CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Statements of Commitment to the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty

General Section

1. The Caribbean Development Bank 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 Caribbean Development Bank:

2. *Recognises* that hunger and malnutrition are the perverse manifestations of persistent, structural poverty and inequality, and recognises 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 revitalise 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 recognise 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 recognises* 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 mobilisation of resources, public and private, at scale.

In particular:

Financial support commitments

Caribbean Development Bank:

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.

Informs that it manages its Special Development Fund (SDF) to support the fight against hunger and poverty. The current round of the fund, covering the years 2017-2020, is about to come to an end. During that period, CDB has approved funding to support three key pillars: (1) building social resilience and leaving no-one behind; (2) building economic resilience for inclusive growth; and (3) building environmental resilience. By the end of 2020, CDB will have committed $183million (mn) in concessional loans and $130mn in grants to support its less developed countries. The loans are supporting improved access to education; water and sanitation; agriculture; and improved access to credit for micro, small and medium enterprises. Grants include $45mn to support education, agriculture, renewable energy and climate finance in Haiti, and $40mn to support small BNTF projects to improve access to education, water and social infrastructure. CDB is also managing projects worth $20mn to support health sector

resilience in some of its member countries. SDF replenishment is being negotiated in 2024/25.

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:

Informs that it is working to onboard concessional resources from partners. Most recently CDB agreed to on-lend CA$58 mn from the Government of Canada for supporting resilient and green energy. These efforts will improve energy security and help lower the costs of food production, thereby contributing to the reduction of hunger and poverty.

Knowledge support commitments

Caribbean Development Bank:

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 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:

(1) **Climate resilient agricultural Technologies:** Through the Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) approach, CDB will continue support to its Borrowing Member Countries (BMC) to make agriculture more resilient to climate risks and natural hazards, focusing on both immediate impacts and long-term sustainability. The approach will build a resilient regional food system through sustainable practices, innovative technology, supportive policies, investment in CSA infrastructure, and building capacity of stakeholders to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

(2) **Integrated programmes for gender equality and empowerment**: Strategic approach that addresses structural inequality and inequity through socially-

inclusive and gender-responsive social protection strategies through, *inter alia*, identifying barriers and programming enablers to build resilience.

(3) **Integrated programmes for climate and shock resilience, including programmes related to anticipatory, adaptive and shock-responsive social protection:** CDB will enhance support for integrated programmes for climate and shock resilience, including interventions related to anticipatory, adaptive and shock-responsive social protection as per the Bank's Social Protection Framework, aligned with the policy basket.

(4) **Access to basic drinking water:** Continue to support provision of access to safe water for drinking, cooking, personal hygiene and other domestic uses in poor and marginalised communities, including Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Peoples.

(5) **Access to basic education**: promoting access to basic education services by creating supportive, safe, gender-responsive and inclusive learning environments that integrate foundational education with critical life skills, including for children from low-income and marginalised communities and students with special education needs including children with disabilities.

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

CDB will support the Bank's BMCs in undertaking poverty assessments to improve availability of timely and reliable country monetary and multidimensional poverty and social data, to support development initiatives to reduce poverty at the national and regional levels.

CDB acknowledges the critical ongoing work around global knowledge-sharing and capacity-building of the **socialprotection.org** platform and commits to supporting the integration of artificial intelligence as a means to expand knowledge-sharing while ensuring the user-friendly nature of the platform.

In line with CDB's continued commitment to supporting social protection in its BMCs around SDG 1.3 to reduce and prevent poverty, the Bank will continue efforts to strengthen systems, share lessons of experience and enhance collaboration with countries and Development Partners to increase the robustness of social protection systems.

In order to ensure that social protection systems can continuously and strategically support affected people during times of shock and stresses due to climate impacts, economic shocks or other crises, CDB commits to supporting BMCs affected by crisis by building/strengthening adaptive/shock-responsive social protection systems. This can be operationalised by utilising the Bank's Disaster Management Strategy and Operational Guidelines as a springboard to build long-term disaster resilience and reduce natural hazard related emergencies across BMCs. This is critical, recognising the impacts climate change can have on exacerbating the effects of natural hazards on vulnerable households and communities, thereby increasing poverty.

Over the past 50 years, the Bank has provided significant financial investments and technical support in protective, preventive, and promotional social protection to prevent, mitigate and manage the risks and vulnerabilities faced by vulnerable populations. CDB's flagship poverty reduction programme - the Basic Needs Trust Fund - exemplifies the various aspects of social protection by providing access to basic socio-economic infrastructure and social

services, which contributes to poverty reduction.

CDB will continue to work with BMCs to finance, implement, monitor and evaluate relevant short, medium and/or long-term social protection interventions. The Bank will foster synergies through multi-sectoral linkages with economic, social and environmental sectors. The participatory engagement with public, private, Non-Governmental Organisations and Development Partners will continue to be central to this thrust. The Bank will continue to support the establishment and operationalisation of good governan

e principles of accountability and transparency for the implementation of social protection programmes, as these are important contributors to the sustainable achievement of development objectives.

CDB will continue to play a pivotal role in advancing regional agricultural development, addressing hunger and ensuring food and nutrition security. CDB is committed to creating a competitive, inclusive, and sustainable agri-food system through strategies that enhance productivity, strengthen agricultural value chains, and foster a resilient agricultural sector. By strengthening the enabling environment, CDB supports stakeholder and institutional capacity-building initiatives to address production and market-related challenges. These initiatives promote a culture of innovation and encourage the adoption of modern agricultural technologies, enhance efficiency and sustainability in the sector with a laser focus on cross-cutting themes such as gender and youth inclusion, necessary to ensure that agricultural initiatives are equitable and provide opportunities for underrepresented groups.

CDB will continue to focus on improving access to financial services and innovative financial products, such as credit and insurance, against natural hazards, making agriculture more resilient to climate risks. To support CSA, the Bank invests in CSA infrastructure, sustainable systems, and capacity-building, helping farmers adapt to, and mitigate climate change impacts. Additionally, CDB is committed to increasing investments in production and market infrastructure, with a focus on achieving compliance with international food safety standards to facilitate broader market access. The Bank is also instrumental in developing regional public goods that strengthen intraregional trade, improve agricultural data collection and dissemination, and enhance extension services. Through targeted support for agricultural commodity research, especially on CARICOM-identified priority crops, CDB continues to provide essential resources and frameworks for the growth and sustainability of agriculture in the Caribbean.

CDB further commits to sharing lessons learned and work collaboratively with other alliance members regarding good practice on ethical engagement, fostering collaboration, building cultural competency and co-creating development solutions with Indigenous Peoples and tribal groups.

General acknowledgments

Recognises 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 recognising 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.