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**ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION**  
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**Banjul, THE GAMBIA**

Assembly/AU/6 (VII)

**REPORT ON THE SPECIAL SUMMIT ON FERTILIZER FOR**  
**THE AFRICAN GREEN REVOLUTION**

## REPORT ON THE SPECIAL SUMMIT ON FERTILIZER FOR THE AFRICAN GREEN REVOLUTION

### 1. Background

The purpose of the Special Africa Fertilizer Summit was to bring together African Heads of state and Government, senior policy makers, key government officials, private sector leaders, representatives of farmer organisations, development agencies, NGOs, scientists, and development partners to increase awareness of the role of fertilizers in stimulating sustainable and pro-poor productivity growth in African agriculture, and to plan strategies to rapidly increase the efficient use of fertilizers by African farmers.

The goal of the Summit was to build a consensus around key issues in increasing fertilizer use in Africa, and to agree on a strategy for developing an African Fertilizer Action Plan to accelerate the access of millions of poor farmers to fertilizers and complementary inputs that will help raise farm production and achieve food security.

The Summit's objectives were to:

1. Affirm the critical importance of fertilizer in rapid, sustainable, and pro-poor growth in agricultural productivity in Africa;
2. Review the status of fertilizer use in Africa, and identify the main policy, institutional, financing, infrastructural, and market constraints that limit fertilizer access by poor farmers;
3. Learn about innovative approaches that have been used to build rural input market infrastructure to supply agricultural inputs to the rural poor; and
4. Agree on a strategy for developing an African Fertilizer Action Plan to accelerate the access of millions of poor farmers to mineral fertilizers and complementary inputs.

### 2. Participation (to be revised)

The following African Union Member States participated at the Special Fertilizer Summit:

Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia et Zimbabwe.

The following agencies, organisations and institutions also participated at the Special Summit:

ADB, COMESA, ECCAS, ECOWAS, CIAT, CILSS, SADC, FARA, FAO, IFAD, IFDC, IFPRI, KARI, NARO, the Rockefeller Foundation, WFP, UEMOA, UNIDO?, UNECA, WARDA .

### **3. Opening Ceremony**

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Federal Republic of Nigeria welcomed the delegates to the Special Summit. Following the welcoming remarks by the Honourable Minister, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the Chief Executive of the NEPAD Secretariat and the President of the Rockefeller Foundation gave the Goodwill Messages focusing mainly on fact that the African Green Revolution is well overdue and is needed to address food security, poverty reduction and broad based economic growth in Africa. They also highlighted efforts of their institutions and called for an African Green Revolution as a necessary condition to increase agricultural productivity. They reiterated that Africa can learn from the experiences of the Green Revolutions in Asia and agreed that Fertiliser is an essential ingredient for achieving a uniquely African Green Revolution. In particular, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission highlighted the past initiative of the African Union Member States on Fertilizer, notably the Decision adopted by the Executive Council in 1980 in Lagos, Nigeria calling for the establishment of an African Centre for Fertilizer Development (AFDC) which has since been located in Harare, Zimbabwe but not yet ratified. The AUC Chairperson urged Member States to speed up the ratification of the Convention. He further expressed appreciation of the Commission to the development partners and the government of Zimbabwe for the support they have given to the centre. The Chairperson of the African Union who is also the President of the Republic of Congo presented Goodwill Message through his Minister of Agriculture. The AU chairperson highlighted the current food crisis facing the continent as a result of soil degradation, natural disasters such as recurrent drought and other factors and called for concerted efforts from Member States to address these issues. In particular, he focused on the importance of the utilization of organic and inorganic fertilizers to replenish Africa's degraded soil and increase agricultural productivity and improve food security.

A video presentation featured the United Nation's Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Anan, who also called for an African Green Revolution that is long overdue. Former US President, Mr. Jimmy Carter addressed the Summit through a video link. He underscored the importance of embarking upon Green Revolution in Africa if the current low agricultural productivity, food insecurity, hunger and poverty are to be reversed.

The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chairperson of the Summit, President Olusegun Obasanjo, in his presidential address thanked delegates for responding to his invitation to participate at the Special AU Summit on Africa Fertilizer. President Obasanjo reiterated his earlier call for an African Green Revolution to address the recurrent food security in the continent. He highlighted on the essential ingredients

for achieving the African Green Revolution and supported the establishment for an African Fertiliser Financing Mechanism to be hosted at the African Development Bank. President Obasanjo pledged a sum of US\$10 million toward this facility. He urged the AU Member States and the development partners to also support this facility.

#### **4. Report on the Outcome of the Ministerial Session**

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who was also the co-Chair of the Ministerial Session that took place on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2006, presented the outcome of the Ministerial Session to the Summit for consideration and adoption.

He outlined the following priority action areas as outcome from the Ministerial Session:

1. Development of agro-dealers (rural stockists) across rural Africa;
2. Establishment of National Agricultural Input Credit Guarantee Facilities;
3. Provision of “Smart” subsidies for the poor and vulnerable;
4. Establishment of Regional fertilizer procurement and distribution centres; removal of trade barriers; promotion of local fertiliser manufacturing;
5. Establishment of an Africa Fertilizer Development Financial Mechanism; The Africa Fertilizer Development Financing Mechanism which will be based within the African Development Bank will provide the following functions, among others:
  - a. Support establishment of regional fertilizer procurement and distribution facilities;
  - b. Provide credit guarantees for fertilizer importers and distributors;
  - c. Develop Africa’s fertiliser manufacturing capacity.

The details on the declaration titled “Abuja Declaration on Fertilizer for African Green Revolution” are attached in section 10.

#### **5. Adoption of the Ministerial Report**

The Declaration was unanimously adopted as presented. In addition, the Summit requested International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to work with the institutions entrusted with the responsibility to establish the Africa Fertilizer Development Financing Mechanism.

## **6. Remarks by Development Partners and Stakeholders**

The development partners, notably, African Development Bank (ADB), IFAD, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank, and the Netherlands Government expressed their support and commitment to assist in the achievement of the outcomes of the Summit.

Dr. Norman Borlaug, a Nobel Laureate and a renowned advocate for the African Green Revolution in his presentation, stressed the crucial role of political leaders in taking prompt and decisive action to champion the cause of green revolution in Africa for achieving food security and eradicating hunger and absolute poverty.

The Representative of the Farmers' Organization in Africa expressed his satisfaction on the outcome of the Summit and urged Member States to make significant investment in complementary inputs such as seeds, transportation infrastructure, in particular, development of strategic ports and railway lines with the view to reducing the cost of fertiliser for the farmers, as well as strengthening capacity of farmers.

## **7. Closure of Session**

In his closing remarks, President Olusegun Obasanjo expressed his appreciation to African Heads of State and Government, African and International Organizations and all the development partners, for the support which, has contributed to the success of the Summit. He also expressed the hope and satisfaction that implementation of the Summit outcome will provide the ingredients to achieve an African Green Revolution that is long overdue.

Assembly/AU/6 (VII)  
Annex

**AFRICA FERTILIZER SUMMIT**  
**AFRICAN UNION SPECIAL SUMMIT OF THE HEADS**  
**OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT**

**ABUJA DECLARATION ON FERTILIZER FOR THE AFRICAN**  
**GREEN REVOLUTION**

**ABUJA, NIGERIA, 13 JUNE 2006**

**ABUJA DECLARATION ON FERTILIZER FOR THE AFRICAN  
GREEN REVOLUTION**

The New Partnership for Africa's Development has declared that the vision of economic development in Africa must be based on raising and sustaining higher rates of economic growth (7 percent per year). To realize this vision, the African Heads of State and Government adopted the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme, which calls for a 6% annual growth in agricultural production, as a framework for the restoration of agricultural growth, food security and rural development in Africa.

Africa's farmers face a variety of constraints including low productivity, limited access to new agricultural technologies and weak markets. Without adequate inputs, farmers often cannot meet the food needs of their own families, much less those of a rapidly growing population. To feed themselves and their countries, farmers will need to shift from low-yielding, extensive land practices to more intensive, higher-yielding practices, with increased use of improved seeds, fertilizers and irrigation.

A move toward reducing hunger on the continent must begin by addressing its severely depleted soils. Due to decades of soil nutrient mining, Africa's soils have become the poorest in the world. It is estimated that the continent loses the equivalent of over \$4 billion worth of soil nutrients per year, severely eroding its ability to feed itself. Yet farmers have neither access to nor can they afford the fertilizers needed to add life to their soils. And no region of the world has been able to expand agricultural growth rates, and thus tackle hunger, without increasing fertilizer use.

In Africa, use of fertilizer averages only eight kilograms per hectare. In short, Africa is trapped in a fertilizer crisis; this is only 10% of the world average. Addressing Africa's fertilizer crisis therefore requires urgent and bold actions. Africa is ready for the Green Revolution. Today, African leaders have convened to show their strong and unanimous commitment to achieving the African Green Revolution by taking immediate actions to solve Africa's fertilizer crisis.

The African Union Ministers of Agriculture convened in Abuja on 12 June 2006 for the Africa Fertilizer Summit:

**Recognizing** that Africa needs a Green Revolution which is long overdue and yet constitutes the way of getting African farmers out of the poverty trap by achieving food security and other relevant the Millennium Development Goals;

**Recognizing** that fertilizer is crucial for achieving an African Green Revolution in the face of rapidly rising population and declining soil fertility;

**Realizing** that most farmers in Africa are poor, have virtually no access to fertilizer and that the poorest of them urgently need special attention;

**Recognizing** the urgent need for a strategic investment program to increase the availability and use of fertilizer alongside with other inputs to usher in the Green Revolution on the African continent;

**Declare** fertilizer, from both inorganic and organic sources, a strategic commodity without borders; and

**Resolve** that the African Union Member States will accelerate the timely access of farmers to fertilizers:

1. Given the strategic importance of fertilizer in achieving the African Green Revolution to end hunger, the African Union Member States resolve to increase the level of use of fertilizer from the current average of 8 kilograms per hectare to an average of at least 50 kilograms per hectare by 2015.
2. By mid-2007, the African Union Member States and the Regional Economic Communities should take appropriate measures to reduce the cost of fertilizer procurement at national and regional levels especially through the harmonization of policies and regulations to ensure duty- and tax-free movement across regions, and the development of capacity for quality control. As an immediate measure, we recommend the elimination of taxes and tariffs on fertilizer and on fertilizer raw materials.
3. By mid-2007, the African Governments must take concrete measures to improve farmers' access to fertilizers, by developing and scaling up input dealers' and community-based networks across rural areas. The Private Sector and Development Partners are hereby requested to support such actions.
4. By 2007, the African Union Member States must take concrete measures to specially address the fertilizer needs of farmers, especially women, and to develop and strengthen the capacity of youth, farmers' associations, civil society organizations, and the private sector.
5. With immediate effect, the African Union Member States must improve farmers' access to fertilizer, by granting, with the support of Africa's Development Partners, targeted subsidies in favour of the fertilizer sector, with special attention to poor farmers.
6. The African Union Member States should take immediate steps to accelerate investment in infrastructure, particularly transport, fiscal incentives, strengthening farmers' organizations, and other measures to improve output market incentives.



7. The African Union Member States should establish national financing facilities for input suppliers to accelerate access to credit at the local and national level, with specific attention to women.
8. The African Union Member States, hereby request the establishment of Regional Fertilizer Procurement and Distribution Facilities with the support of the African Development Bank, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Regional Economic Communities and the Regional Development Banks, through strategic public-private partnerships by the end of 2007
9. Given the extensive fertilizer raw material resources in Africa and the fact that they are underutilized in many parts of the continent, the African Union Member States undertake to promote national/regional fertilizer production and intra-regional fertilizer trade to capture a bigger market and take advantage of economies of scale through appropriate measures such as tax incentives and infrastructure development. This should be supported by the African Development Bank, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Regional Development Banks, the Regional Economic Communities, other Development Partners, and the Private Sector.
10. The African Union Member States should take specific action to improve farmer access to quality seeds, irrigation facilities, extension services, market information, and soil nutrient testing and mapping to facilitate effective and efficient use of inorganic and organic fertilizers, while paying attention to the environment.
11. The African Development Bank, with the support of the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission, is called to establish, by 2007, an **Africa Fertilizer Development Financing Mechanism** that will meet the financing requirements of the various actions agreed upon by the Summit. We, the African Union Member States, undertake to support the establishment of this facility and will pledge resources for its immediate operation.
12. The African Union Member States request the African Union Commission and the New Partnership for Africa's Development to set up a mechanism to monitor and evaluate the implementation of this resolution. This should be done in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank. The African Union Commission should give progress report to the African Heads of State at every sixth-monthly African Union Summit, starting in January 2007.

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