

International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB)

Statements of Commitment to the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty

General section

1. The International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) 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.

ICGEB:

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:

Knowledge support commitments

ICGEB:

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 subject to available extra budgetary financial resources:

- a. Pro-poor access to agricultural inputs, and climate resilient technologies: Through biotechnology-driven solutions, ICGEB contributes to increasing productivity, resilience, and sustainability for farmers serving as an international network service for its member states in Africa, Americas, Europe, Asia (aligned with SDG 2.3 and 2.4). This is achieved through activities of capacity building, supporting local research and providing technical assistance.
- b. Inclusive value addition and processing: Providing technical assistance, capacity building, and regulatory guidance. ICGEB bridges cutting-edge technologies with real-world challenges in agriculture and food security. ICGEB strengthens access to advanced scientific tools and innovation ecosystems in low and middle-income countries by delivering targeted training, supporting technology transfer, and building laboratory capacity. (SDG 2, SDG 4, SDG 9 and SDG 17).
- c. Integrated programmes for climate and shock resilience, including programmes related to anticipatory, adaptive and shock-responsive social protection: Research and demonstration efforts advance agroecological and biotechnology-based approaches that improve soil health, reduce reliance on external inputs, and strengthen resilience to climate variability. (SDG 2.4 and SDG 13.1).
- d. Promotion and access to healthy diets, including through education and affordable/subsidized prices: development and dissemination of biofortified crops and food biotechnology approaches to enhance nutritional outcomes. (SDG 2.1 and 2.2).
- e. Access to clean fuels and technology: leverages enzyme discovery, metabolic and systems biology, algal multi-omics, and synthetic biology to develop biological systems for producing biofuels and bioproducts. It enhances the efficient conversion of biomass, light, and carbon into fuels and biorenewables, while promoting carbon capture and reducing CO₂ emissions to support sustainable, low-carbon energy solutions. (SDG 7, SDG 9, SDG 12 and SDG 13).

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

- a. Fellowship and Training Programmes: Expand advanced training, PhD and Postdoc fellowships, and short-term courses in molecular biology, agricultural biotechnology, industrial biotechnology and bioinformatics for scientists from developing countries. Focus: long-term capacity building and knowledge transfer. (Fellowships – ICGEB).

- b. Technology Transfer and Innovation Support: Facilitate the translation of research outputs into deployable technologies through partnerships with national institutions, including pilot projects and demonstration platforms in agriculture and food systems. (Technology Transfer – ICGEB).
- c. Collaborative Research Programme: Promote collaborative research and knowledge exchange among Member States and LMICs, leveraging ICGEB’s global network of member states. (ICGEB Research Grants 2026 CRP – Collaborative Research Programme – ICGEB).
- d. Bio Inoculants for Food Security in Africa (B-INOC AFRICA): Externally-funded action that supports the development, validation, and scale-up of microbial inoculants to enhance soil health, fertility, and conservation, as well as the advancement of microbial solutions for precision fermentation of dairy products and staple foods (e.g., enset (*Ensete ventricosum*), known as the “plant against hunger”). (Bioinoculants for food security in Africa – ICGEB)
- e. BIOTECHNET (Biosafety and Biotechnology Capacity Building Networks): Externally-funded action to strengthen institutional and human capacity in biotechnology, biosafety, and regulatory frameworks across member countries through training, fellowships, and regional cooperation platforms. Focus: enabling the environment for innovation, technology adoption, and safe deployment. (BIOTECHNET II – Enhancing and capitalising biotechnology know-how in the Horn of Africa – ICGEB)
- f. The safe and effective use of biotechnology relies on strong policies, regulatory frameworks, and clear processes to support decision-making. ICGEB helps countries strengthen regulatory capacities through integrated, context-adapted approaches, improving effectiveness in a rapidly evolving landscape. Over the past decade, it has built institutional capacity in sub-Saharan Africa, Central America, and the Caribbean, supporting governments in aligning biotechnology regulation with policy priorities. (Regulatory Science – ICGEB)
- g. Biopesticides are key to sustainable agriculture, but their adoption is hindered by regulatory constraints. Frameworks designed for chemical pesticides often overlook their specific characteristics, leading to lengthy and costly approval processes, compounded by limited data and guidance. ICGEB addresses these challenges by promoting enabling regulations and strengthening capacity for science-based assessment, supporting their safe and timely use. (Biopesticides – ICGEB)

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.