

South Africa

Statements of Commitment to the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty

General section

1. South Africa 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.

South Africa:

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

South Africa 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.

South Africa:

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

South Africa is committed to fighting the triple challenge of poverty, unemployment and inequality as well as prioritising the food and nutrition security agenda. Through this Statement of Commitment, South Africa makes a firm commitment to continuously drive a programme of action in respect of the National Development Plan. The right to sufficient food is entrenched at section 27(1)(b) of the South African Constitution. Children have the additional right to basic nutrition in terms of section 28(1)(c) of this Constitution. South Africa is committed to ending poverty, malnutrition and hunger by 2030 as the Sustainable Development Goals challenge all countries to do. To achieve this, several policies, programmes and initiatives are implemented at national, Provincial and Local sphere of the South African government.

- **The Agricultural Policy Action Plan (APAP):** which aims at promoting labour absorption and broaden market participation by smallholder farmers, through well

considered, adequately consulted, and finely-tuned strategic interventions aimed at increasing value-chain efficiencies and competitiveness.

- **Agriculture and Agro-processing Master Plan:** this include elements of funding, technology, access to production inputs in order ensure globally competitive agricultural and agro-processing sectors, which drive market oriented and inclusive production to develop rural economies, ensure food-security, and create employment and entrepreneurial opportunities.
- **Presidential Employment Stimulus (PES):** Through this programme, the intention is to create jobs and livelihood opportunities. Since its inception in 2020, over two million jobs and livelihoods opportunities have been created. In the agriculture sector, the programme is aimed at retaining self-employment opportunities, strengthening local food availability and boosting food security. To date, over 110 000 subsistence producers have been supported through the PES programme.
- **National School Feeding Program:** provide meals at school to reduce hunger, nutrient deficiencies and improve class alertness among children. More than 9.6 million children in South Africa depend on this programme. This has is aimed at improving the ability of children to learn efficiently by combatting malnutrition, reducing hunger and thus improving school attendance since its inception in 1994.
- **Food Procurement Program:** The programme acquire food from community-based initiatives and smallholder farmers and distributed them via shelters, asylums, public hospitals, and orphanages. This is another initiative of reducing hunger and preventing malnutrition while empowering local substance and smallholder farmers to access readily available markets.
- **Social security programmes:** These offer an important safety net for over 28 million of vulnerable South Africans. Of these, 18 million are permanent beneficiaries and about 10 million receive a temporary Social Relief of Distress Grant.
- **Human settlement programmes:** provides various housing programmes that are meant to make sure that low- or no-income earners have homes. This addresses effects of poverty.
- **Food distribution centers:** offers food distribution to the hungry and destitute population in the form of food parcels, monetary food vouchers, soup kitchens, and provision of meals and nutrition rehabilitation of malnourished children in daycare centers.
- **The National Strategy to Accelerate Action for Children (NSAAC):** aims to fast-track essential child rights delivery through the strengthening of institutional mechanisms and intersectoral collaboration on key priorities. It envisages a South Africa in which all children achieve optimal wellbeing and can grow to their full potential.

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 South Africa is ready to share experiences and lessons as well as to provide cooperation modalities regarding the following policies and policy instruments, among others:
 - Presidential Employment Stimulus (PES)
 - Agriculture and Agro-processing Master Plan
 - National School Feeding Program
 - Social security programmes
 - National Strategy to Accelerate Action for Children
 - Human settlement programmes

Financial support commitments

South Africa:

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:

Commits to mobilise investments to ensure inclusive market participation, in particular for the subsistence and smallholder farmers.

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

South Africa:

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:

Commits to improve effective monitoring systems to track progress on poverty, hunger, food and nutrition security for information and knowledge sharing, which are crucial for evidence-based efforts and collaborations amongst member countries on poverty eradication, strengthening trade, and agri-food systems.

Commits to make accessible credible food insecurity and vulnerability information as a crucial element for planning, informing policy, better targeting of programmes, and for monitoring the impact of food security programmes

Commits to engage high-level political oversight bodies at all spheres of government to take the form of National Food and Nutrition Security Councils which will be crucial in providing leadership and oversight to all role players to enhance food and nutrition security.

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.