



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development



Guidelines for Donor Support to CAADP Process at a Country-Level

Guidelines for Donor Support to CAADP Process at a Country-Level^[1]

Background

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) is the Africa owned and Africa led initiative^[2], working to boost agricultural growth and productivity in Africa in order to reduce poverty and hunger. CAADP provides a policy framework and a regional context for country-led processes. This includes national roundtables that define a strategy for halving hunger and achieving increases of 6% in agricultural growth through policy reform and more and better investment; leading to national compacts between governments, their regional economic community, the private sector, civil society and development partners; and subsequent investment programmes and policy reform.

With 70% of Africa's poor depending upon the agricultural economy for their livelihoods, supporting Africa's comprehensive approach to agricultural development provides a key opportunity through which development partners can fulfill their goals of reducing poverty and hunger as defined in MDG1.

At present there are a range of initiatives at national, regional and global levels providing support to agricultural development in Africa. These efforts can be made more effective by ensuring co-ordination and alignment with country-led plans and processes. CAADP provides the necessary framework through which to achieve this, as it calls for inclusive co-ordination processes, less driven by conditionality and more driven by coherence and mutual accountability.

This document lays out guidelines for joint steps through which donors will provide harmonised support for the country-led agriculture and food security planning processes and investment programmes that are CAADP aligned. CAADP processes will improve the quality of national agricultural strategies and result in plans that have the potential to significantly increase international investment in them. This improved donor support for African agricultural development will significantly contribute to fulfilling international commitments like those made in the L'Aquila Joint Declaration on Global Food Security [at the G8 2009]. This document outlines practical steps that will translate international intentions into action on improving global food security^[3].

^[1] This document was produced by the CAADP Development Partners Task Team of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development in collaboration with the African Union Commission/NEPAD. The document was reviewed, revised and endorsed by participants at the CAADP Donor and Partners meeting in Addis Ababa, 6-9 Sept 2009. This included representatives from governments and Agricultural Donor Working Groups in 18 countries actively engaged with CAADP, plus representatives from Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Pillar Institutions, AUC/ NEPAD and many development partners at an HQ level. The document is a near final draft for active use. A final version will be formally launched at the CAADP Partnership Platform meeting in Abuja in November 2009.

^[2] CAADP was established by the African Union in 2003 at its summits of heads of state and government who agreed to invest 10% of their national budgets in raising agricultural productivity growth to 6% per year.

^[3] See annex 4

Proposed donor approach

Donors will support African agriculture by aligning with the CAADP structures, principles and processes already established by AU/NEPAD and outlined in detail in the “Guide for CAADP Country Implementation” [4].

Donors will engage with CAADP in accordance with the “Joint Donor Principles for Agriculture and Rural Development Programmes” [5], which emphasise ownership, alignment, harmonisation, managing for results, and mutual accountability; and which integrate commitments made in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action. This is also in line with commitments made in the L’Aquila statement which is based upon principles of strategic co-ordination, support for country-owned processes, a comprehensive approach, use of effective multilateral mechanisms, and sustained commitment. Annexes 1-4 provide summaries of the agreed roles, responsibilities and principles upon which this proposal is based.

This proposal sets out the steps needed to move beyond declarations of principle and put the aspirations for improved donor coordination into action at a national and international level [6]. In summary, it sets out how donors will:

- promote the country-led CAADP processes;
- work in partnership with CAADP, e.g. discussing analysis, policy reforms, investment programmes, and monitoring and evaluation, with CAADP stakeholders;
- build capacity of key stakeholders in the development and implementation of plans to achieve CAADP objectives;
- align our ongoing agricultural development efforts with the strategy and processes generated by CAADP;
- co-finance investment programmes; and
- jointly monitor and review progress

Donor roles and responsibilities at a country level

The government’s CAADP country team will lead the CAADP process in their country. In response, Agriculture Donor Working Groups will lead and co-ordinate country-level donor support for the process, working closely with the CAADP country team and liaising with other stakeholders from government, private sector and civil society. The CAADP framework takes a comprehensive approach to agriculture and requires cross-sectoral engagement by donors. The lead donor within the Agriculture Donor Working Groups (ADWG) will provide a focal point for day-to-day interaction with the CAADP country team, and for coordination with their international counterparts. ADWGs will be supported by counterparts in their respective headquarters, and together they will advocate for senior management backing for the CAADP agenda.

CAADP and agricultural planning will differ from country to country. Compacts will be at different stages of development; national capacity will vary; co-ordination structures and donor engagement will vary; and the economic, political and social context will vary. Therefore, in response to CAADP processes, ADWGs will need to develop a donor approach and funding mechanisms that is context-specific for their country. For example, the process will need adapting to fit with planning cycles and avoid duplicating efforts.

The following list outlines expected actions by donors at each stage of compact development. While the compact itself is a key milestone, the real value will come in working pre-compact to build multi-stakeholder buy-in to a robust plan for agriculture, and working post-compact to scale-up investment, drive action and evaluate results. If donors are joining the CAADP process at later stages, they should also consider taking the earlier (stage 1 and 2) actions to ensure their support is effective.

[4] CAADP (March 2009) Guide to CAADP Country Implementation: Accelerating CAADP Country Implementation – A guide for practitioners. DRAFT VERSION

[5] Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (March 2009) Joint Donor Principles for Agriculture and Rural Development Programmes: Incentives for change.

[6] The RECs are developing regional compacts. When these are complete, donors will, in response, develop further guidelines that define a harmonised approach to supporting CAADP at a regional level.

Stage 1: Engagement and partnership development

1. Engage in policy dialogue and consensus-building on the role and value of CAADP as a collective strategic framework for sustainable agricultural growth, poverty reduction, and food and nutrition security.
2. Support full integration and harmonisation of CAADP processes with national development planning, national budgeting and with external assistance for the agricultural sector
3. Support engagement with the African Union, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and other relevant sub-regional institutions to ensure that the continental, regional and country-level dimensions of the CAADP agenda are all taken into account during their respective planning and implementation processes.
4. Broaden the scope of the ADWG and link to other donor working groups to ensure that donors are able to respond effectively to the comprehensive nature of CAADP, by linking agriculture to nutrition, food security, sound natural resource and ecosystems management, trade, private sector development, infrastructure, finance and governance. In some contexts it may be valuable to establish a cross-sector working group for CAADP.
5. Engage country directors and heads of mission throughout the CAADP process to ensure prioritisation, and to link across to other initiatives.
6. In partnership with the CAADP country team, support the profile of CAADP and agricultural development across government, especially with the Ministry of Finance.
7. Map existing agriculture-related donor assistance and government investments in each country.
8. Seek inclusion of non-traditional donors and -stakeholders throughout the development planning process.
9. Take CAADP processes and agreements (or compacts) into account in strategising and programming development assistance.
10. Participation in CAADP launch events and endorsement of the CAADP road map.

Stage 2: Evidence-based planning

1. Support identification of key investment priorities and policy issues for the private and public sectors.
2. Ensure necessary capacity is available to support stocktaking, investment analysis and evidence-based planning. For example: by financing additional (to that already provided) technical expertise where needed; by reviewing terms of reference for stocktaking and analytical studies; and by commenting on technical reports.
3. Facilitate knowledge sharing for research findings to support evidence-based decision-making
4. Support realistic estimates and assessment of financing available from governments, donors and the private sector within short, medium and long-term time frames.
5. Work with HQ level donors to understand how international financial architecture and country level financing will need to be coordinated.
6. Disclose information about current agricultural financing for and programming with non-government partners, and assess how these partners can contribute to CAADP goals.

Stage 3: Building alliances for investment

1. Review and discuss results of stocktaking and investment analysis with CAADP stakeholders.
2. Review and discuss the priorities set out in the CAADP Compact.
3. In partnership with government, support the involvement of multiple stakeholders in planning processes e.g. smallholders, private sector, farmer organisations. Those stakeholders with weak voices (e.g. women and smallholders) may require additional support to effectively participate.
4. Be transparent about expectations of the quality required of the compact and its associated investment plans to access donor finance during implementation. Jointly establish clear performance criteria and milestones required for establishing and scaling up investment.
5. Participate in the CAADP Roundtable Conference and, where appropriate, endorse the process, commit to supporting implementation and sign the compact.
6. Advocate for policy coherence with CAADP priorities across related sector working groups.

Stage 4: Program implementation, M&E and peer review system

1. Establish harmonised processes to support programme design and policy reform. Support country-level structures and instruments for effective co-ordination across government agencies, among donors and among other stakeholders.
2. Identify actions and resources to help implement immediate priorities highlighted at the roundtable, and agree on a clear timeline for delivery of these.
3. Review and align current donor (and government and other investment) programmes with CAADP priorities. Identify financing gaps and additional support opportunities.
4. Work with CAADP stakeholders ^[7] to support development of detailed costed investment programmes. Work should include:
 - a. Identification of capacity needs and development of a capacity building plan;
 - b. Planning for the inclusion of multiple stakeholder interests, e.g. those of smallholders, women, and private sector actors throughout value chains;
 - c. Ensuring financial, economic, social and environmental sustainability
 - d. Development of a joint quality assurance process ^[8];
 - e. Medium-term indications of donor finance available
 - f. Planning to build long-term financial sustainability;
 - g. Agreeing investment programmes (incl. capacity building plan) with all stakeholders.
5. Identify opportunities to use donor (public) funds to leverage private sector funding for agriculture through public private partnerships and improving the business climate.
6. Develop a mechanism to coordinate predictable, multi-year donor and government financing for CAADP investment programmes. This should:
 - a. Strengthen country systems so that they can be used by all donors;
 - b. Enable donors using different aid instruments to coordinate their financing;
 - c. Where possible, use existing national financing mechanisms;
 - d. Enhance donor accountability for financing commitments;
 - e. Be based on a single [unified] performance framework and joint monitoring of results; and
 - f. Provide government with flexibility to adapt CAADP investment programmes to changing circumstances.
7. Support the CAADP peer review process to track progress:
 - a. Support and strengthen monitoring and evaluation mechanisms;
 - b. Participate in the development and implementation of an annual performance review (e.g. using an annual report card to track investment, implementation, policy reform, and sector performance against commitments made by all stakeholders in the compact);
 - c. Support the involvement of multiple stakeholders in the peer review process.

[7] These should include pillar lead agencies, RECS and national governments

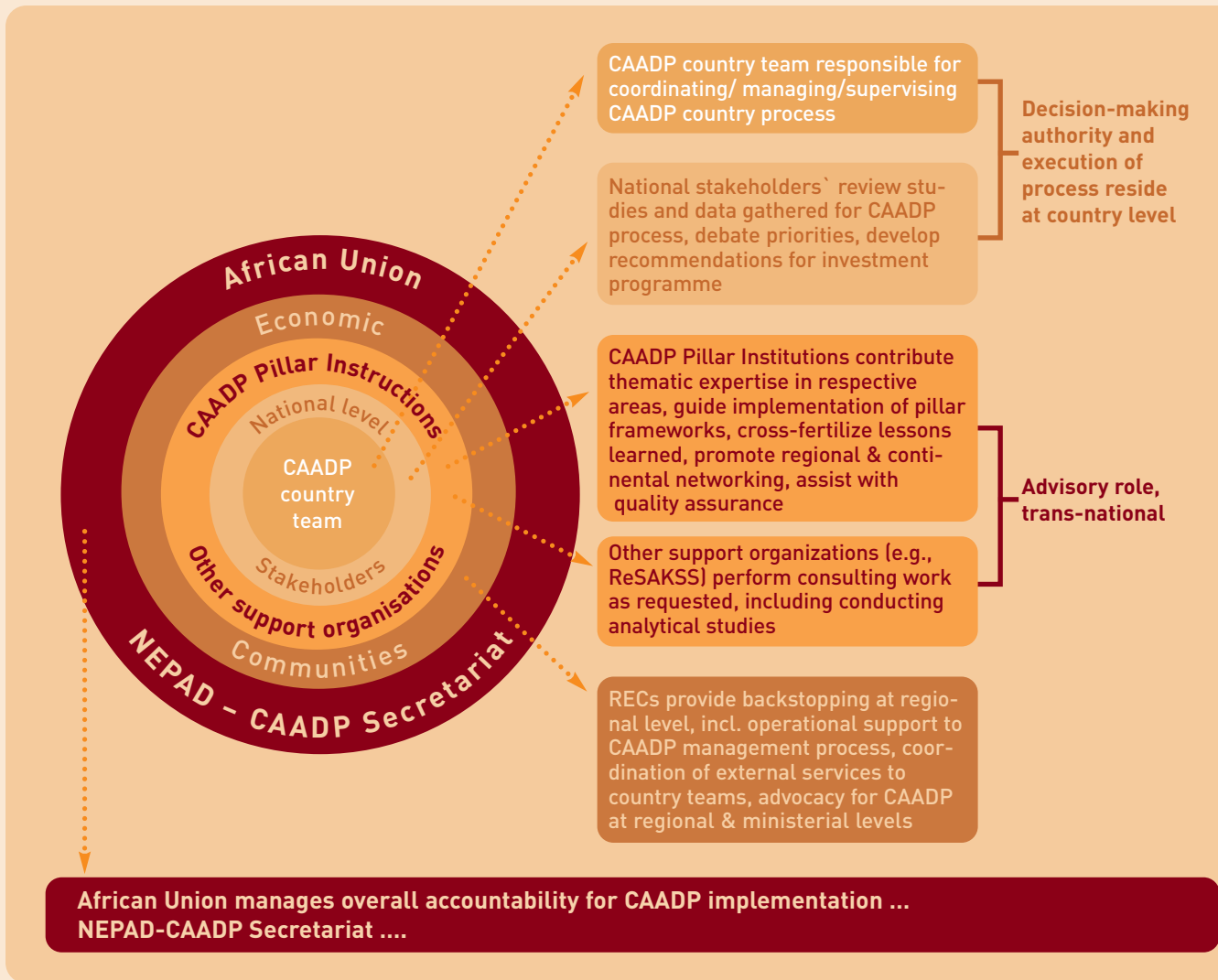
[8] Quality assurance should include dialogue that asks whether the plan: reflects CAADP principles of good practice; is financially and economically viable; meets social and environmental safeguards; compares well with similar investments in other countries; balances ambitiousness and realism; aligns with 10% annual budget target agreed at Maputo in 2003.

Donor roles and responsibilities at an international level

Donors based at headquarters will work with country-based donors to support the CAADP process at country level. They will coordinate their support for African agricultural development plans through the following actions that:

1. Improve the current informal coordination mechanism (the CAADP Development Partner Task Team of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development)
2. Ensure regular communication between headquarters and country offices regarding CAADP and other global initiatives for agriculture and food security which have significance for CAADP.
3. Support and encourage staff at country offices to work proactively with national governments and other stakeholders in the CAADP process (e.g. through country visits, promoting CAADP to senior decision-makers, and communicating evidence-based results).
4. Build the capacity of country offices to engage with CAADP (e.g. providing information, best practice case studies, contacts, training, and staff resources where possible).
5. Promote cross-sector working at regional and headquarter levels to ensure policy coherence e.g. between nutrition, food security, private sector development, trade, and infrastructure programmes.
6. Advocate for increased financial support for countries with CAADP compacts and corresponding investment plans and support in-country donors in their engagement with CAADP during the early stages of compact development.
7. Work with country-level donors to ensure that international aid instruments designed to finance CAADP investment programmes are transparent, useful and reinforce the national governance of agriculture and food security strategies.
8. Provide financial and technical support to governments, AUC/NEPAD, pillar lead institutions and RECs to manage the CAADP process. This is primarily through the Multi-Donor Trust Fund, managed by the World Bank.
9. Provide financial support to continent-wide and regional CAADP programmes and projects.
10. Support the development of Regional CAADP compacts and improve donor coordination around these. Donors will agree on an approach to supporting regional CAADP compacts by November 2009.
11. Enhance links to CAADP stakeholders at the international level (international agencies, foundations, farmers organisation platforms, private sector actors etc.) as required.
12. Help raise the profile of CAADP in the international policy environment, and promote agricultural development as a key strategy to reduce poverty and hunger and improve nutrition.
13. Improve global policy coherence in support of African agriculture and food security.
14. Develop and participate in a mutual accountability framework. This would track donor commitments to CAADP country and regional plans, and review performance of agriculture and food security development assistance policies on Africa.

Annex 1
Roles and responsibilities of CAADP actors [9]



[9] CAADP (March 2009) Guide to CAADP Country Implementation: Accelerating CAADP Country Implementation - A guide for practitioners. DRAFT VERSION

Annex 2
Country Roundtable
benchmarks and key
action points
(summary table) ^[10]

[10]
 CAADP (March 2009) Guide to
 CAADP Country
 Implementation: Accelerating
 CAADP Country
 Implementation – A guide for
 practitioners. DRAFT VERSION

	Process benchmarks
1. Engagement & partnership development	<p>1. Government buy-in and assumption of leadership responsibility</p> <p>2. Key stakeholders engaged around a common commitment to move with the CAADP agenda (including development partners)</p> <p>3. Public awareness and information support on the CAADP agenda</p> <p>4. Formal Launch of the CAADP Agenda implementation</p>
2. Evidence-based planning	<p>5. Stocktaking and analytical work commissioned</p> <p>6. Reports of studies submitted</p>
3. Building alliances for investment (public, private and development partners)	<p>7. Validation workshop: national consensus on the drivers of growth and priorities & levels of investments required</p> <p>8. Agreement on the identified priority areas of investments by national and international partners (compact)</p>
4. Program implementation, M&E and peer review system	<p>9. Initial set of core investment programmes developed</p> <p>10. Clearly articulated implementation modalities with the roles of key players clarified</p> <p>11. Capacity requirements</p> <p>12. Cost assessed and required resources mobilised and committed (including government investment financing)</p> <p>13. M&E framework agreed upon</p> <p>14. Monitoring mechanism in place linked to the peer review mechanism</p>

Main action points / deliverables / indicators

- a. Initiate the engagement with government (Joint Aide Memoire confirming commitment on both sides)
 - b. Inter-ministerial meeting (Agric/Finance/NEPAD Country Desk Office) held
 - c. Country formally request support on CAADP implementation
 - d. In-country NEPAD desk office informed and written commitment to support the process
 - e. Appointment of country focal point unit (High level responsibility)
- a. Multi-stakeholder team composed with ToR to jointly drive the process defined
 - b. Functions and responsibilities for a Multi-partner/Multi-sectoral arrangement to drive the CAADP implementation process defined and agree and operationalised
 - c. Technical committee develops a draft roadmap as a country specific guide on the development of the CAADP agenda and identifies entry points for the pillars
 - d. Stakeholder analysis undertaken
- a. Public and especially potential partners institutions comment / input on the country plan on the CAADP Agenda
 - b. CAADP communication strategy developed and operationalised as part of broader stakeholder consultation thrust, awareness/informing and advocacy objectives
- a. Cabinet minute backing CAADP
 - b. Team prepare the road map and organise (plan and programme for the launch
 - c. High visibility launching event bringing together government at highest level, stakeholders at national level (public, private, farmers) and regional/continental level (REC, AU/NEPAD, development partners).
 - Agreed road map (main outline) on the overall implementation process
 - Partners' commitment and endorsement of the road map
- a. ToRs for the studies agreed
 - Ecosystem and Technical diagnostic
 - Policy, Financial and Institutional diagnostic and capacity assessment
 - Regionalism (country's regional comparative advantage and aspects from which country would expect better returns by pursuing programme at regional level
 - b. Experts engaged
- a. Technical Committee critically examines the report (quality assurance)
 - b. Comments integrated and revised report endorsed by Tech committee
- a. Stakeholders critically review findings and take ownership of the analysis and the identified the key drivers and priority investment areas and requirements
 - b. Partners take collective responsibility to pursue the agric agenda along the identified drivers of growth
 - c. Stakeholders are clear about their role and responsibility and contribution to make this agenda work
- a. Round table conference for endorsement of priority areas and commitment for investment
 - b. Signing of compact: commitment by government and development partners and other stakeholders
 - c. Agreement on the elements of the investment programmes
- a. Detailed formulation exercise undertaken (with participation of all key stakeholders including the target beneficiaries and supported by expert backstopping input from the pillar institutions)
 - b. Investment are aligned to priorities of CAADP and national priorities
 - c. On-going programmes are aligned to the CAADP agenda
- a. Implementing partners identified on the base of their capabilities and previous performances and institutional arrangement agreed
 - b. Coordination mechanisms in place
- a. Capacity assessment conducted prior to the phase of programme and implementation design
 - b. Performance enhancement programmes in place
- a. Agreement on the kind of investment instrument (whether SWAP, projects etc
 - b. Funding agreement between government, DPs/Foundations aligned donor support
 - c. Government/Ministry of Finance budget commitment secured
 - d. Private sector engaged and committed to participate in the programme
- a. a) There is learning and readjusting – it is important to consider the learning aspect and process
- a. Monitoring mechanism in place
 - b. Annual performance reviews (process and impact)
 - c. Regular adaptation of programme design and arrangements in view to lessons learnt
 - d. Impact assessment
 - e. Identification of new programmes and opportunities

Annex 3 ^[11]

Joint Donor Principles on Agriculture and Rural Development Programmes

On ownership...

1. Support government leadership and ownership in Agriculture and Rural Development ARD that are based on inclusive processes, promoting effective participation of key agricultural stakeholders. This includes remote rural farming communities and women farmers.
2. Support capacity development of key stakeholders and their institutions to participate more effectively in the design, delivery and monitoring of ARD-specific country strategies.

On alignment...

3. Focus on alignment with national ARD development strategies and country systems that are 'good enough', strongly considering decentralised government institutions.
4. Support the strengthening of internal coherence of policies (internal alignment), enhancing cross- sectoral approaches to ARD.
5. Support consensus building on the role of government (civil society and private sector) in ARD.
6. Contribute to and sign up to existing country PRSP, thematic or sector working groups and national compacts (such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) process); alternatively, elaborate national MoUs/CoCs/JPs between the national government and the donor group, reducing conditionality and increasingly improving the predictability of aid.

On harmonisation...

7. Use and support national development strategies, Joint Assistance Strategies (JAS), agricultural sector policies and common funding mechanisms via sector-wide and programme-based approaches, to bring about harmonisation.
8. Advance complementarity and country-led division of labour in ARD, reducing fragmentation.
9. Recognise the need for intra- and inter-sectoral harmonisation in rural development.

On managing for results...

10. Support the tracking and reporting on measurable outcome and results indicators for ARD. These must be consistent with the national development strategy (such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy, and sectoral ARD strategies), should be set up at the start of any programme, and should use national M&E systems and be gender-specific.
11. Development indicators for ARD should highlight the role of smallholder agriculture contributing to equitable growth.

On mutual accountability

12. Join with partners to promote and to develop sector-level mutual accountability frameworks, which need to include roles for rural stakeholders (farmers, farmer organisations, CSOs and local governments).
13. Consider cross-cutting issues (particularly the roles of women in agriculture, and environmental or natural resource management issues) when drawing up mutual accountability frameworks for agriculture.

[11]
Global Donor Platform for
Rural Development
(March 2009) Joint Donor
Principles for Agriculture and
Rural Development
Programmes:
Incentives for change.

Annex 4

L' Aquila Joint Statement on Global Food Security

1. We, Heads of State, Government and International and Regional Organizations convened in L'Aquila, remain deeply concerned about global food security, the impact of the global financial and economic crisis and last year's spike in food prices on the countries least able to respond to increased hunger and poverty. While the prices of food commodities have decreased since their peak of 2008, they remain high in historical terms and volatile. The combined effect of longstanding underinvestment in agriculture and food security, price trends and the economic crisis have led to increased hunger and poverty in developing countries, plunging more than a further 100 million people into extreme poverty and jeopardising the progress achieved so far in meeting the Millennium Development Goals. The number of people suffering from hunger and poverty now exceeds 1 billion.
2. There is an urgent need for decisive action to free humankind from hunger and poverty. Food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture must remain a priority issue on the political agenda, to be addressed through a cross-cutting and inclusive approach, involving all relevant stakeholders, at global, regional and national level. Effective food security actions must be coupled with adaptation and mitigation measures in relation to climate change, sustainable management of water, land, soil and other natural resources, including the protection of biodiversity.
3. We therefore agree to act with the scale and urgency needed to achieve sustainable global food security. To this end, we will partner with vulnerable countries and regions to help them develop and implement their own food security strategies, and together substantially increase sustained commitments of financial and technical assistance to invest in those strategies. Our action will be characterized by a comprehensive approach to food security, effective coordination, support for country-owned processes and plans as well as by the use of multilateral institutions whenever appropriate. Delivering on our commitments in a timely and reliable manner, mutual accountability and a sound policy environment are key to this effort. We see a comprehensive approach as including: increased agriculture productivity, stimulus to pre and post-harvest interventions, emphasis on private sector growth, smallholders, women and families, preservation of the natural resource base, expansion of employment and decent work opportunities, knowledge and training, increased trade flows, and support for good governance and policy reform.
4. Food security is closely connected with economic growth and social progress as well as with political stability and peace. The food security agenda should focus on agriculture and rural development by promoting sustainable production, productivity and rural economic growth. At the same time, coherent policies to foster economy-wide growth, which is inclusive and environmentally sustainable, are to be pursued in conjunction with social protection mechanisms such as safety nets and social policies for the most vulnerable. Our attention to promoting access to health care and education in rural areas will substantially contribute to productivity and economic growth and, as importantly, improve nutrition and food security. It is necessary to improve access to food through more equitable income generation and distribution, employment creation and income prospects in developing countries.
5. Sustained and predictable funding and increased targeted investments are urgently required to enhance world food production capacity. Commitments to increase ODA must be fulfilled. The tendency of decreasing ODA and national financing to agriculture must be reversed. We are committed to increase investments in short, medium and long term agriculture development that directly benefits the poorest and makes best use of international institutions. We support public-private partnerships, with adequate emphasis on the development of infrastructure, aimed at increasing resources for agriculture and improving investment effectiveness.

- ❖ 6. Access to adequate and affordable nutritious food is a critical aspect of food security. Emergency assistance will remain an important means through which national authorities, supported by WFP and other specialized Agencies, Funds and Programmes, together with non-governmental organizations, can provide help to people facing acute hunger. Delivering food, cash and vouchers through effective emergency assistance as well as through national safety-nets and nutrition schemes, such as food and cash for work, unconditional cash transfer programs, school feeding and mother-and-child nutrition programs, is an imperative goal. In the long-term, government led, cash based social protection systems and targeted nutrition interventions are needed to support the poorest and excluded populations. We call upon all nations to support these aims by providing sufficient, more predictable and flexible resources. We also call upon all countries to remove food export restrictions or extraordinary taxes, especially for food purchased for humanitarian purposes, and to consult and notify in advance before imposing any new restriction. The feasibility, effectiveness and administrative modalities of a system of stockholding in dealing with humanitarian food emergencies or as a means to limit price volatility need to be further explored. We call upon the relevant International Institutions to provide us with evidence allowing us to make responsible strategic choices on this specific issue.
7. Open trade flows and efficient markets have a positive role in strengthening food security. National and regional strategies should promote the participation of farmers, especially smallholders and women, into community, domestic, regional and international markets. Markets must remain open, protectionism rejected and factors potentially affecting commodity price volatility, including speculation, monitored and analysed further. We are therefore committed to reduce trade distortions and refrain from raising new barriers to trade and investment and from implementing WTO-inconsistent measures to stimulate exports. To this end, we aim at an ambitious, comprehensive and balanced conclusion of the Doha Development Round and call for renewed, determined efforts to bring it to a timely and successful conclusion. We are committed to improve access to information, promote conducive business environments and investment in rural infrastructure, such as transportation, processing, storage facilities and irrigation schemes.
8. Strengthening global and local governance for food security is key to defeating hunger and malnutrition, as well as to promote rural development. Improved global governance should build on existing International Organizations and International Financial Institutions, making use of their comparative advantage, enhancing their coordination and effectiveness and avoiding duplications. To this end, we support the UN High Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis. At the same time, we support the fundamental reform processes underway in the FAO, the Committee on World Food Security, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and the global agricultural research system through the Global Forum on Agricultural Research.
9. By joining efforts with partners and relevant stakeholders around the world, we can together design and implement an effective food security strategy, with priority on the world's poorest regions. We agree to support a global effort whose core principles are country ownership and effectiveness. We pledge to advance by the end of 2009 – consistent with our other actions aimed at an improved global governance for food security – the implementation of the Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security. Its mission includes enhancing cooperation in achieving global food security, promoting better coordination at the country level and ensuring that local and regional interests are duly voiced and considered. We intend that the Global Partnership will count on a reformed and effective Committee on World Food Security involving all relevant stakeholders, including Governments, International and Regional Organisations, IFIs, civil society and farmers organizations, the private sector and scientific community.

10. We support the implementation of country and regional agricultural strategies and plans through country-led coordination processes, consistent with the Accra Agenda for Action and leveraging on the Comprehensive Framework for Action of the UN High Level Task Force and on existing donor coordination mechanisms. Building on the experience of FAO, IFAD and other Agencies, special focus must be devoted to smallholder and women farmers and their access to land, financial services, including microfinance and markets. Sustained efforts and investments are necessary for enhancing agricultural productivity and for livestock and fisheries development. Priority actions should include improving access to better seeds and fertilizers, promoting sustainable management of water, forests and natural resources, strengthening capacities to provide extension services and risk management instruments, and enhancing the efficiency of food value chains. In this regard, the increased involvement of civil society and private sector is a key factor of success. Investment in and access to education, research, science and technologies should be substantially strengthened at national, regional and international level. Their dissemination, as well as the sharing of information and best practices including through North-South, South-South and Triangular cooperation, is essential to promote knowledge-based policy and national capacity. We recognize the opportunities and challenges associated with renewable energy production from biomasses. Related investment should be promoted in a sustainable way compatible with our food security goals.
11. In Africa, NEPAD's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) is an effective vehicle for ensuring that resources are targeted to a country's plans and priorities. Local ownership must begin with the national political will to develop and implement comprehensive food security strategies, based on sound scientific evidence, inclusive consultation, domestic investment and clear directions. We also acknowledge the positive contribution of African-led public-private partnerships such as the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa. We commit to provide resources – whether financial, in-kind or technical assistance – in support of CAADP and other similar regional and national plans in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia.
12. We are determined to translate these principles into action and take all the necessary measures to achieve global food security. We will aim at substantially increasing aid to agriculture and food security including through multiyear resource commitments. In this respect, we welcome the commitments made by countries represented at L'Aquila towards a goal of mobilizing \$20 billion over three years through this coordinated, comprehensive strategy focused on sustainable agriculture development, while keeping a strong commitment to ensure adequate emergency food aid assistance. We encourage other countries and private actors to join in the common effort towards global food security through a coherent approach. We are determined to improve coordination of financing mechanisms and stand ready to ensure that new resources complement existing facilities and programmes and catalyse additional funds around country-owned strategies, in particular to increase food production, improve access to food and empower smallholder farmers to gain access to enhanced inputs, technologies, credit and markets.

L' Aquila 10 July 2009

The Joint Statement on Global Food Security ("L' Aquila Food Security Initiative") is endorsed by the G8 and by Algeria, Angola, Australia, Brazil, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Libya (Presidency of the African Union), Mexico, The Netherlands, Nigeria, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Spain, South Africa, Turkey, Commission of the African Union, FAO, IEA, IFAD, ILO, IMF, OECD, The Secretary General's UN High Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, WFP, The World Bank, WTO who attended the food security session at the G8 Summit in L'Aquila on 10 July 2009 and by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Bioversity/Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), Global Donor Platform for Rural Development , Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR).

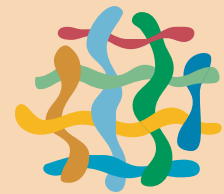
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