

THE NEW ALLIANCE FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

**Joint Statement of the African Union Commission, World Economic Forum,
and United States Government,
Co-Conveners of the Leadership Council
June 2, 2014**

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.

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 7 May 2014 in Abuja, Nigeria.

The Co-Conveners agreed the following:

The Leadership Council remains fully committed to supporting agriculture transformation in Africa in alignment with the goals of CAADP. We met to assess progress and define priorities for joint collaboration going forward, leveraging the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition and Grow Africa as platforms to support and strengthen implementation of the African agenda. We agree to align our work with the key commitments for the next decade made at the recent Joint Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, Rural Development, Fisheries and Aquaculture convened by the African Union in May 2014: to end hunger, decrease poverty by 50% through agriculture, triple intra-African trade, increase households' resilience to shocks, and use the CAADP Results Framework to measure impact at the country level. We look forward to related commitments by Heads of State and Government which may be defined at the African Union Summit in June.

We celebrate the initial progress achieved through the New Alliance and Grow Africa: 2.6 million smallholders reached, USD 7.2 billion in planned private investment leveraged, of which over USD 970 million has been delivered. We agree to further evaluate whether and how this progress is translating into desired outcomes of inclusive growth and reduced poverty.

We note the importance of ensuring that country-level processes are inclusive, effective, and supportive of mutual accountability and transparency. To that end we support the CAADP Joint Sector Review (JSR) process as an instrument for peer review and mutual accountability, which seven countries have committed to complete in 2014. We anticipate the Joint Sector Review process will be the primary accountability mechanism as it expands to more countries and look to this mechanism to become a robust process that incorporates our collective efforts in support of CAADP. We agree to align our reporting going forward and encourage all stakeholders to share information on progress toward meeting their commitments, to advance transparency.

We emphasize that smallholder farmers are at the core of our collective efforts. We note our intent to engage more extensively with civil society and support their effective engagement in CAADP and aligned initiatives. We reaffirm our collective commitment to empower women in agriculture and have discussed a vision for achieving this goal through joint efforts during the African Union Year of Agriculture.

We reiterate our commitment to responsible investment in alignment with the African Union Land Policy and Guidelines, as well as the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.

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.