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**REPORT OF THE AU JOINT CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS
OF AGRICULTURE, LAND AND LIVESTOCK,**

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 20 -24 APRIL 2009

**REPORT OF THE AU JOINT CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE,
LAND AND LIVESTOCK, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 20 -24 APRIL 2009**

Investing in Agriculture for Economic Growth and Food Security

Introductory Remarks

Please find herewith the report of the Joint Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, Land and Livestock held at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from April 23-24, 2009. The report deals with many issues that are related to accelerating Agricultural production and productivity through increased investment in the sector and in line with Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) framework and process for agricultural development in Africa. The conference was unique because it was the first time that a joint conference has been organized to bring together the Ministers of Agriculture, Land and Livestock in one conference. The aim was to develop a harmonized approach to agricultural intensification in Africa due to the closeness and cross-cutting nature of the issues under the different ministries.

In all, thirty-six Member States of the African Union were represented in the conference. In addition, the following Embassies, Lead CAADP Institutions and other development partners also participated in the conference: Action Aid International, AfDB, AGRA, Afro-Arab Cooperation, AMCOW, AU/SAFGRAD, AU Commission, BADEA, Brazil, CEN-SAD, COMESA, DFID, ECCAS, Eco-Agriculture, ECOWAS, FAO, FARA, Future Agricultures, Global Mechanism of UNCCD, ICRAF, IFPRI-ReSAKSS, ILO, Intshona Agricultural Products, IGAD, Japan, JICA, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Addis Ababa, MOARD, NEPAD, Plan International, PROPAC, ROPPA, Royal Danish Embassy Addis Ababa, SADC, UKZN, UN-ECA, UNICEF, University of Yaounde, World Bank, WFP, UNAIDS, UNIFEM, United States Embassy Addis Ababa, University of Zambia. Libya assumed the chairmanship of the conference and Congo Brazzaville, Lesotho and Niger were elected Vice Chairs with Kenya as the Rapporteur. Two separate expert meetings one on Agriculture and Livestock and another on Land and related land issues preceded the Joint Conference of Ministers.

1. Report Organization:

The report is organized as follow. Section one deals with the participation by Member States and development partners. Section two is on the opening session which includes among others the welcome remarks by the H.E Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture and also statements by NEPAD's CEO as well as the official opening of the Joint Conference. Section three is on the Constitution of the Bureau while section four

deals on adoption of Agenda and work organization. Finally, section 5 is on the Adoption of the Experts Reports on Agriculture and land, and also highlights CAADP implementation status as well as the role of research in enhancing agricultural productivity

Recommendations and Decisions of the Conference

The conference examined the various recommendations made by the two expert meetings on Agriculture and Land and on the basis of these reports took many decisions that are expected to leverage investment in the agricultural sector and thus accelerate the fight against hunger and poverty within the continent.

The conference reviewed the effect of climate change and opportunities they present for enhanced investment and growth of African Agriculture. It underlined the fact that land degradation undermines food-security, increases the vulnerability of African economies to climate variability and change, and contributes significantly to greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). The conference noted that inclusion of agricultural carbon in future CDM could generate mitigation benefits and create new opportunities for a potential triple win – increase productivity and climate resilience for African agriculture and cost efficient GHG mitigation. The conference thus urged AUC-NEPAD and partners to ensure issues and initiatives on combating desertification and agricultural water management are directly integrated in the efforts to support sustainable land management (SLM) and climate change adaptation measures in line with the Algerian Declaration.

On Regional Agricultural Trade and Market Systems, the conference underscored the fact that value-chain development and access to financial services should be key elements to enhancing financial sustainability and growth of the agriculture sectors and related wealth creation. It urged Member states to reiterate their commitment to achieving sustainable modernization of agriculture and rural transformation in Africa by placing more emphasis on policies that raise agricultural productivity and expand market opportunities at the national, regional and international levels. The conference thus called Member States to ensure among others, an enabling environment to unleash private sector investment in strategic food and agricultural commodity value-chain development through the creation of preferential intra-regional Agricultural Investment Zones in high-potential production belts of such commodities.

To stimulate the participation of the poor and other vulnerable groups in rural Activities the conference recognized the negative impact of high food prices particularly on the poor and vulnerable farmers and household and hence called for the need to identify

vulnerable populations including the physically challenged, landless, pastoralists, women etc. and ensure that their needs to participate in economic activities are embraced in agricultural growth strategies. In order to ameliorate the hardship faced by the vulnerable group especially during this food crisis and high food prices, the conference recommended among others that Member States should facilitate policy reforms to remove economic and social barriers that limit poor people's entry and sustained participation in commercial and economic activities.

The status of CAADP implementation was also discussed. It was noted that there is an urgent need for country-led accelerated implementation of the CAADP agenda including need for increased and more widespread awareness, understand and commitment to the CAADP agenda. The conference therefore recommended that the AU-NEPAD in liaison with the RECs be charged to actively engage with Member States to enhance the country level implementation of the CAADP agenda along the operational guidelines detailed in the recently developed "CAADP Implementation Guide"

On the Public Expenditure Tracking, the need to harmonise the definition of agriculture in Member States when measuring or tracking agriculture budget allocation and Expenditure was stressed and the conference observed that after the Maputo Declaration, there has been an improvement in agricultural funding, although more still requires to be done. However, it was recommended that Member States need to increase their expenditure in the agriculture sector, which should be measured against Agriculture Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to ensure a better analysis of whether countries are investing effectively to achieve targeted growth in the sector.

The conference also dealt extensively on the experts report on land issues and the challenges they posed in African Agriculture. It recognized the importance of land in sustainable socio-economic growth and development in Africa hence the need that land is sustainably secured, used and managed. It noted further the steady progress which member states are making in the initiation, review, revision of comprehensive land policies and their implementation in order to ensure that their various land sectors play an important role in the development of the sector.

On land and land related issues, the conference recommended that Member States review their land sectors with a view to developing comprehensive policies which take into account their peculiar needs; build sufficient human, financial, technical capacities to support land policy development and implementation. It also recommended that Member States develop and design land reforms and implementation strategies that are holistic in nature and promote multi-stakeholder participation in land policy development and implementation processes.

I am honoured, Honourable Ministers, to submit to you for your information, the report of the Joint Conference of AU Ministers of Agriculture, Land and Livestock.

**REPORT OF THE JOINT CONFERENCE OF AU MINISTERS OF
AGRICULTURE, LAND AND LIVESTOCK**

Theme

“Investing in Agriculture for Economic Growth and Food Security”

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**JOINT CONFERENCE OF AU MINISTERS
OF AGRICULTURE, LAND AND LIVESTOCK
April 23-24, 2009
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA**

CAMA/Min/Rpt(XI)

**REPORT OF THE JOINT CONFERENCE OF AU MINISTERS OF
AGRICULTURE, LAND AND LIVESTOCK**

Theme

“Investing in Agriculture for Economic Growth and Food Security

REPORT OF THE JOINT CONFERENCE OF AU MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE, LAND AND LIVESTOCK

1. PARTICIPATION

1. The Following Member States of the African Union participated in the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, Land and Livestock; Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Botswana, Cameroon, Chad, Congo Brazzaville, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sahrawi Republic, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zimbabwe

2. In addition the following organisations, institutions, Embassies and countries participated in the Conference: Action Aid International, AfDB, AGRA, Afro-Arab Cooperation, AMCOW, AU/SAFGRAD, AU Commission, BADEA, Brazil, CEN-SAD, COMESA, DFID, ECCAS, Eco-Agriculture, ECOWAS, FAO, FARA, Future Agricultures, Global Mechanism of UNCCD, ICRAF, IFPRI-ReSAKSS, ILO, Intshona Agricultural Products, IGAD, Japan, JICA, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Addis Ababa, MOARD, NEPAD, Plan International, PROPAC, ROPPA, Royal Danish Embassy Addis Ababa, SADC, UKZN, UN-ECA, UNICEF, University of Yaounde, World Bank, WFP, UNAIDS, UNIFEM, United States Embassy Addis Ababa, University of Zambia.

2. OPENING SESSION

2.1 WELCOME REMARKS

3. H.E. Commissioner – Rural Economy and Agriculture, H. E. Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, called the meeting to order and gave her welcome remarks. This was followed by NEPAD¹ CEO, Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki's welcome remarks. Both the Commissioner and the NEPAD CEO called for accelerated implementation of the CAADP² agenda and framework to enable Africa adequately and appropriately respond to emerging continental and global challenges including the global food crisis, energy and fuel crisis and climate change. With the context of the Conference theme, they underlined the importance and key role that agriculture plays as a strategic driver for development, in general, and addressing food security and poverty alleviation in Africa. They urged all initiatives at various levels to clearly reflect on how their initiatives would concretely transform into country/community based impact programmes. They encouraged partners to engage their national level representatives to align their programmes towards CAADP implementation and to support and advocate for CAADP particularly at the regional and global levels

¹ New Partnership for Africa Development

² Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme

2.2 STATEMENTS BY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

4. Covering various issues with a general focus on accelerating country based programmes with a clear impact and also on CAADP as an overall framework, the following Partners gave brief statements:

UN-HLTF; World Bank; European Union; FAO; WFP; IFAD; UN-ECA; JICA; AGRA and AfDB

2.3 OFFICIAL OPENING

5. The Conference was officially opened by Ethiopia's Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Hon. Tefera Deribew. Prior to Hon. Deribew's opening statement, Sierra Leone's Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security, Hon. Joseph Sam Sesay gave a brief statement focusing on advancements Sierra Leone was making in advancing its agriculture agenda within the CAADP framework

3. CONSTITUTION OF THE BUREAU

6. The Bureau as was constituted at the start of the Experts' Meeting was called to preside over the Meeting:

Chair:	Libya
1 st Vice Chair:	Congo Brazzaville
2 nd Vice Chair:	Lesotho
3 rd Vice Chair:	Niger
Rapporteur:	Kenya

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ORGANISATION OF WORK

7. The Ministers Conference adopted its agenda and programme of work as presented

8. The overall theme of the conference was "Investing in Agriculture for Economic Growth and Food Security". This was adopted from the Theme of the June-July 2009 Summit as endorsed by the AU 12th Ordinary Session (Feb 09). The Meeting adopted the sub-theme as outlined below:

- Climate change: Opportunities for enhanced investments and growth of African Agriculture
- Regional Agriculture trade and market systems: Issues and challenges for stimulating economic transformation and growth in Africa
- Investment Financing: Making African Agriculture a viable investment option

- Stimulating participation of the poor and other vulnerable groups in rural economic activities

5. ADOPTION OF THE EXPERTS REPORTS

5.1 AGRICULTURE

5.1.1 CLIMATE CHANGE AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENHANCED INVESTMENT AND GROWTH OF AFRICAN AGRICULTURE

9. **Underlining** the fact that climate variability and climate change is and will be key factor to the agricultural development agenda and that it is imperative for Africa at all levels to build in productivity and resilience in agricultural systems

10. **Aware** that land degradation undermines food-security, increases the vulnerability of African economies to climate variability and change, and contributes significantly to greenhouse gas emissions (GHG);

11. **Noting** that land degradation and deforestation are reducing primary productivity of as much as 20% of African land, as a result of deforestation, unsustainable agricultural land management practices, overgrazing, etc.;

12. **Further Noting** that addressing climate change is a cross-cutting matter and will need concerted inter-sectoral efforts including collaboration between agriculture productivity objectives, on one hand, and environmental resilience and bio-diversity protection on the other

13. **Aware** that improved agricultural land management practices are ready to be scaled up and can increase food production and offset climate change impacts while potentially generate additional revenue through the global carbon market.

14. **Noting** that inclusion of agricultural carbon in future CDM could generate mitigation benefits and create new opportunities for a potential triple win – increase productivity and climate resilience for African agriculture and cost efficient GHG mitigation.

15. **Recognising** that NEPAD's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the Environment Action Plan (EAP) represent frameworks, supported by collective efforts such as the TerrAfrica partnership platform, that are conducive to address climate variability and change, in particular because they are critical to upscale sustainable land management investments;

The Conference:

16. **Requests** the AUC-NEPAD to facilitate development of an SLM-Agricultural based climate change adaptation framework to guide operationalization and financing the scaling up of SLM in the context of NEPAD's CAADP and EAP³
17. **Requests** the AUC-NEPAD to facilitate establishment of an inter-sectoral mechanism bringing together Ministries of Agriculture, Land, Environment, Water, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and other agriculture sector related ministries as would exist at country level to advance an holistic and comprehensive approach in addressing climate change
18. **Calls upon** Member States to increase investment support to initiatives aimed at strengthening knowledge, advancing technical capacity development, and up-scale sustainable land and water management practices including conservation agriculture, agro-forestry, watershed management
19. **Urges** the AUC-NEPAD to work with member states and relevant knowledge centres to ensure a strong evidence-based case for soil carbon and carbon financing in Africa's perspectives and position at the forthcoming Kyoto protocol negotiations on climate change
20. **Calls upon** Governments and partners to increase financing support for sustainable land management and agricultural water management, irrigation and water control systems to enhance agricultural production in Africa and address the issue of climate variability and related food insecurity within the context of the CAADP agenda
21. **Calls upon** Members States to aggressively seek ways to benefit from emerging carbon financing mechanisms
22. **Urge** AUC-NEPAD and partners to ensure issues and initiatives on combating desertification and agricultural water management are directly considered and integrated in the efforts to support sustainable land management (SLM)-agriculture based climate variability and climate change adaptation measures (ALGERIAN DECLARATION)

³ Environmental Action Plan

5.1.2 REGIONAL AGRICULTURE TRADE AND MARKET SYSTEMS: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES FOR STIMULATING ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND GROWTH IN AFRICA

23. **Observing** the importance of good governance in agriculture
24. **Acknowledge** the importance of addressing the value chain of agriculture production including agro-processing and post harvest losses reduction
25. **Aware** that value-chain development and access to financial services should be key elements to enhancing financial sustainability and growth of the agriculture sectors and related wealth creation
26. **Noting** the need to formulate and implement policies relating to market access
27. **Further** noting that developing a common regional market would significantly address the problems faced by member states

The Conference:

28. **Urges** Member states to reiterate their commitment to achieving sustainable modernization of agriculture and rural transformation in Africa, placing more emphasis on policies that raise agricultural productivity and expand market opportunities at the national, regional and international levels
29. **Urges** Member states to consider and embrace the points below in raising competitiveness and seizing opportunities in domestic, regional, and international markets:
- Raising and sustaining performance in traditional, and new regional export markets
 - Raising competitiveness and expanding trade in domestic and regional markets
 - Establishing Partnerships and alliances for value chain enhancement
 - Linking Smallholder farmers to medium and large scale enterprises through innovative contractual arrangements
 - Improving sector governance and establishing appropriate legal frameworks for business transactions
30. **Recommends** that through the AUC-NEPAD and RECs, concerted initiative be undertaken on the following early actions:
- Enhancing Agricultural trade facilitation mechanisms.
 - Building International trade advocacy and negotiations skills
 - Enhancing the quality management and certification services provision
 - Promote the creation of the implementation of systems of harmonisation of pesticide management in different RECs taking into account agro-climatic zones

31. **Urges** Member states to foster establishment of the Common African Agricultural Market through the development of regional value chain for selected Agricultural strategic commodities (without borders)
32. **Calls upon** Member States to ensure enabling policies for the financial services sector to play their part in value chain development and leveraging Agricultural Enterprise Growth
33. **Urges** Member States to support through policies and public sector investment financing the development of agribusiness and agro-industry, with emphasis on agricultural processing and reduction in post-harvest losses, at country-regional levels.
34. **Requests** the AUC-NEPAD to facilitate access to information and brokering public-private partnerships (including coalitions with development partners) to enhance:
- i. Agricultural investment and enterprise development platforms
 - ii. Agribusiness joint venture fairs
 - iii. Fertilizer and seed systems development
35. **Requests** the AUC-NEPAD and RECs to jointly facilitate and support strengthening commercial and technical capacity of farmer organizations and trade associations with specific focus on:
- i. Designing and piloting of effective value-chain integration models for smallholder farmers
 - ii. Designing and piloting of innovative vocational training and workforce development systems
36. **Calls upon** Member States to ensure an enabling environment to unleash private sector investment in strategic food and agricultural commodity value-chain development through:
- i. Creation of Preferential intra-regional Agricultural Investment Zones in high-potential production belts of such commodities
 - ii. Creation of centres of excellence for Agricultural Research and Development along the value chain of strategic agricultural commodities
37. **Urges** Member States to adhere to the international convention on the protection of vegetation and the creation of centres of excellence to allow African agriculture products easy access to international market

5.1.3 INVESTMENT FINANCING: MAKING AFRICAN AGRICULTURE A VIABLE INVESTMENT OPTION

38. **Noting** that agriculture has the biggest impact on economic growth and poverty reduction and **Concerned** that there is a significant decline in domestic and external funding to agriculture in the last three decades.

39. **Recognising** that financial access for small holder farmers from funding agencies is crucial

The Conference

40. **Calls upon** Member States to recommit to the Maputo Declaration of allocating 10 percent of their national budgets to the agriculture sector to articulate the important role of agriculture in national development strategies for adequate resource allocation;

41. **Recommends** that Member States scale-up investments in infrastructure and enhance efficiency of public expenditure through undertaking Public Expenditure Review (PERs)

42. **Calls upon** Member States to formulate and implement policies and programmes that strengthen the capacities of stakeholders including the private sector and civil society and effectively use allocated resources to increase agricultural production and productivity

43. **Recommends** that Member States establish fiscal and other incentives to foster commercial bank financing for agriculture and support for the expansion of financial services to the rural areas and the setting up of venture capital funds for rural areas

44. **Calls upon** AUC-NEPAD to establish a “South to South Forum for Agricultural Development in Africa aimed at galvanising expert knowledge and skills as well as mobilising investment financing in African agriculture

45. **Requests** Member States and Development Partners to commit to and respect the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) principles committing governments to respond to development partners’ efforts to enhance aid effectiveness.

46. **Calls upon** AUC-NEPAD in liaison with RECs, Member States and development partners to facilitate establishment of a technical assistance programme and an Investments preparation facility that would strengthen the analysis of public investments and enhance the stakeholder consultation process, encouraging development partners to pool resources through Sector Wide Approach (SWAp) or programme based approach (PBA)

47. **Calls upon** Member States to provide and facilitate an enabling environment to attract the Diaspora to invest in agriculture in Africa along an agriculture investment framework to be developed under the leadership of the AUC-NEPAD

48. **Calls upon** African Heads of State and Government to increase investment in higher education in agriculture (crops, livestock, extension services, fisheries and phyto sanitary elements) and calls on the AU/NEPAD to identify networks of African centres of excellence in support of CAADP implementation in strategic areas

49. **Calls upon** the International Development Partners to increase their investments in agriculture education and training within the context of CAADP

5.1.4 **STIMULATING PARTICIPATION OF THE POOR AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS IN RURAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES**

50. **Observing** that, it is important to identify vulnerable populations including the physically challenged, landless, pastoralists, women etc. and ensure that their needs to participate in economic activities are embraced in agricultural growth strategies

51. **Recognising** the importance of youth participation in agriculture and the need to expedite the ratification of the African Charter for Youth

52. **Acknowledging** the negative impact of high food prices particularly on the poor and vulnerable farmers and households'

The Conference

53. **Urges** Member states to facilitate policy reforms to remove economic and social barriers that limit poor people's entry and sustained participation in commercial and economic activities

54. **Urges** Members states to prioritise the building of basic infrastructure to boost farm and non-farm productivity (infrastructure, markets, telecommunications, transport, etc...) leads to broader development

55. **Urges** Member States to expand investments in carefully targeted social protection policies and measures that reduce risk and vulnerabilities and complement markets through predictable public support best suited for the local circumstances

56. **Requests** the AU-NEPAD to facilitate appointment of prominent personalities within the continent and from the Diaspora as African Union Food Security Ambassadors

57. **Requests** Member states to develop food security initiatives that are targeted towards the poor and other marginalised groups

58. **Welcomes** the UN-High Level Task Force's (UN-HLTF) commitment to supporting national and regional responses to food security through a Comprehensive Framework for Action on reducing the vulnerability of households and communities at risk of food insecurity and further welcomes the Task Force's commitment to CAADP and the operationalisation of GPAFS through CAADP in Africa

5.1.5 TAPPING THE ANIMAL RESOURCES POTENTIAL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

59. **Observing** that the animal resources sub sector has one of the highest potentialities for agricultural growth

60. **Recognizing** that the animal resources sub-sector is under funded and should be explored and tapped into

61. **Noting** the need to increase budget allocation to animal resources from the current average of 0.2 percent to a minimum of 3 percent

The Conference

62. **Recommends the** increase in public investment to the animal resources sub-sector as part of the overall agriculture development effort

63. **Calls upon** Members States to develop a comprehensive pastoral policy framework and an adaptable animal resources - cropping interface models in order to secure access to land, water and pasture for animals

64. **Calls upon** Member States to strengthen animal resources management strategies at national and regional levels and animal resources policy response to the threats of climate change

65. **Recommends** the maintenance and sustenance of pastoral and livestock mobility through harmonisation of animal health delivery systems at sub-regional levels

66. **Calls upon** member states recognise and promote the involvement of the private sector in the provision of animal resources support services, meat processing and feed manufacturing industry

67. **Recommends** enhanced and active participation of African countries in International Standard Setting Organisations

5.1.6 PROPOSAL ON THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE (CAMA)

68. **Recognising** that CAMA is at the broad agriculture sector level and would therefore be inclusive of all components of the agriculture sector (including the fisheries and livestock sub-sector ministries etc.)

69. **Noting** the rationale and justification for CAMA

The Conference

70. **Endorsed** CAMA and recommended that its institutionalization be made consistent with the reforms currently underway in the AU Organs

71. **Requests** AUC-NEPAD to develop a draft proposal indicating functional set-up and necessary structures required for the establishment of CAMA

5.1.7 CAADP IMPLEMENTATION STATUS REPORT

72. **Noting** that Member States and country level ownership are central to implementation of the CAADP agenda

73. **Recognising** the need for country-led accelerated implementation of the CAADP agenda including need for increased and more widespread awareness, understand and commitment to the CAADP agenda

74. **Concerned** with the need to further raise the political profile of CAADP at national level

The Conference

75. **Recommends** that the AU-NEPAD in liaison with the RECs be charged to actively engage with Member States to enhance the country level implementation of the CAADP agenda along the operational guidelines detailed in the recently developed “CAADP Implementation Guide”

76. **Recommends** that Member States mandate the AUC-NEPAD in liaison with the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) to develop a mechanism for the regular review of the agriculture sector along key performance indicators

77. **Recommends** Member States to promote the establishment of strategy analysis and knowledge support systems to facilitate evidence and outcome based planning and implementation, in particular through better targeting and tracking of policies and investment programs, including the related outcomes

78. **Calls upon** Member States to commit to regular reporting at regional and continental peer fora through specific mechanism regarding progress on CAADP

implementation including reporting on impact/result parameters including public budget expenditure on agriculture, productivity, trade, markets, food security and nutrition, research and extension

79. **Urges** the AUC-NEPAD jointly with RECs to facilitate and support pro-active involvement and participation of farmers and farmer organisations in driving the CAADP agenda at all levels

80. **Requests** the United Nations (UN) system, bilateral and other development partners/agencies to support country and regional level agriculture development efforts within the CAADP framework

81. **Requests** the AUC-NEPAD and the RECs to ensure relevant facilitatory support to member states on inclusive dialogue at high policy/political levels, including national and regional parliamentary bodies and practitioner-level sharing and awareness on CAADP/Agriculture implementation and best practices

82. **Further requests** the AUC-NEPAD in liaison with RECs to facilitate relevant Capacity building to achieve greatly enhanced sector planning and programme design capability at country level, focused on transferring skills in sector analysis and investment programme design as well as systematic experience sharing across the continent

5.1.8 ENHANCING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY: THE ROLE OF RESEARCH

83. **Noting** the importance of investing in agriculture research and development

84. **Recognising** the need to place greater emphasis on agriculture extension

85. **Further recognising** the significance of ensuring that research being undertaken was relevant to the specific locations and that the farmers were active participants in the research process

The Conference

86. **Calls upon** Member States and other relevant stakeholders to increase investment in Agriculture Research and Development (ARD)

87. **Encourages** Members States to enhance their support to agriculture extension

88. **Calls upon** Member States to improve the curricula and take necessary measures to strengthen agricultural higher education systems

89. **Calls upon** Member States to integrate into country education strategies the establishment in rural areas of vocational training and work force development systems to upgrade smallholder farming skills, raise long term competitiveness, and encourage the youth to participate in the agriculture sector

5.1.9 AU-LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES' CONFERENCE ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY

90. **Appreciating** the increased collaboration between Member States and the League of Arab States

91. **Recognising** the importance of the upcoming Joint Afro-Arab Meeting on Agricultural Development and Food Security

The Conference

92. **Encourages** the AU Commission and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States to continue the preparatory activities to ensure good organisation of the Joint Afro-Arab Meeting on Agricultural Development and Food Security taking place from September 23 – 26, 2009.

93. **Calls upon** all AU and Arab League Member States to actively participate in the Joint Afro-Arab Ministerial Meeting on Agricultural Development and Food Security in September 2009.

94. **Further requests** Member States to prepare Investment Programmes within the CAADP context for consideration at the Joint Afro-Arab Meeting on Agricultural Development and Food Security

5.1.10 PUBLIC EXPENDITURE TRACKING

95. **Recalling** the need to harmonise the definition of agriculture in Member States when measuring or tracking agriculture budget allocation and Expenditure

96. **Further recalling** the AU modified Classification of Functions of Government (COFOG) definition as the common classification for the continent

97. **Noting** that after the Maputo Declaration there has been an improvement in agricultural funding and growth, although more still requires to be done

98. **Further noting** that although Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) has increased total expenditure in agriculture, the figure is still low compared to the rest of the world

99. **Recognising** that Member States need to increase their expenditure in the agriculture sector, which should be measured against Agriculture Gross Domestic

Product (GDP) to ensure a better analysis of whether, countries are investing effectively to achieve targeted growth in the sector

The Conference

100. **Recommends** that Member States invest in sub-sectors of agriculture that would effectively contribute to the targeted 6% increase in agriculture growth rate

101. **Requests** the AUC-NEPAD to facilitate support to Member States to increase capacity for analysis and prioritizing agriculture to enhance public sector budget contribution to agriculture, i.e. achieving the Maputo Declaration target

5.1.11 AFRICA FERTILIZER FINANCING MECHANISM (AFFM)

102. **Recalling** the Abuja Fertiliser Summit and the 12 Resolutions of the Summit including call for national level Fertilizer Credit Guarantee Fund

103. **Acknowledging** the achievements made under the Africa Fertilizer Financing Mechanism (AFFM)

The Conference

104. **Recommends** Member States to fast track AFFM implementation through early actions to bridge the US\$ 2.5 million gap for the immediate operationalisation of the AFFM activities which include:

- (i) development of an evidenced-based guidelines/blueprint for how to implement fertilizer subsidies in a targeted sustainable and market friendly manner in collaboration with AU-NEPAD;
- (ii) establishment of regional fertilizer procurement and distribution platforms in partnership with regional banks, RECs, and other private and public institutions including consideration for possible roles that the Africa Fertilizer Centre in Zimbabwe could play
- (iii) undertaking of joint AU-NEPAD, ADB and AFFM Governing Council (GC) sensitization missions to potential donors' countries / agencies to encourage them to contribute to the Funds;
- (iv) AU-NEPAD and ADB to jointly organise a Partners' Pledging Meeting;
- (v) Increase resource allocation to develop new, up-to-date fertilizer recommendations and integrate new technologies and farming techniques, e.g. Conservation Agriculture that will improve the efficiency of fertilizer use
- (vi) Commission studies to evaluate the technical and economic feasibility of fertilizer production for regional markets; using local raw material resources
- (vii) Develop and implement formal laws to govern the fertilizer sub-sector and build capacity to carry out fertilizer inspections at the point of sale
- (viii) Remove all direct and indirect taxes on fertilizers to make fertilizer a strategic commodity without borders

- (ix) Create at national level fertilizer credit guarantee schemes for importers, agro-dealers and farmers. The source of funds could be donors and regional development banks.”

5.2 LAND

5.2.1 ON LAND ISSUES AND CHALLENGES IN AFRICA

105. **Reaffirming** the commitments which the African Union and its member states have made to poverty eradication with the view to raising the living standards of our peoples and the wellbeing of our future generations;

106. **Recognising** the importance of land in sustainable socio-economic growth and development in Africa hence the need that land is sustainably secured, used and managed;

107. **Aware** of the rich heritage of Africa’s land related resources especially her unique natural eco-systems;

108. **Further aware** of the diversity and complexity of the systems under which land and related resources are held, managed and used;

109. **Noting** the diversity of issues and challenges facing access to, use and management of land resources;

110. **Further noting** the threat relating to land and related resources including those arising from changes in the global environment, politics and economy;

111. **Conscious** of the need for strong systems of land governance rooted in principles of sustainability in an effort to ensure preservation, protection and renewability of Africa’s land and related resources;

The Conference:

112. **Recommends member states to:**

- i. Recognise the multiple types of land tenure and their complementarities in policy development;
- ii. strengthen security of land tenure for women which merits special attention ;
- iii. recognize and properly plan the diversity of uses of land in rural and urban contexts;
- iv. develop appropriate systems of documentation and securing land rights to facilitate ease of recognition and proof of access/ownership of land
- v. harmonise and clarify linkage between land and sectoral policies
- vi. identify and resolve conflicts arising from contestation of land as a result of diversity of uses

- vii. Ensure that land laws provide for equitable access to land related resources among all land users including women, the youth, and other landless and vulnerable groups such as displaced persons.

5.2.2 ON LAND POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

113. **Noting** the consensus which has emerged among AU member states on the need for development of comprehensive land policies and their translation in effective programmes;

114. **Further noting** the steady progress which member states are making in the initiation, review, revision of comprehensive land policies and their implementation in order to ensure that their various land sectors play an important role in development;

The Conference:

115. **Recommends** that member states:

- i. review their land sectors with a view to developing comprehensive policies which take into account their peculiar needs;
- ii. build sufficient human, financial, technical capacities to support land policy development and implementation;
- iii. Ensure that the development and design of land implementation strategies are holistic so as to avoid fragmentation in the process of land administration.
- iv. promote multi-stakeholder participation in land policy development and implementation processes

5.2.3 ON MONITORING PROGRESS ON LAND POLICY FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

116. **Acknowledging** the importance of tracking progress on the development and implementation of land policy in Africa and the inadequate tools and indicators available in this regard, the Conference:

- i. recommends that the AU, ECA, and AfDB in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities and Member States lead in the development of appropriate indicators for tracking progress;
- ii. urges for the development of a participatory and inclusive mechanism for tracking progress in close collaboration with member states at national level
- iii. call upon Member States of the African Union to undertake sectoral review of the land sector, within the APRM process and also using other mechanisms.

5.2.4 ON THE FRAMEWORK AND GUIDELINES ON LAND POLICY IN AFRICA

117. **Welcoming** the joint initiative which has been taken by the consortium of the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank with support from development partner organisations, in drafting a continental framework and guidelines on land policy development and implementation for use as a resource by AU member states in their efforts to improve the performance of their various land sectors;

118. **Acknowledging** the comprehensive consultations and discussions that have been conducted and their expert inputs made in the course of the preparation of the continental Framework and Guidelines on land policy in all the five regions of Africa;

The Conference:

119. **Adopted** the Framework and Guidelines on Land policy in Africa;

120. **Urges** member states to take note of the iterative steps outlined in the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa for their land policy development and implementation strategies,

121. Requests

a) Member states

- i. To prioritise, initiate and lead land policy development and implementation processes in their territories, notwithstanding the extent of multi-stakeholder contribution to such processes involving civil society, private sector and other stakeholders;
- ii. To support the emergence of the institutional framework required for the effective development of land policy and implementation of land reform;
- iii. To allocate adequate budgetary resources for land policy processes and reforms, including the monitoring of progress

b) Regional Economic Communities

- i. To convene periodic regional platforms to facilitate the formulation, implementation and monitoring of land policy and information sharing and learning based on members states experiences with land policy development and implementation;
- ii. To appropriately capture and address issues of land policies within their respective common agricultural policy framework;

c) The African Union Commission in collaboration with the ECA, the AfDB and partners

- i. To consider the establishment of appropriate institutional framework (such as a Land Forum or Committee on Land), to coordinate follow up activities and to

- provide coordination and facilitate mutual learning by member states as they develop/review their land policies in accordance with the Framework and Guidelines
- ii. To consider the establishment of a fund to support follow up activities by both the African Union Commission and member states in promoting land policy development and implementation
 - iii. To consider the establishment of a mechanism for periodic member states reporting on their progress with land reforms (such as use of the African Peer Review Mechanism or a separate arrangement).
 - iv. To ensure the continuation of the African Task Force on Land and expand it to represent all regions so as to help guide the implementation of the Framework and Guidelines;
 - v. To consider institutionalization of the Conference of Ministers of Land as part of the relevant Specialized Technical Committees of the African Union.

12. STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

122. Presentation by Ministers and Heads of Delegations at the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, Livestock and Land. The following Ministers and Heads of Delegations made statements:

Minister of Agriculture, Burkina Faso;
Minister of Agriculture, Libya Arab Jamahariya;
Minister of Agriculture and Livestock – Burundi
Minister of Lands, Country Planning and Environment – Sierra Leone;
Minister of Agriculture Saharawi Republic;
Secretary General Represented the Minister of Land, Habitat of Mali;
Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Mozambique;
Deputy Minister of Lands and Resettlement, Namibia;
Minister of Agriculture, Kenya;
Minister of Agriculture – Sudan;
Director General, Agriculture and Land Affairs, South Africa;
ECOWAS, Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources,
The Global Mechanism- UNCCD, Coordinator for Africa

123. In the statements, the Ministers were emphatic on the need and urgency for Africa to engage concretely especially at policy and investment financing levels to accelerate agriculture and rural development, recognizing that land is a key resource that should underline Africa's development. It was mentioned that the NEPAD-CAADP framework has provided renewed "energy" which is already translating in some positive gains in building and aligning capacity, as well as raising investment financing in agriculture from both public as well as private sector

124. The Statements noted that achieving target levels in agriculture productivity will be critical to Africa's ability to deal with food security and poverty alleviation challenges.

125. The Statements highlighted reliance on few crops and vulnerability to climatic and financial crisis as some of the key challenges facing African agriculture

126. The Statements supported the idea of institutionalising the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, Land, and Livestock, emphasizing that this will be an important instrument in moving agriculture development in Africa including ensuring follow-up on the decisions made in the various AU meetings and Summits. The Ministers urged the AUC and NEPAD to engage specially to support countries implement past AU and regional decisions.

13. ADOPTION OF MINISTERS' REPORT

127. The Ministers adopted their report

2009

Report of the AU joint conference of ministers of agriculture, land and livestock, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 20 -24 April 2009

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