



Synthesis of the Malabo Declaration on African Agriculture and CAADP

The Heads of States and Government of the African Union meeting in June 2014, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea adopted two (2) Decisions and two (2) Declarations which directly relate to CAADP and Africa's agricultural transformation and food security agenda in the 2015-2025 decade.

THE DECLARATIONS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING TWO:

- 1. Malabo Declaration on CAADP and commitment to accelerate Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods (Doc. Assembly/AU/2(XXIII)¹ . Related goals and targets are outlined in **Box 1****

Box 1: Overview of the Malabo Declaration (2014)

- 1. Recommitment to the Principles and Values of the CAADP Process**
- 2. Recommitment to enhance investment finance in Agriculture**
 - o Uphold 10% public spending target
 - o Operationalization of Africa Investment Bank
- 3. Commitment to Ending Hunger by 2025**
 - o At least double productivity (focusing on Inputs, irrigation, mechanization)
 - o Reduce PHL at least by half
 - o Nutrition: reduce stunting to 10%
- 4. Commitment to Halving Poverty , by 2025, through inclusive Agricultural Growth and Transformation**
 - o Sustain Annual sector growth in Agricultural GDP at least 6%
 - o Establish and/or strengthen inclusive public-private partnerships for at least five (5) priority agricultural commodity value chains with strong linkage to smallholder agriculture.
 - o Create job opportunities for at least 30% of the youth in agricultural value chains.
 - o Preferential entry & participation by women and youth in gainful and attractive agribusiness
- 5. Commitment to Boosting Intra-African Trade in Agricultural Commodities & Services**
 - o Triple intra-Africa trade in agricultural commodities
 - o Fast track continental free trade area & transition to a continental Common External tariff scheme
- 6. Commitment to Enhancing Resilience in livelihoods & production systems to climate variability and other shocks**
- 7. Commitment to Mutual Accountability to Actions and Results**
 - o Through the CAADP Result Framework - conduct a biennial Agricultural Review Process

¹ Assembly/AU/Decl.1(XXIII). Note that the Goals are referred to as "Commitments" in the Malabo Declaration



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2. Declaration on Nutrition Security for Inclusive Economic Growth and Sustainable Development in Africa² included the following commitments;

- Reaffirmation of the commitment to end hunger by 2025 through strengthening of development policies as an effective investment in the human capital in countries;
- Commitment to ending child stunting bringing down stunting to 10% and underweight to 5% by 2025 and in particular, focusing on the first 1000 Days as the only window of opportunity during which permanent and irreversible physical and mental damage would be avoided; and Commitment to positioning this goal as a high-level objective in national development plans and strategies, and to establish long-term targets that give all children equal chance for success, by eliminating the additional barriers imposed by child under-nutrition.

THE DECISIONS INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

1. Decision on the Report of the Chairperson of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC; Assembly/AU/9(XXIII))³ which took note of among others, the following specific issues in relation to African agriculture:

- Highlighted NEPAD's contribution to the Comprehensive Africa's Agricultural Development Program (CAADP) in its decade of existence; Noting that CAADP had matured into an agenda for socio-economic transformation and recognized global brand impacting on the continent's development through the strong expression of reclaimed ownership of agricultural policy by Member States and African citizens;
- Endorsed the CAADP Results Framework as a tool to enhance evidence-based planning, monitoring and learning by Member States in the pursuit of agricultural-led economic growth and inclusive development, and requested the NPCA to support the capacity strengthening in Member States to internalize and use the CAADP Results Framework, and develop necessary programmes on afforestation, irrigation and post-harvest loss;
- Noted that in the face of globalization and its impact on food and nutrition security and livelihoods, Africa should embrace food sovereignty and regional trade preference strategies to attain food self-sufficiency and enhanced regional cooperation. In this regard, the NPCA, AUC and RECs were urged to work with Member States to develop the requisite national and regional strategies, policies and programmes;

²Assembly/AU/Decl.4(XXIII)

³Assembly/AU/Dec.540(XXIII)



- Appreciated the programmatic work of NPCA in mainstreaming climate change into CAADP national investment plans and requested NPCA to increase technical and coordination support to Member States to build resilience and adaptive capacity in responding to the impacts of climate change and variability, as well as design climate smart agricultural investment programmes and support the sharing of best practices and lessons on climate smart agriculture;
- Endorsed the NEPAD Program on Agriculture Climate Change with its components on gender empowerment, support to small - holder farmers and the establishment of an African Climate Smart Agriculture Coordination Platform through which NPCA will collaborate with Partners including RECs and Non-Governmental Organisations targeting 25 million farm households by 2025;

2. Decision on the High Level Work Program on Climate Change Action in Africa (WPCCAA) and Preparations for the Global Climate Change Events in 2014 (Doc. Assembly/AU/11(XXIII))⁴ , in which the Heads of States requested the AUC and other agencies to:

- a. Prepare an African Climate Resilient Agricultural Development Program (ACRADP) in the context of Africa's Agricultural growth transformation Agenda by bring relevant sectors together;
- b. Put in place a Sustainable Forest Management Program in Africa (SFMPA) in collaboration with African Ministers responsible for Forestry and Energy.

WHAT IS UNIQUE AND UNPRECEDENTED IN THE MALABO DECLARATIONS AND DECISIONS

This also considers the nature, form and depth of the discussions the Heads of State and Government had in the various associated session as well as the declaration and decisions themselves:

- a) The clarity, unanimity and vigor in emphasizing the resolve and commitment to concrete action and delivering tangible results and impact
- b) The elements and emphasis on ACCOUNTABILITY with agreement on practical and clearly define targets and indicators, associated to improving **resource use** as well as **learning**. This include the decisions to **review progress and performance every 2 years** with the report presented to the Heads of State and Government Summit

⁴Assembly/AU/Dec.538(XXIII)



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- c) Recognition and support for issues - policy/political and technical - which could translate into affirmative action with regard to:
- i. The **“rural space”** as engine for growth and transformation in terms of both a critical base for countries’ natural resources (land and water) and accommodating significant portion of the populations in general and farming (smallholder) populations, in particular
 - ii. **Women** as key players and actors in contributing to the delivering of increased agricultural performance as well as ensuring related impact on livelihoods
 - iii. **Youth** - again as key asset and resource that Africa has in making happen the transformation of the agriculture sector
 - iv. **Private Sector** - as critical success factor in delivering on implementation including the quality of implementation. Preferential reference is made to domestic private sector
 - v. In the kind of agriculture Africa wants, two key issues stand out, namely (a) aligning purpose for agriculture and associated levels of ambition more towards **wealth creation** objectives at both household and national level and (b) significant policy and investments alignment to scale-up local **agro-based industry and commerce** including entrepreneurship
 - vi. Multi-sectorialism recognizing that agriculture success will need active and collaborative engagements and partnerships across Government departments/ministries and across sectors (e.g. energy; infrastructure; health; natural resources and environment; climate change; etc...)
 - vii. Unlike the 2003 Maputo Declaration, the Malabo Declaration and decisions also emerged from a process that was **highly inclusive** with widespread participation of civil society, farmer organizations and lately increasingly private sector involvement.



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