

**AFRICAN UNION**

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**Summit on Food Security in Africa  
December 4-7, 2006  
Abuja, Nigeria**

**FS/Res (I)**

**Resolution of the Abuja Food Security Summit**

## RESOLUTION OF THE ABUJA FOOD SECURITY SUMMIT

**WE** the Heads of State and Government of the African Union assembled in Abuja, Nigeria on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of December 2006,

**GRATEFUL** for H. E. the President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, and the Government and People of Nigeria, for initiating and hosting this Summit which has offered us an opportunity to renew our commitment to combating poverty and food and nutrition insecurity in Africa, and to direct our attention to a few key decisions that can best move us forward, with a view to eradicating hunger by 2030;

**DETERMINED** to ensure that the remaining conflicts on the continent are brought to a speedy end thereby creating the conditions for renewed economic growth in an environment of good governance;

**RECALLING** the decision to adopt the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) at the Maputo Summit in July 2003 as a framework for accelerating agricultural development and Food Security on the continent;

**RECALLING** the Sirte declaration of 2004 on the challenges of implementing integrated and sustainable development on agriculture and water in Africa;

**RECALLING** the Fertilizer Summit held in Abuja in 2006, which called for a Green Revolution in Africa;

**RECALLING** the declaration of the 1992 International Conference on Nutrition which stressed that hunger and malnutrition were unacceptable in the world, and being particularly concerned about the escalating level of malnutrition in Africa;

**RECALLING** Africa's commitment to the Millennium Development Goals and in particular to the goal of halving the proportion of the hungry in our respective countries and the continent by 2015;

**NOTING** the Vision 2020 Summit in Kampala, Uganda, on food security and nutrition in 2004;

**PROMOTING** focused action to implement selected critical commitments already made in the past, particularly the Maputo and Sirte Summits of 2003 and 2004;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** some successful experiences and performance of Agriculture on the continent that could be replicated in other Member States such as development of New Rice for Africa (NERICA) and renewed successes in cassava production;

**APPRECIATING** the central role that African women play in producing, processing and marketing food and committed to ensuring their fuller contribution to household food security by guaranteeing their access to productive resources, services and social/economic opportunities;

**CONCERNED** about the slow progress towards achieving the commitment made in Maputo in 2003 to increase resources for Agriculture and Rural Development to at least 10% of national budgets within 5 years;

**DETERMINED** to end the continent's annual expenditure of over USD 20 billion on Agricultural imports and the increasing reliance of Africa on food imports and aid in commodities that could be produced competitively on the continent;

**CONCERNED** that agricultural products which dominate Africa's exports are poorly competitive due to the inadequate development of infrastructure and lack of adequate value addition;

**DETERMINED** to ensure that Africa increases its current 2-3 percent of global agricultural trade by increasing exports of selected commodities and grasping opportunities to add value to its exports;

**CONCERNED** by the growing threat to food security and agricultural production and productivity posed by HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases.

**RECOGNIZING** the efforts and progress being made by many African countries in agricultural growth and reducing food and nutrition insecurity;

**FURTHER RECOGNIZING** that our limited resources and institutional capacities demand that we be selective and prioritize those of our commitments which will enable our people in the shortest possible time to achieve sustainable progress in food and nutrition security with the ultimate objective of eradicating hunger by 2030;

**We the Heads of State and Government Declare our Firm Commitment to:**

**1. Expand Markets, with particular attention to Africa's own demand and to promote Inter African trade in staple foods.**

**To achieve this objective:**

**MEMBER STATES** and RECs promote and protect rice, legumes, maize, cotton, oil palm, beef, dairy, poultry and fisheries products as strategic commodities at the continental level, and cassava, sorghum and millet at subregional level, without prejudice to focused attention being given also to products of particular national importance;

**AUC and NEPAD** to facilitate the attainment of continental self-reliance by 2015 for the following: rice, maize, sorghum/millet and Cassava, oil palm, beef, poultry, aquaculture (tilapia/cat fish); and to process 50% of cotton produced in Africa by 2015 while also making efforts to rapidly increase the share of local processing for other commodities;

**CALL UPON** Member States and RECS to take the following urgent measures to accelerate the development of the strategic commodities that include:

**FAST TRACKING** the implementation of trade arrangements adopted in the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) through lowering tariff barriers and elimination of non tariff barriers both technical and non technical by 2010, and take account of these measures during global negotiations in the Doha Round and Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA);

**RATIFYING** and implementing harmonized standards and grades including sanitary and phytosanitary standards within and across RECs by 2010;

**CONSTRUCT** and maintain critical infrastructure to facilitate the movement of strategic agricultural products across national boundaries at minimal cost;

**REQUEST** the AUC in collaboration with the RECs and development partners to develop continental and regional market information systems, and to support the development of the same at national level by 2008;

**2. To mobilize resources for implementing priority food and nutrition security interventions focusing on the selected strategic commodities.**

**To achieve this objective and with particular focus on the selected strategic commodities:**

**MEMBER STATES** formalize the Maputo commitment to allocate at least 10% of the national budget to agriculture and rural development by 2008;

**AUC and NEPAD** to sensitize parliaments and civil society and enlist their support in the implementation of the Maputo 10% commitment;

**MEMBER STATES** promote public sector engagement in agriculture, in particular with regard to:

- Infrastructure, especially regarding water, irrigation, electricity and roads through public-private partnership;
- Capacity to diversify and add value to agricultural products through inter-alia, public private partnerships to enhance competitiveness of and sustainable incomes from these products;
- Facilitate provision of targeted loans to the private sector including micro-credit with special emphasis on women and small-holder farmer organizations;
- Encourage public-private partnerships and investment, with special focus on infrastructure ;
- Support measures including technologies, key yield enhancing inputs, and targeted subsidies where warranted;
- Invest in appropriate small-scale technologies and industries accessible to women;
- Preparing youth for an active and rewarding role in agriculture and related industries;
- Invest in technologies and industries for the production of nutritionally adequate foods;
- Introduce measures to halve post-harvest losses within 3 years and reduce them to 10% by 2015.

**MEMBER STATES** assisted by the AUC and NEPAD to identify critical training needs in the areas of food security, biotechnology, research and extension and to facilitate the exchange of experts among Member States;

AUC and NEPAD in consultation with the ADB and other international financial institutions to develop modalities for the implementation of the Sirte Decision on the establishment of an African Agricultural Development Fund.

**MEMBER STATES** reduce risks of both natural and commercial origins, including through marketing arrangements and insurance schemes.

**CALL UPON** Africa based development banks and financial institutions to improve access to soft loans, small loans and grants;

**3. To ensure systematic integration of nutrition considerations into agricultural and food security interventions.**

**To achieve this objective:**

**MEMBER STATES** prepare and/or strengthen their emergency response strategies and plans including flexible and decentralised food reserve procurement and management of food stocks and funds by 2010;

**MEMBER STATES** and NEPAD expand the implementation of the NEPAD Home-Grown School feeding initiative to reach 20% of member states by 2008 through a financing and delivery partnership between Government and development partners with benefits to reach 25% of the needy children by 2015;

**AUC and NEPAD** in collaboration with development partners initiate the implementation of the African Regional Nutrition Strategy, the NEPAD African Nutrition Initiative within CAADP, and the NEPAD 10-year strategy for combating Vitamin and Mineral Deficiency by 2008 with focus on long-term household food security and ending child hunger and under nutrition;

**MEMBER STATES** and development partners to protect and promote the nutritional well being, food security and productivity of people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS in the near and longer terms;

**MEMBER STATES** adopt and/or strengthen a holistic and multi-sectoral approach in agricultural development to better address the multi-dimensional nature of food and nutrition security;

**MEMBER STATES** to promote home gardening and small animal husbandry as important contributions to household food security and dietary diversity.

**4. To identify African successes and support sharing of positive experiences with a view to their adaptation, replication and up-scaling.**

**To achieve this objective:**

**AUC and NEPAD** establish a technical assistance programme for agriculture and food security based on African resources and expertise and in collaboration with development partners and develop regional centres of excellence;

**AUC** in consultation with the African Development Bank (ADB) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to establish a funding mechanisms or adapt existing ones to mobilize additional resources for purposes of up-scaling agricultural successes within and across countries in Africa;

**AUC, NEPAD and RECs** establish criteria for identifying African successes that rely wholly or largely on Africa's own resources and promote measures for their replication, adaptation and up-scaling;

**5. To establish a system for selecting and prioritizing key AUC and NEPAD CAADP related summit commitments.**

**To achieve this objective:**

**MEMBER STATES** should periodically review their agricultural food and nutrition security programmes with a view of creating the enabling environment to upscale success in these areas;

**AUC and NEPAD** establish a system for tracking and evaluating the commitments made by countries and RECs, using appropriate indicators;

**AUC and NEPAD** to undertake a review and prioritization of past commitments for implementation to meet the objectives of food and nutrition security;

**MEMBER STATES** take ownership of important commitments by way of formalizing and institutionalizing them, including making adequate resources available;

**We request the AUC** to follow up with Member States, RECs and other relevant stakeholders on the implementation of the above recommendations and report to the Assembly of Heads of States annually on progress and challenges.

**We request the AUC** to establish an ad-hoc follow-up committee consisting of representatives of the AUC, NEPAD, RECs, FAO, IFAD, ECA and WFP to strengthen the capacity of Member States to implement food security and nutrition programmes and to monitor the implementation of the summit outcomes.

**Adopted, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2006, in Abuja, Nigeria**