

**Joint Statement of the African Union Commission, World Economic Forum,
and United States Government,
Co-Conveners of the Leadership Council
September 29, 2014**

This joint statement is issued by the Co-Conveners of the Leadership Council as a record of key discussions and agreed actions from the meeting held on 22 September, 2014 in New York, USA.

The Co-Conveners state the following:

The Leadership Council is an informal platform for high-level coordination to align the work of the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition and Grow Africa partnership in support of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), and to review and advance progress in implementing commitments developed through these initiatives.

The Leadership Council remains fully committed to supporting agriculture transformation in Africa in alignment with the goals of CAADP. We agree to align our work with the key commitments made by Heads of State and Government of the African Union in June 2014 through the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, including to end hunger and halve poverty by 2025.

We celebrate the achievements of the New Alliance and Grow Africa to date: 3 million smallholders reached, almost 37,000 jobs created, and more than USD 10 billion in planned private investment leveraged, of which over USD 1.1 billion has been delivered. Some 95% of African governments' policy commitments due in 2014 have been advanced, and Development Partners have disbursed USD \$2.1 billion of their total commitments, representing 72% of commitments to date. We agree to further evaluate how this progress is translating into desired outcomes of inclusive growth and reduced poverty through annual reviews and the CAADP Joint Sector Review process.

While recognizing that building coalitions and delivering results takes time, we called upon the group to recommit to these efforts at the highest levels and to push for more concrete actions to support national level implementation.

Specific commitments agreed by the group to action in advance of the next Council meeting include:

- **Responsible Investment:** We agreed to develop a single set of operational guidelines for companies and other project partners involved in implementing land-based agricultural investments. These will be developed through a consultative process, harmonizing existing tools and practices being developed by countries themselves. We will also prepare a proposal for establishing a shared platform for monitoring, learning and technical support for implementing the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.
- **Women's Economic Empowerment:** We agreed to establish a multi-stakeholder Steering Group, a technical support facility and a learning plan to encourage advancement of women's economic empowerment through investments committed through the New Alliance and Grow Africa. This will include identifying needs and best practices, and disseminating these through outreach, events and advisory support.
- **Development Partner Commitments:** We agreed to define a process by the end of 2014 to update Development Partner commitments through the New Alliance in support of CAADP.
- **Terms of Reference:** The Council adopted a new Terms of Reference, to be implemented starting in 2015, that clarifies the mandate of the Council and rebalances its composition to support increased representation from African countries and civil society organisations.

We emphasize that the ultimate goal of our efforts is to benefit smallholder farmers and recognize the importance of consultation with farmers as a core part of our efforts. We look forward to continuing and strengthening collaboration among all stakeholders to meet our common goal of ensuring food security and sustainable, inclusive agricultural-led growth in alignment with the African agenda.