

Columbia University

Statements of Commitment to the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty

General section

1. Columbia University 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.

Columbia University:

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.

Knowledge support commitments

Columbia University:

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:

- Climate resilient agricultural technologies

Food for Humanity Initiative (F4Hi): F4Hi, led by the Columbia Climate School, envisions and supports a just transformation of food systems that supports the adaptive capacity to climate variability and change, promotes environmental sustainability, provides reliable livelihoods, ensures access to healthy diets, and optimizes better health and nutrition for everyone. F4Hi is a multidisciplinary, collaborative network that brings together people and projects on food systems research, teaching, policy, and programming from across Columbia University. Our work touches on the complexities of food systems, with activities around health, agriculture, the environment, equity, and justice. Specifically, F4Hi can support the Global Alliance through:

- **Analyze food systems transitions:** Investigate and analyze how food systems can transition toward equitable, sustainable pathways and assess trade-offs between human health, climate, ecosystems, poverty, and labor conditions.
- **Co-design solution pathways:** Co-develop solutions for policymakers, communities, and other partners toward climate-resilient, equitable, and nutritious food systems, prioritizing the most vulnerable and marginalized.
- **Guide education and leadership:** Educate students, professionals, and the public about the complexities of the global food system and prepare the next generation of food systems leaders and change agents.

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

1. Master of Public Administration in Development Practice (MPA-DP) at Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA): Established in 2009, the MPA-DP trains early and mid-career professionals in integrated approaches - recognizing that sustainable development requires a more holistic, integrated approach involving multiple sectors, relying on evidence, and demanding the participation of governments, civil society, and the private sector. Since inception, our major focus has been on poverty reduction, food security and sustainable development. The MPA-DP, subject to funding support, can support government capacity building in Global Alliance member countries through the offer of short-term courses and training of civil servants and public employees.

2. Institute for Global Politics. The Institute of Global Politics (IGP) convenes leading scholars and practitioners to foster civil discourse and create evidence-based policy strategies for real-world impact. We are also committed to training the next generation of leaders, providing opportunities for Columbia students to build the skills needed to address complex policy challenges. Our work focuses on five key areas of impact: geopolitical stability, democratic resilience, climate and sustainable development, inclusive prosperity and macroeconomic performance, and technology and innovation. The IGP can convene high-level consultations to support the mission of the Global Alliance.

3. **Columbia Global.** Columbia Global brings together major global initiatives from across Columbia University to advance knowledge and global engagement. Its mission is to address complex global challenges and foster intellectual endeavors through groundbreaking scholarly pursuits, leadership development, cutting-edge research, and projects that aim for social impact. Our long-term goal is to reimagine the university's role in society as not only a nexus for learning and intellectual exploration but also as a catalyst for creativity and impact locally, regionally, and globally. Columbia Global includes the Columbia Global Centers (located in 11 cities across 5 continents), Columbia World Projects, the Committee on Global Thought, and the Institute for Ideas and Imagination.

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.