

# **Leadership Council Terms of Reference**

## **September 2014**

This document outlines an updated Terms of Reference for the Leadership Council, an informal, multi-stakeholder leadership group committed to advancing progress on investment in sustainable and inclusive agricultural development in Africa in alignment with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

### **1. Background**

The Leadership Council was formed in 2012 as an informal, high-level group of stakeholders committed to realizing the investment commitments pledged by the private sector, governments and donor partners with a goal of advancing sustainable agricultural development in Africa. These commitments, catalyzed primarily through the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition (New Alliance) with support from the Grow Africa partnership and many African and global stakeholders, represented a new approach toward strengthening African agricultural productivity, sustainability and inclusivity through innovative public-private collaboration and market-based strategies. These initiatives were catalyzed through platforms committed to supporting the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), a programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) established by the African Union in 2003, as the primary framework for transformation of Africa's agriculture sector, including coordination of public and private-sector investment. In view of the unique multi-stakeholder nature of these partnerships, leaders decided to form the Leadership Council as an informal forum for monitoring, supporting and advancing progress.

A group of approximately 20 high-level members confirmed to join the Council, meeting twice annually during the Council's first two years. At the May 2014 Leadership Council meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, Council members agreed to update and clarify the mandate and composition of the Council through a Terms of Reference document. This document was prepared by Council Co-Conveners, in consultation with Council Members' Senior Representatives, in response to that request.

### **2. Goals of the Leadership Council**

The Leadership Council serves as an informal, high-level platform to align and coordinate specific public and private sector efforts to achieve agricultural transformation to strengthen food and nutrition security in Africa in alignment with CAADP. The group is founded upon and seeks to advance the spirit of partnership among diverse stakeholders to achieve this shared goal. In particular, the group seeks to align and coordinate the work of the New Alliance and Grow Africa partnership to support implementation of country investment plans developed through the CAADP process. The Council provides an informal forum to review and advance progress in implementing commitments developed through these initiatives. It seeks to identify challenges, define solutions, prioritise and encourage actions needed to further advance progress.

### **3. Scope of the Leadership Council**

- The Leadership Council is anchored in the African institutional leadership of the CAADP Process, and includes in its scope the work of the New Alliance and Grow Africa.
- The Council is an informal multi-stakeholder leadership group providing strategic direction and advice. It does not provide operational governance of or oversight to either the New Alliance or Grow Africa, each of which have or will develop their own coordination, governance and accountability structures.
- The Council will seek to highlight progress and challenges of these initiatives and encourage mutual accountability between all partners, in alignment with CAADP processes and reporting frameworks.

### **4. Composition of the Leadership Council**

The Leadership Council shall be comprised of 30 members and Co-Conveners, representing a diverse group of stakeholders actively engaged as partners in implementing the investment commitments. Participation in the Council is by invitation of the Co-Conveners, and represents a top-level commitment to continuous engagement in Council activities and willingness to coordinate with others within the member's stakeholder

group to represent consolidated views during the term of membership. Council membership is for the duration of a 2-year term, with option to renew with approval of the Co-Conveners and relevant stakeholder networks.

Stakeholder Category		Composition
<b>Co-Conveners</b>	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>African Union Commission (permanent Co-Convener)</li> <li>New Alliance Donor Partner (USA in 2014)</li> <li>Private Sector / Multi-stakeholder (World Economic Forum in 2014)</li> </ul>
<b>African Governments</b>	9	8 Governments at Head of State/Head of Government Level from countries which have CAADP plans and are members of the New Alliance and/or Grow Africa; and which represent at least three of the major subregions (i.e East, Central, North and Southern Africa) NEPAD will serve as a permanent member of the Council.
<b>Development Partners</b>	4	4 Development partners at Ministerial level or equivalent, selected by consensus from among New Alliance development partners
<b>International Organisations</b>	2	2 multilateral institutions (recommended to be 1 United Nations organisation and 1 World Bank Group member)
<b>Civil Society</b>	3	3 civil society organisations, of which at least one is African and one is primarily focused on empowering women; selected by consensus among civil society / CAADP partner networks
<b>Farmers Organisations</b>	3	3 organisations representing Eastern, Western, and Southern Africa
<b>Private Sector</b>	6	6 companies who have made investment commitments, of which 3 are global and 3 are African;
	<b>30</b>	<b>Total Representatives</b>

## 5. Leadership Council Meetings

**Official Meeting:** The Leadership Council will have one official meeting per year, on the margins of the Grow Africa Investment Forum. New Alliance and Grow Africa annual progress reporting will be made available in advance of this meeting to the extent possible, to provide concrete data on progress and challenges which merit leadership-level attention.

**Informal Consultations:** At the discretion of the Council Co-Conveners, informal consultations with subsets of Council members may be undertaken as a complement and input to the group's official annual meeting. These consultations, if undertaken, may be convened on the margins of relevant high-level meetings such as the United Nations General Assembly; the African Union Summit; or the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos.

**Meeting Participation:** Participation in Council meetings is limited to Council members, who may bring a maximum of one accompanying person as an observer. Invitations are non-transferable, however if a Council member is unable to attend they may designate one senior representative to attend as an observer. Heads of State and Government who are unable to attend may designate a Minister to represent them. Ministers of G7 countries who are not official Leadership Council members will be invited as Special Guests. Co-Conveners may jointly agree to invite select Special Guests or Experts to contribute to specific meetings.

**Preparation:** The Co-Conveners are jointly responsible for official Council meetings. They commit to a) Announce the date and location of official Council meetings 3-6 months in advance, to ensure adequate notice for high-level participation; b) Engage Senior Representatives of Council members to provide input on the meeting agenda and documentation as part of the meeting preparation; and c) Designate one Co-Convener as lead organizer of the meeting logistics in close consultation with the others, and d) Arrange for adequate onsite meeting support for duties such as note-taking and translation.

**Transparency and Communications:** The Council's Terms of Reference will be circulated and shared with relevant stakeholders by September 2014. Council Meetings will have two outputs: 1) A Joint Statement by Co-Conveners released to the public within one week of the meeting; and 2) A meeting summary prepared based on Chatham House Rules, and shared with meeting participants and relevant stakeholders within 4

weeks of the meeting. Dates of upcoming meetings will be shared in advance with relevant stakeholders. French translation will be provided for meetings and related documents.

**CAADP Linkages:** The outcomes of Leadership Council meetings will be shared through CAADP reports to Heads of State and Ministers of African Union Member States; as well as with the CAADP Partnership Platform. CAADP, the New Alliance and Grow Africa will work to link or align reporting to the CAADP Joint Sector Review process.