

FRANCE

Statements of Commitment to the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty

General section

France 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.

France:

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.

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.

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.*

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.

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.

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.

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

France 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 national and sub-national level policies and programmes.

France :

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, France 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) **Programme one: The Active solidarity Income**

The Active Solidarity Income ("Revenu de solidarité active") is a non-contributory social protection. It plays the role of a minimum income for individuals with no activity and serves as additional income for those who are employed but whose resources fall below the poverty threshold.

The composition and resources of the household determine the amount of solidarity income. The household consists of the applicant and possibly their

spouse, partner, or civil partner. The household may also consist of the following individuals (living in the household):

- Children eligible for family benefits;
- Other children and individuals under 25 years old who are effectively and permanently dependent on the household, provided that, when they arrived in the household after their seventeenth birthday, they have a kinship relationship up to the fourth degree with the applicant or their spouse or partner.

To qualify for this solidarity income, the household's resources must be below a threshold calculated based on the household composition.

According to the law, any person receiving the solidarity income benefits and subject to rights and duties must be directed to an organization responsible for assisting them towards better social or professional integration. The decision on orientation, which takes into account individual characteristics, is usually made by the department.

The allocation of the solidarity income entitles recipients to several other rights across the entire national territory, such as the Complementary Solidarity Health Insurance (Complémentaire Santé solidaire), which partially or fully covers healthcare expenses not reimbursed by the Social Security system. Expenses do not need to be paid upfront (full third-party payment principle). The application is automatically made along with the RSA application since January 1, 2022. The notice period for housing is also reduced to one month for all RSA recipients leaving their accommodation. Local authorities (regions, departments, cities, and inter-municipalities) and public service organizations (France Travail, CAF / MSA, CCAS / CIAS, youth employment services, etc.) may also provide local social assistance (known as "optional") for the solidarity income recipients.

In addition to the allowance itself, several measures are provided to enable the RSA to promote the professional integration of beneficiaries. Thus, within the limit of the guaranteed income amount, any access to or return to employment results in the continuation of the RSA for three months. At the end of these first three months of resuming activity, the Activity allowance (Prime d'activité), a social benefit intended to supplement the income of low-wage workers, is automatically paid.

2) Programme two: Food assistance / Fighting food insecurity

Food assistance in France aims to meet the immediate needs of people in difficulty by providing access to basic and balanced nutrition. It is an emergency measure complementary to social assistance and benefits.

The food assistance policy in France is implemented through various channels:

- **Food banks:** non-profit organizations that collect food from various donors (supermarkets, businesses, individuals) and distribute them to local charitable associations that then redistribute them to people in need. For the distribution of food assistance, France has 18 authorized national associative networks and 2,543 authorized local associations in 2022.
- **“Restaurants du Cœur”:** French charitable association that provides free meals to people in need during the winter period, as well as food parcels and assistance with social reintegration.
- **School programs:** implemented to provide balanced meals to children from disadvantaged families in schools, particularly through subsidized school canteens or school breakfasts.
- **For students, €1 meals at university restaurants allow economically disadvantaged students to eat affordably at the university restaurant.** In addition, the government has introduced a number of additional measures to fight poverty and malnutrition through: the Distribution of food parcels or baskets, the Distribution of fresh produce baskets, Meal distribution, the opening of Social and solidarity grocery stores, Community gardens, Social and solidarity restaurants, Cash transfers.

General objectives: Alleviating poverty by providing food assistance to people in precarious situations (SDG 1); b) Improving food security for the most vulnerable people (SDG 2).

Specific objectives: a) Improving the health and well-being of beneficiaries (SDG 3); Reducing inequalities by providing access to basic food for all (SDG 10); Responsible consumption and production, including the recovery and redistribution of food surpluses (SDG 12).

3) Programme three: Collective catering

Providing children with access to healthy, diverse and sustainable school food that meet their nutritional needs. Food education through school meals, which are sometimes the only balanced meal of the day for children. Ensuring the nutritional quality of meals served in school catering contributes to preventing obesity and diet-related chronic diseases. In 2023, collective catering served 4 billion meals in France.

4) Programme four: Territorial Food Projects (PAT)

Uniting local stakeholders around the issue of food, thereby helping to address the social, environmental, economic and health dimensions of the area. PAT bring together producers, processors, distributors, local authorities and consumers, and facilitate the development of relations between urban and

rural areas. In 2022, 2/3 of the French population is living in an area with a PAT.

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 France is ready to share experiences and lessons learned as well as to provide technical cooperation, including under trilateral cooperation, regarding the policies and policy instruments listed above, but also regarding additional ones supported by Agence Française de Développement (AFD) Group in Developing countries at national or regional levels, such as sustainable food production, support to smallholder farmers, agro-ecological transition, social protection, access to basic services or nutrition policies and policy instruments.

The government ministries and public agencies could conduct direct lesson-sharing activities with counterparts from Global Alliance members through different and *ad hoc* modalities and arrangements, in particular public policy dialogue at national level based on public investments financing, technical assistance and peer-to-peer exchanges.

France will work, as the host country of the next Nutrition for Growth Summit to be held in Paris on 27th and 28th of March, 2025, to achieve ambitious international mobilization to scale-up and support the implementation of nutrition-sensitive policies.

Financial support commitments

France:

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:

Confirms a pledge of USD 150 million dollars to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)'s 13th replenishment, whose mission addresses the root causes of poverty and food insecurity by investing in rural food systems and the most vulnerable rural people.

Declares that France, as a shareholder of a number of MDBs, will support multilateral efforts in various fora, such as G20, to increase MDBs' financial capacity, encourage private and domestic resource mobilization, and optimize financing from all sources to ensure, notably, continued strengthened mobilization on poverty and hunger eradication, in a more impact oriented and cost-effective way. In this perspective France underscores the importance of a successful IDA 21 replenishment in 2024 and a successful ADF 17 replenishment in 2025.

Declares that France also encourages IMF, together with the World Bank and in coordination with the G20, to develop their "menu of options" to support countries facing financing challenges while their debt is sustainable. France supports the concept of a three-pillar country-specific solution, which would comprise support for country-led and ambitious macroeconomic reforms and investments, with a focus on domestic revenue mobilization, increased concessional financing from the international financial institutions, in coordination with voluntary contributions from bilateral creditors, creating favourable conditions to catalyse private capital flows.

Declares that France will support the option of channeling Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) through MDBs. In accordance with its obligations under EU regulation, France stands ready to take part to the liquidity support agreement that would act as a second line of defense and enable this innovation to be implemented.

Declares that France will pursue its bilateral financial support to food sovereignty in developing countries, in particular in Africa, mobilizing AFD Group's diverse financial tools to foster public and private investments conducive to food security and poverty reduction.

Knowledge support commitments

France:

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

- (i) Through its national research development organisms (CIRAD, IRD, INRAE), France supports knowledge production and sharing, and capacity building activities with its Southern partners on various areas contributing to hunger and poverty attenuation: One Health, climate mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity with agroecology being at the crossroads of these global objectives.
As part of accompanying its agricultural research development programs, France provides an unique and original approach which is (i) systemic and territorial; (ii) participatory, multi-actors and inter-sectoral, and inclusive with a specific attention to young people and women; (iii) co-constructed, with strong interaction between practitioners, scientists and training actors, public policies on long-term; (iv) articulated along a continuum between research, training, agricultural advice, private entrepreneurs, and public policies.
- (ii) Among other modalities, the AFD Group uses knowledge sharing as a key driver for public policy dialogue in areas such as food sovereignty, agro-ecological transition, support to smallholders or nutrition. The AFD funds a specific facility (Aliment'Action facility) dedicated to support countries affected by food insecurity in their efforts to develop strategies, plans and programs to reinforce food sovereignty and nutrition. The AFD supports thematic platforms to foster exchanges between scientists and experts from France and partners countries in the areas of water management for agriculture (Comité Scientifique et Technique de l'Eau Agricole – COSTEA), land tenure (Comité Technique Foncier et Développement – CTFD) and forest protection (Comité Scientifique et Technique Forêt – CST Forêt).

(iii) France keeps promoting generation of evidence and knowledge production on agroecological transition through supporting several international initiatives such as the Great Green Wall Initiative in Sahelian countries, the '4 for 1000' initiative, launched at COP 21 in Paris and the partnership platform for agro-ecological transformation (TPP) co-built with the international agricultural research organization CGIAR.

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.