establishing small businesses, raising awareness about food, health, and the environment, along with literacy efforts and maximizing agricultural production by reducing waste.
- 11) **Agriculture Sector Strategies and Programs:** foster sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, including plant breeding programs to develop high yielding, climate smart plant varieties, national campaigns for the strategic crops, agroforestry and payment for environmental services, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding, and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality and maintain fish stocks. Reduce the exposure and vulnerability of poor and the vulnerable populations to climate related-extreme events and social, economic, and environmental shocks and disasters and that properly respond to these shocks, when they occur.

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:

The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt stands ready to share experiences and lessons as well as to provide technical cooperation to other interested members of the Alliance regarding the formulation, targeting schemes, policy instruments and implementation of the following policies:

- Decent Life Initiative
- Takaful and Karama and Social Insurance Pensions
- National School Feeding Program
- National Social Housing Program
- Support to Small Farmers Program
- The Universal Healthcare System
- Food Subsidies
- Gender-driven Policies
- Motherhood and childhood program
- Food Safety Programs
- Agriculture Sector Strategies and Programs

The Government Ministries and Authorities responsible for the implementation of said policies are ready to conduct workshops and meetings to share their own experiences in designing these policies as well as implementing them with the members of the Alliance and open a channel of cooperation with them to enhance respective policy tools and the targeting and efficiency of these policies across the board. This knowledge sharing from the Government and Authorities of Egypt will comprise of but will not be limited to:

(a) Sharing experiences related to the policy implementation and design in Egypt that are associated to fighting hunger and poverty, as well as improving accessibility of the most vulnerable to basic services, which contribute directly to the Alliance's purpose;

(b) Support in promoting cooperation and collaboration between the relevant institutions of the members of the alliances to enhance and improve the collective and individual efforts to combat hunger and poverty and finetune social policies aimed to achieve said objective.

(c) Highlight the design of the financing pillar and methodologies used to ensure sustainable flows of resources to the national policies in question.

Knowledge support commitments

The Arab Republic of Egypt:

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.

Through its participating ministries and authorities, the Arab Republic of Egypt 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:

(a) Social protection and particularly conditional cash transfers, subsidized food, school meals programs, social pension, subsidized health insurance;

(b) Access to basic services including healthcare, sanitation, housing and education;

(c) Support of small farmers by highlighting how best to enhance their economic status and improve their livelihoods all the while identifying ways to support farmers – especially women in the agriculture sector. Supporting small farmers through:

(i) Supporting agricultural value chains;

(ii) Improving infrastructure and services to serve small farmers;

(iii) Improving agricultural associations to provide better agricultural services to farmers and work to increase their production and income;

(iv) Working to facilitate access to agricultural information that helps farmers face current challenges;

(v) Working to rebuild agricultural and food systems.

Additionally, through its Agricultural Research Center (ARC), Egypt also informs its capacity and readiness to provide technical support to Alliance member governments in implementing, improving or scaling-up policy instruments referenced in the Global Alliance's basket of policy instruments through the following actions:

- Conducting applied and basic research to generate a continuous flow of technologies that help increase productivity and reduce production cost;
- Transfer of new technologies to the farming community through extension service; and monitoring their adoption by the end users; and Human capital development as a continual process.

The Arab Republic of Egypt informs and commits to implementing the following actions, programs, and other activities in support of the Global Alliance's objectives:

- (a) The design and/or the adaptation of policy instruments;
- (b) Monitoring and evaluating processes of policy instruments
- (c) Highlight the design of the financing pillar and methodologies used to ensure sustainable flows of resources to the national policies in question

Commits to supporting the efforts of member states in the Global Alliance to combat hunger and poverty by sharing its expertise and knowledge in food processing, food security, food safety, and reducing food loss and waste.

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.