Saint Lucia

Statements of Commitment to the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty

General section

1. Saint Lucia 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.

   Saint Lucia:

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 revitalizing 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 the world must 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 valuable basis to guide joint action and increase alignment of the international community at the country level. This acknowledgement is applicable to the policy basket approach as a general guide to action. It 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 field of action, and according to its 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

Saint Lucia 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.

Saint Lucia:

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.

Saint Lucia's domestic policy on social protection is guided by the National **Social Protection Policy (NSPP) 2022-2030,** which aims to enhance the country's social protection system to effectively reduce poverty and vulnerability, build human capital, stimulate productive economic activity, and create resilience to economic, climate related, and other shocks. Additionally, the **Updated National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) and Action Plan** reflect the government's commitment to socioeconomic transformation and improved livelihoods, aligning with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals Agenda.

Saint Lucia 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) **Graduation Strategy from Social Assistance:** Developing clear pathways for beneficiaries to transition from social assistance to sustainable livelihoods, promoting self-reliance and economic independence.

2) **Enhanced Saint Lucia National Eligibility Targeting Tool (SLNET):**

Improving the accuracy and efficiency of targeting mechanisms to ensure that social protection programs reach the most vulnerable populations in Saint Lucia.

3) **Cash Grant Transfers and Vouchers:**

Through the Ministry of Equity, Social Justice and Empowerment, the implementation of cash grant transfers aims to support shock response initiatives and build resilience among the most vulnerable. Several programs have been implemented, including the Public Assistance Programme, which targets poor and vulnerable households and provides monthly cash transfers for basic food needs. In addition, the Child Disability Grant Programme offers cash transfers to children living with disabilities. For persons living with HIV, a voucher-based program has been established to ensure consistent access to their medication. The Foster Care Programme also provides additional support to children who have been placed in new homes.

In addition, we recognize **the annual National Day of Caring**, observed on **June 7th**, during which the Ministry delivers meals, food supplies, and necessities to the poor, vulnerable, sick, and persons with disabilities across the island.

4) **Koudmen Sent Lisi** is a social assistance program designed to support the most vulnerable households through targeted cash transfers. Implemented by the government, the program aims to enhance resilience by providing financial aid for basic needs, economic shocks, and climate-related challenges. It serves as part of the country's broader social protection strategy to reduce poverty and improve economic stability among at-risk populations.

5) **Integrated programmes for climate and shock resilience:** Since 2020, the WFP has been providing support focused on disaster risk strategies, emergency preparedness, and response planning. This partnership aims to build resilience and improve the effectiveness of social protection mechanisms during crises.

In addition to the above, it informs its financial commitments aimed at the fight against hunger and poverty in its national territory:

A total of **$2.5** million has been allocated for social protection initiatives aimed at reducing poverty and building resilience to economic and climate-related shocks. For example, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, external agencies provided financial support to strengthen social protection efforts. In **2020,** the World Bank approved **$1.4** million for COVID-19 relief measures, ensuring targeted assistance for vulnerable populations.

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 manage policy trade-offs adequately.

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 capacities, regulations, priorities, and modalities, as well as to the availability of appropriate resourcing, *strives* to seriously consider, as appropriate seriously, 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.